

Down Under Paper



Sources say that the Aborigines culture settled in Australia around **50,000 years ago**. After settling in Australia they told stories about visions and rituals by painting with pigment found naturally in the Outback. The method they used for painting is referred to as bark painting. The process involved cutting bark from trees during the wet season and placing it in a fire to cure. When the bark was taken out of the fire it was flattened with stones or logs. This was then used as the painting canvas. Finally they would apply paint or pigment using a technique called “dotting”. Brushes, sticks and fingers were used to create designs that reflected dreams, rituals and a rich cultural history. Some researchers say that most of the paintings had some sort of mythological undertone.

Ideas for the classroom:

1. Make a multicultural paper quilt. Add borders and cutout shapes for the blocks.
2. Make a colorful bulletin board background.
3. Decorate reports or projects on Aborigines people.
4. Make colorful borders or frames for drawings or pictures.
5. Make report covers.
6. Discuss the rich history behind bark painting.
7. Have students write an interesting story and make their own original designs using the dotting technique.

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African Textile Paper, R15278 Native American Craft Paper, R15277 Hispanic Design Craft Papers™, R15280 Asian Textile Paper.



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