

Name _____

Aboriginal Perspective on Water - Student Worksheet

About 50-60,000 years ago, Aboriginal Peoples moved south into Australia. Water was very important to their survival. They moved around a lot, so that they did not run out of water or food. Children are raised to look after "Country" or "Place". They are custodians of Air, Water, Living Things and Land.

Fresh water can be found in rivers, billabongs, soaks and in small hollows in rock called "gnamma" holes. This one near Sandstone still fills with water after rain.



A Sign for Water

People use stories as maps of where and when to find water. Aboriginal Peoples also left petroglyphs (rock markings) and paintings to tell each other about nearby water.



Why do you think Aboriginal Peoples used concentric circles (circles inside each other) 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. Draw the design (on the next page) and explain why you chose it.

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My design

I chose this design because _____

PALMS
PRIMARY AUSTRALIAN LITERACY
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE