

Aboriginal Symbols and their Meanings

Many of the symbols used by Aboriginal artists are a variation of lines or dots. Similar symbols can have multiple meanings according to the art region and the elaborate combination of these can tell complex Dreamtime stories. Symbols used within paintings include **concentric circles** represent camp sites, waterholes or places of significance. **Curved lines represent** rain or water traveling underground. **Tracks**, whether human or animal, are often shown as they appear on the ground.



Bush Turkey



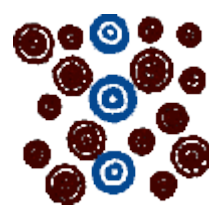
Budgerigar



Emu



Footprints



Frog



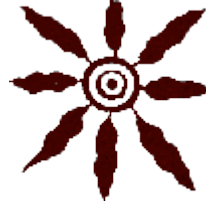
Goanna



Witchetty Grub



Honey Ant



Bush Potato



Bush Tomato



Campsite



Hunting



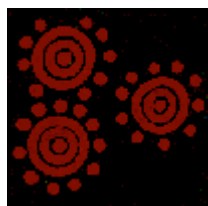
Kangaroo



Men Hunting



Milky Way



Stars



Possum



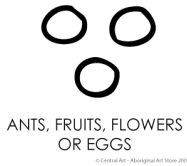
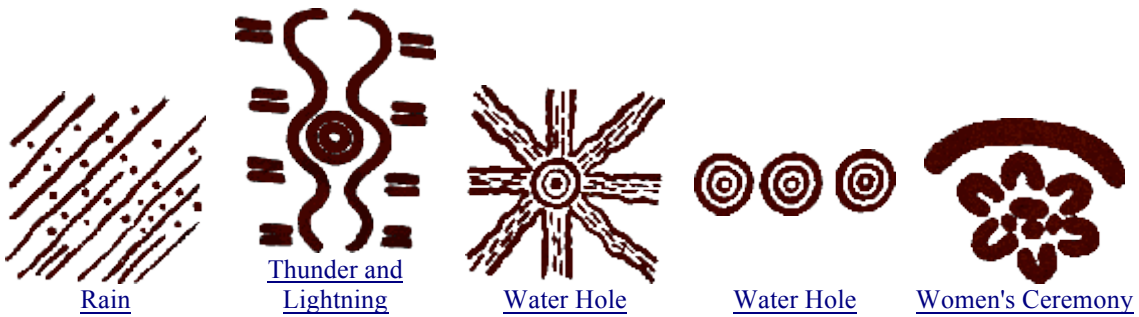
Sites



Snake

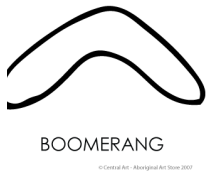


Spinifex



Ants, Fruits, Flowers or Eggs

Three circles can have multiple interpretations - ants (honey ants), fruits, flowers or eggs. These are gathered by the Aboriginal women, as a food source (bush tucker) or used as a bush medicine....



Boomerang

The boomerang is used by Aboriginal men for hunting small animals and for ceremonies....



Bush Berry

There are many species of bush berries, gathered by Aboriginal women in Central Australia. Bush berries are a staple food source (bush tucker) for Aboriginal people....



Campsite or Waterhole

Roundels can depict camp-site, meeting place, ceremonial site or water-hole. These sites are culturally significant to Aboriginal people living in Central Australia....

Emu



This icon depicts the emu track. The Aboriginal men follow these tracks to hunt the emu (large flight-less bird), which is a staple food source (bush tucker) and is used for bush medicine. In men's ceremonies the emu feathers are...



Honey Ant &

Aboriginal women use their digging stick to dig deep into the sand in search of honey ants. The honey ants produce a honey- like liquid in their abdomen,

which is regarded as a special treat by Aboriginal people in Central...



MOVING KANGAROO TRACKS

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KANGAROO TRACK

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Kangaroo Track

This icon depicts the track of the kangaroo. Aboriginal men hunt the kangaroo by following its tracks in the sand....