



2026 THEME STORIES OF THE LAND: CONNECTION TO COUNTRY

G.O.A.T COMPETITION



Foundation - 6

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SUPPORTED BY

The RNA wishes to thank [MLA Australian Good Meat Education](#) who are sponsoring the competition with prizes, freight services, and by providing teacher resources for Ekka Education's G.O.A.T Competition.



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Good Meat Education
is an initiative of



COMPETITION OVERVIEW

G.O.A.T (Greatest of all Time) Competition

The G.O.A.T. (Greatest Of All Time) Competition provides a fun and interactive way for students to learn about red meat production through the use of curriculum-linked Australian Good Meat Education resources.

Each student will have the opportunity to submit one design. Entries will be judged with 20 finalists selected to receive a life-sized, fibreglass goat (7kg) to display their design. The student – with the help of their classmates – will replicate their submitted entry by painting it onto the goat.

All 20 painted goats remain the property of the RNA and will be returned to the Brisbane Showgrounds for display at this year's Ekka.

The design must be accompanied with a 100 word explanation to support their artistic direction and learning outcomes.



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Competition & Education Content Enquiries

education@ekka.com.au

Ekka School & Group Bookings Enquiries

groupbookings@ekka.com.au



2026 THEME

'Stories of the Land: Connection to Country'

This year's theme, **"Stories of the Land: Connection to Country,"** is inspired by **First Nations farming practices** and their **ongoing connection to modern farming**. The 2026 theme encourages students to explore the deep connection between people, animals, and the land. Aligned with the **United Nations' International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**, it highlights the cultural and ecological significance of these landscapes and the communities who care for them.

Students are encouraged to express their designs in fun and creative ways. Australian Aboriginal inspired artwork can be used to tell a story through bright colours and bold patterns, showing goats grazing, jumping, or exploring open countryside. Traditional Indigenous-inspired symbols and visual storytelling may also be included to reflect relationships with the land, such as patterns representing grazing paths, seasonal changes, water sources, and respect for Country.

"Stories of the Land: Connection to Country" is all about turning learning into art. It is an opportunity to celebrate goats and the landscapes they move through, while using colour, culture, and creativity to show an understanding of the deep connection between **people, animals, and the land**. The theme encourages students to reflect on respect for Country, sustainable practices, and the shared responsibility of nurturing the environments we all depend on.



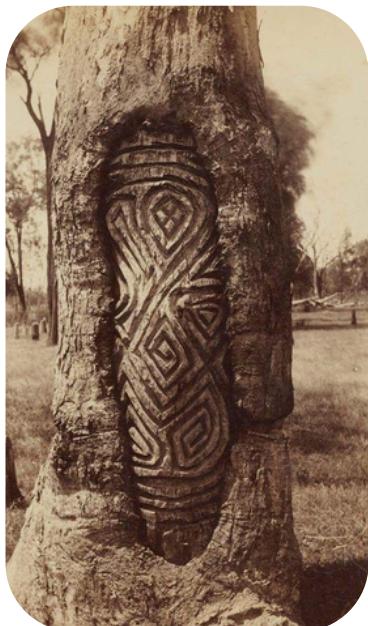
STORIES OF THE LAND: CONNECTION TO COUNTRY

Class 1: Foundation - Year 3

Students in Foundation to Year 3 focus on imaginative storytelling, observation, and simple connections between people, animals, and the land.

What Students Might Show in Their Artwork

- Happy, healthy goats grazing freely on open landscapes
- Bright, colourful countryside, hills, rivers, and sky
- Goats interacting with nature (eating grass, resting under trees, moving in groups)
- Visual storytelling using shapes, lines, patterns, and colour inspired by First Nations art to reflect connection to Country



STORIES OF THE LAND: CONNECTION TO COUNTRY

Class 2: Years 4 - 6

Students in Years 4–6 develop deeper understanding and layered meaning, exploring sustainability, adaptation, and the relationship between traditional knowledge and modern farming.

What Students Might Show in Their Artwork

- Indigenous-inspired patterns or symbols to represent:
 - Grazing paths or movement
 - Seasonal changes
 - Water sources
 - Respect for Country
- Ideas about sustainable land care and shared responsibility
- Visual representations of the balance between people, animals, and the landscapes they depend on

Adaptations and Farming (Years 5–6 Extension)

Students may explore more complex ideas, including:

- How goats have adapted and been domesticated over time
- Traits that help goats live successfully in rangeland environments
- Positive contributions such as land management, environmental resilience, and cultural significance
- Challenges such as overgrazing, land degradation, and ethical decision-making in caring for Country



CLASSROOM RESOURCES

International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

Exploring the Heart and Soul of Australia through Education

In 2026, Australia will play a leading role in the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP2026) — a global initiative recognising the vital role rangelands and pastoral communities play in feeding the world, caring for Country, and sustaining regional livelihoods.

