

ABORIGINAL DOT ART HISTORY



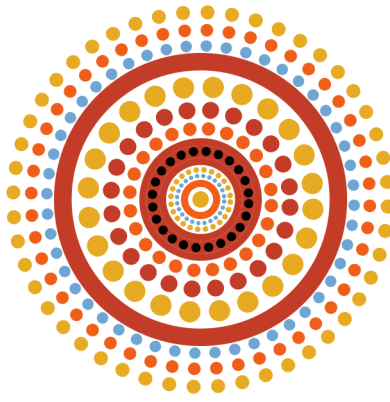
Aboriginal people originally did their artwork in the soil and on their bodies to communicate special messages. The soil can only hold the designs for so long before the wind erases them and painted bodies would eventually be washed.

All of this changed with a group of elementary school kids and their teacher in 1971. Their teacher's name was Geoffrey Bardon and he was assigned as an art teacher for the children of the Aboriginal people in Papunya, near Alice Springs. He wanted the students to paint a mural based in traditional styles on the school walls. The murals sparked interest in the community. He asked the students to paint the stories onto canvas and board. Soon many adults began painting

Bardon helped the Aboriginal children and artists to transfer depictions of their stories from desert sand to paint on canvas. Now their art style is well known and recognized throughout the world. Bardon was described by Time magazine in 1999 as a "trailblazer" and one of the South Pacific's most influential people for his work with Aboriginal artists in the Papunya settlement in Central Australia.

Would you like to join those early students and create your own dot art picture? Remember you can experiment with different things to make your dots. You can go outside and collect a stick, you can use your pencils eraser end, you can use the end of a paintbrush, Q-tip or something else you think up. Have fun!

References cited: <https://www.aboriginal-art-australia.com/aboriginal-art-library/aboriginal-dot-art-behind-the-dots/> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geoffrey_Bardon



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