



Teacher Resource

UNESCO Rock Art

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Where in Australia can you find the Murujuga Cultural Landscape? Highlight the location on a map of Australia.
2. How old is the Murujuga rock art?
3. What can you see in the Murujuga rock art carvings? Describe the artwork.
4. The Murujuga rock art has been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. What does that mean?
5. What are some other Australian sites on the UNESCO World Heritage list? Name 2-3.

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN UNESCO Rock Art story in small groups or as a class. Ask students to record what they know about rock art in Australia. What questions do they have? Use the following questions to help guide discussion:

- What do you know about rock art?
- Where can you find rock art?
- What types of images, shapes and symbols feature in rock art?
- Why is rock art important to Indigenous people?
- How is rock art being cared for?
- Why is it important to look after rock art?



What did you learn from the story?

What questions do you have about the story?

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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about Indigenous rock art; its importance to Indigenous people and what is being done to protect it.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 4

Pose questions to investigate people, events, places and issues.

HASS – Year 5 & 6

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary sources and secondary sources.

HASS – Year 7

Construct significant questions and propositions to guide investigations about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Apply a methodology to locate and collect relevant information and data from a range of primary sources and secondary sources.

Activity: KWLH research

The KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on the topic of rock art and consider what they would like to know and learn.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	<u>H</u> ow will I find out?

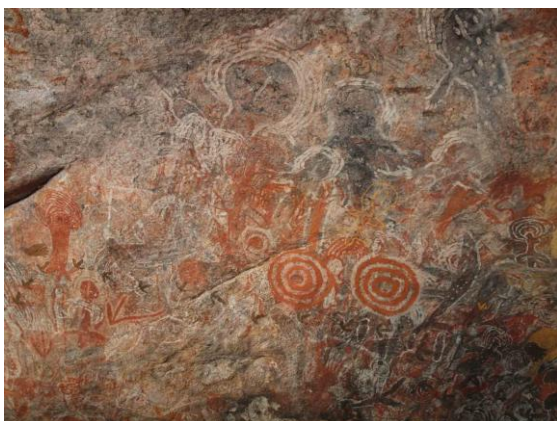
Questions to research

Students will collect and record information from a wide variety of sources. Students may develop their own question for inquiry or select one of the questions below.

- In the Pilbara region, specifically around Murujuga, the local Aboriginal word for rock art, particularly petroglyphs, is Marni. The local Aboriginal word for rock art in Kakadu is gunbim. What is the local aboriginal word for rock art in other parts of Australia?
- What are some of the most visited rock arts sites around Australia? Locate and highlight them on a map. Choose one example of rock art to explore in more detail.
- What's the difference between petroglyphs and pictographs? Find examples.

Activity: Rock Art Investigation

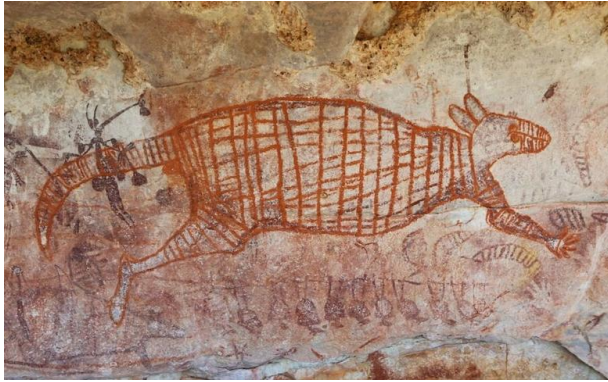
Students will understand the cultural significance of Indigenous rock art and explore one specific example in depth. Students will learn about petroglyphs (rock engravings) and pictographs (drawings) which are a key component of rock art. Below are some examples of rock art around Australia. Alternatively students may want to find their own example of rock art to study.



Walinynga (Source: [National Museum Australia](#))



Murujuga rock art (Source: [ABC](#))



Rock art in the Kimberley. (Source: [ABC News](#)
[Supplied by Sven Ouzman](#))



Murujuga rock art (Source: [ABC](#))

Initial Observations

What do you notice?

- Describe the main features of the rock art. What sorts of colours, lines and shapes do you notice?
- What else do you notice? Can you see people, animals or spiritual figures in the art? Write as much as you can about what you see.
- What do you think the images are telling us?

Further Investigation

Students will respond to one or more of the following questions:

- Where is it located and how old is it? Locate on a map of Australia.
- What type of rock art is it? Is it a petroglyph or pictograph?
- Find the name of the place in both the Indigenous and English languages.
- What Indigenous language groups have connections to the land where the rock art is located?
- What story does the rock art tell? Is it a traditional Dreaming story? Explain what you know about the Aboriginal story.

Want to know more about where you live?

- Check out the [Gambay language map](#) to learn more about traditional languages spoken in your area.
- To learn whose Country you're on, visit David Horton's [Map of Indigenous Australia](#) on the AIATSIS site.
- Cross-reference with other sites, for example your local council or Aboriginal land council.

Useful Websites

- [UNESCO approves world heritage listing for WA's Murujuga rock art](#) – ABC News
- [Caring for rock art in Kakadu](#) – ABC Education
- [Petroglyphs and pictographs: Earliest known Australian rock art](#) (digital classroom) – National Museum Australia
- [Namarrkon and Barrkinj](#) – ABC Education
- [What is First Nations art?](#) – BTN High
- [This Place: Djimubarn, sacred rock art shelter](#) – ABC Education