

Name _____

Petroglyphs - Student Worksheet

At Murujuga (also known as the Burrup Peninsula) we can interpret changes to the landscape over 40,000 years by noting changes in the animal images over time. Over 20,000 years ago an Aboriginal artist chipped away at the rocks to make this image.



What is it?

Why do you think the artist chose this animal?

Why are there no pictures of cows?

Simple images

These signs can be seen alongside many roads in WA. What is their message?



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Petroglyphs - Student Worksheet



These replica petroglyphs of present day Australian native animals have been made by students. What do they represent?



Top _____

Bottom left _____

Bottom right _____

Name _____

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1. Select an animal which has been introduced into Australia in the last 200 years.
2. Roughly draw your pattern for the petroglyph in the box on the left below.
3. Ask your group what they think it represents.
4. Ask them to suggest improvements to make the image clearer and list the best two suggestions below.
5. Redraw your image incorporating these suggestions on the right.
6. Present your petroglyph to the class and find if they recognise the animal depicted.

Rough image	Improved image
Suggestions	Comments

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Petroglyphs - Student Worksheet

Materials

- 2 balls of different coloured plasticine. One should be about half the size of the other (Approximately 10mm and 20mm in diameter).
- A sharp pencil, toothpick or nail.
- Old newspaper to protect the desktop

Method

1. Flatten the smaller ball of plasticine between fingers and thumb to make an even, thin disc. This should be as thin as possible.
2. Repeat using the larger ball to make a disc the same size but about twice as thick.
3. Place the thinner disc on top of the thicker one and gently press them down onto the newspaper.

The thin upper layer of plasticine represents the outer weathered layer of the rock and the thicker layer is the unweathered underlying rock.

4. Cut through the upper layer to expose your image