



# Art

## Aboriginal Art 1862-1944 Abstract Art

Year 1 Unit 2

### Key Vocabulary:

### Core Knowledge

Aboriginal Art	
Colourist Painting	Colourist painting is characterised by the use of intense colour, which becomes the dominant feature.
Pointillism	Pointillism is a technique of painting in which small, distinct dots of colour are applied in patterns to form an image.

### Technical Vocabulary

Sculpture	To make or represent a form by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques.
Brushstrokes	A mark made by a paintbrush drawn across a surface.
Printing	It can be used to make one or more identical images or to create repeating patterns on papers and textiles.

### Key Works of Art

Michelle Possum Nungurrayi



'Womens Ceremony'

Gloria Petyarra



'Medicine Leaves'

'Bush Medicine Leaves'

### Cultural Knowledge

#### Aboriginal art is based on dreamtime stories.

A large amount of contemporary Aboriginal art is based on important ancient stories and symbols centred on 'the Dreamtime' – the period in which Indigenous people believe the world was created. The Dreamtime stories are over 50,000 years old and have been handed down through the generations for all those years.

#### Aboriginal symbols are used instead of written language.

Australian Aboriginal people have no written language of their own, and so the important stories from the culture are based on the traditional icons, symbols and information in the artwork helps to pass on key information and preserve their culture.

#### Aboriginal paintings are used to teach new generations.

Paintings are also used for teaching. The story may take one form when told to children and a very different and higher-level form when speaking to initiated elders.

#### There are many Aboriginal tribal groups.

Australia has always been multicultural. Before the arrival of Europeans, there were many different language groups and many different cultural ways.

**Permission is required to paint an Aboriginal dreaming.**

Artists need permission to paint a particular story. Where ancient and important stories are concerned, and particularly those containing secret or sacred information, an artist must have permission to paint the story she or he paints. Traditional Aboriginal artists cannot paint a story that does not belong to them through family lineage.

**There are hidden secrets in Aboriginal dot paintings.**

Dots were used to hide secret information: Dot painting began when the Aboriginal people became concerned that white man would be able to see and understand their sacred and private knowledge. The dots were used to obscure the secret symbols underneath.

Information gathered from: <https://www.kateowengallery.com/page/10-Facts-About-Aboriginal-Art>

