

Name _____

Aboriginal Perspective on Water - Student Worksheet

About 40-50,000 years ago, Aboriginal people moved south into Australia. Water was very important to their survival. Their "walkabout" lifestyle was essential so that they did not exhaust any resource, be it food or water. Children were raised to believe that they had to look after "country". They were custodians of Air, Water, Living Things and Land.

Fresh water could be found in rivers, billabongs, soaks and in small hand extended reservoirs in rock called "gnamma" holes. This one near Sandstone has lost its capping rock and has filled in with soil. It still fills with water after rain.



A Sign for Water

People used stories as maps of where and when to find water. They also left petroglyphs (rock markings) and paintings to indicate nearby water.



Why do you think Aboriginal people used concentric circles to represent water?

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Why didn't they just write a sign saying "WATER" on the stone?

Petroglyph Design

Materials

- Saucers or other flat dishes
- Flour or sand
- Spoon
- Pencil
- Newspaper

Method

1. Cover the desk with a piece of newspaper.
2. Place a thin layer of sand or flour on the bottom of the dish and smooth it flat with the back of the spoon.
3. Cut your design into the flour or sand with a pencil or spoon handle.
4. Adjust to improve.
5. Copy the design below and explain why you chose it.



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My design

I chose this design because _____

