Ancestral Modern: Australian Aboriginal Art from the Kaplan & Levi Collection
May 31–September 2, 2012

BOOKS FOR STUDENTS

Describes Australian Aboriginal art including rock painting and engraving, as well as sand and bark painting.

A beautifully illustrated photocopiable collection of decorative patterns, borders and motifs.

Learn about Aboriginal culture, including traditional legends, music, food and family life.

Each double page introduces with its Aboriginal name a different animal of the Dreamtime.

Looks at the diversity and visual power of Indigenous Australian art today and explores its development.

The Bat and the Crocodile by Doloumy, Jacko, et. al. Lindfield, NSW: Scholastic Press, 2004. PZ 8.1 D64
The story of a bat and a crocodile from the Warmun Aboriginal Community in Western Australia.

Explore the Australian desert through the eyes of a dingo and discover the surprise at the end of the journey.

The Outback by Porter, Annaliese and Bancroft, Broome, WA: Magabala Books, 2009. PZ 8.3 P57
Written when she was only eight years old, this story brings together a young writer and one of Australia’s most celebrated artists.

Told in Kukatja and English, this tale is a traditional Dreaming story of the Kukatja people of Western Australia.

RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

Books & Resource Guides


www.seattleartmuseum.org/ancestralmother
Exploring indigenous art and the land, lessons focus on social studies, language arts and visual arts from works of art in the special exhibition and from SAM’s permanent collection.

A lively and comprehensive survey of Australia’s indigenous artists.

Australian Dreamings. Tucsun, AZ: CRiZMAC, 1996. CURR GD N 7400 C74
Captivate students with the distinctive art of Australia’s oldest civilization. Includes DVD and prints.

A collection of paintings and historical background of the aboriginal regions of Australia.

Country Culture Community: An Education Kit for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collection by Jones, Jonathan, et. al. Sydney: Art Gallery of New South Wales, 2009. CURR GD N 7401 J76
Developed to help students understand and appreciate the richness and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.

Chronicles the global critical reception of Aboriginal art since the early 1980s and argues for a re-evaluation of Aboriginal art’s critical intervention into contemporary art.
For anyone who wants their children to understand and love the art of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas, this guide has questions and answers about thirty amazing objects.

Ideal tool for cross-cultural training and within education.

Outreach Activities
Focusing on the cultural traditions of Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand and Polynesia, this collection of images and objects will open students’ eyes to the diverse ways cultures view their worlds through map making, nature activities and shared histories. This classroom resource builds connections across disciplines and encourages students to think critically about their own understandings of global cultures.

Media (CDs/Videos/Posters)
Aboriginal Art: How to Create It. Glenview, IL: Crystal Productions. VIDEO N 7401 C79
Introduction to the techniques used in creating Australian Aboriginal paintings. 25 min. DVD format.

Two collections of prints with suggested art projects that have been prepared to help the student develop a better understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal Australian art.

The Kookaburra and Other Stories by Burns, Dal. Gifts from the Art, 2001. AUD D 526 B87
Seven traditional Australian stories written and narrated by Dal Burns. CD format.

Recorded by Geoffrey N. O’Grady and Alix O’Grady from 1954 to 1960 in Western Australia and Northern Queensland. CD format.

Ten Canoes by De Heer, Rolf, et. al, New York : Palm Pictures, 2007. VIDEO GN 666 D34
A parable of forbidden love from Australia’s mythical past. Tells the story of the people of the Arafura swamp, in their language. 92 min. DVD format.

Online Resources
Ancestral Modern by the Seattle Art Museum. www.seattleartmuseum.org/ancestralmodern
Website for the exhibition with map, photos, images of the art and links to educator resources.

Experience the Permanent Collection by the Seattle Art Museum. www.seattleartmuseum.org/emuseum
Learn more about the works of art in the Seattle Art Museum’s online collection.

Aboriginal Art for Children by Australia Native Art and Aboriginal Paintings. www.australianativeart.com/aboriginal-art-card-series/aboriginal-art-for-children
Activity suggestions and stories from an Aboriginal cultural assistant in Australian primary schools.

art + soul by ABC TV (Australia). www.abc.net.au/arts/artandsoul
Website for a TV special in which Hetti Perkins, senior curator at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, shares her knowledge of Aboriginal art, visiting the homes and studios of artists in remote desert communities, the tropical top end and in urban environments.

Introduction to the cultures of Australia’s indigenous peoples, with links to additional information.

The Yirrkala Art Centre and the Mulka Project by the Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre. www.mulka.org
Website for the Yirrkala Art Centre and the Mulka Project of the Yolngu people in northern Australia. The site includes artist information, images and a collection of audio clips and videos.