

**Objective:** to develop aboriginal cultural awareness through artistic experience.

### Equipment

Paper, card or Bark and sticks

Paint (initially red, yellow, brown or "earth" colours\*)

Cotton buds or thin sticks\* with rounded edges

(\*because of the origins of dot painting and the traditional methods use by Australian aborigines keeping the media used natural, if possible, keeps focus on the experiences objectives.)

### Instructions

After looking at different types of dot painting in books and on the internet, let the children freely explore this painting technique and the interesting patterns and shapes that emerge.

Take note if children introduce any specific patterns in to their work or they may wish to represent animals and other environmental images. Discuss these representations and questions regarding traditional and contemporary aboriginal culture.

### Early Years Learning Framework Outcomes\*

**Outcome 1:** Children

- interact with care, empathy and respect when considering other cultures

**Outcome 2:** Children:

- respond to diversity with respect through exposure and sensitive discussion of aboriginal culture.
- become socially responsible and respect the environment through experimentation and discussion.

**Outcome 4:** Children:

- develop curiosity, creativity, persistence and imagination through artistic experience.
- develop a range of skills and processes such as inquiry, investigating and experimentation.
- resource their own learning through connecting with people, technologies, natural and processed materials.

**Outcome 5:** Children:

- interact verbally and non-verbally with others through artistic experience and cultural discussion.
- express ideas and make meaning artistic expression.

### Key Learning Area Links

#### Pre-Numeracy (Mathematics)

Patterning

#### Literacy/Vocabulary (English)

red, brown, yellow, dot, aboriginal, bark, sticks  
Indigenous Australians, Australian environment, Australian animals: kangaroo, koala, goanna, snakes, platypus, turtles, crocodiles... (let the children list animals they could represent!)  
habitat, bush, painting technique, method.

#### Health and Physical Education

Fine Motor Skills —paint application with cotton bud or thin stick.

#### Studies of Society and Environment

Cultural Diversity—Discussion of traditional and contemporary aboriginal culture.

Native Animals and habitats  
(endangered species)

#### The Arts

Artistic experiences and exploration.

Method/technique—Dot Painting

Colour—Earth colours, traditional and modern

Medium —processed and natural paints and canvases.

### Extension Ideas

Discuss why many aboriginal paintings were traditionally done in colours like brown, red and yellow. These colours were made from dirt and rocks crushed and mixed with water or sap. Make paint with children in this way. Use sticks to paint with, so children can see why dots formed.

Look at pictures/books and internet search Aboriginal Dot Painting.

Go to a museum or art gallery to view this style of art.

### Global Kids Oz Linked Resources

Tiddalick the Frog

Australian Indigenous Resource Kits

Aboriginal Play and Educational Mats