With around 75% of Australia's landmass classified as rangelands, these vast and diverse landscapes are central to our national identity. From the iconic Outback to remote pastoral regions, rangelands support food and fibre production, biodiversity, culture, and some of the most resilient communities on Earth.

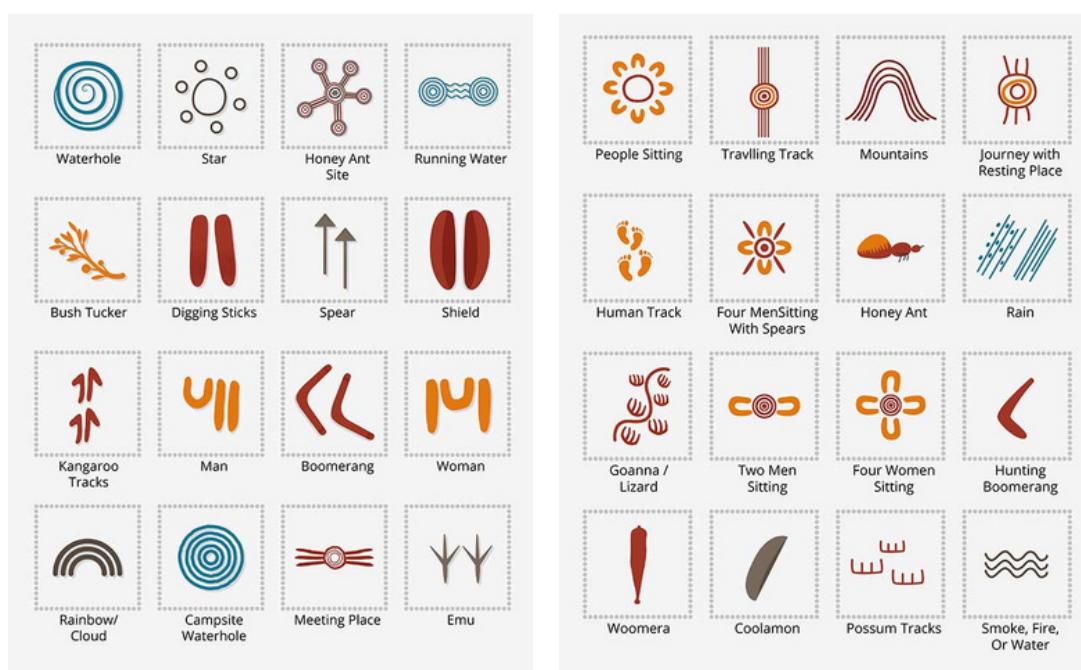
primezone.edu.au/iyrp/



What do the symbols in Aboriginal Art Mean?

Australian Aboriginal art is one of the world's longest continuous art traditions, with symbols and meanings profoundly embedded in the culture and storytelling of the Indigenous people of Australia. These symbols serve as a way of communication, conveying a richness of cultural, spiritual, and practical knowledge. This article digs into the complex universe of these symbols, examining their meanings and significance in Indigenous culture.

aboriginal-art-australia.com/aboriginal-art-library/significance/symbols-and-meanings/



CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Aboriginal Dot Painting

This video explores the origins and cultural significance of Aboriginal dot painting, including the beliefs, stories, and traditions connected to the art form. It also highlights contemporary Aboriginal art practices and explains the use of symbols and dot-painting techniques, providing valuable insights for educators.

[youtube.com/watch?v=ZL6XL7tSAJg&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZL6XL7tSAJg&t=2s)



Love Letters to the Land

You're going to write a 'Love Letter to the Land'. In this activity, you and your students will participate in an observation and record-taking activity while celebrating the land, water, flora and fauna all around you - and the small actions we can take to protect our local environment.

[juniorlandcare.org.au/learning_activity/love-letters-to-the-land/](https://www.juniorlandcare.org.au/learning_activity/love-letters-to-the-land/)



Back to Nature Series

Country has spirit and is sacred: deserving of respect and love. This has been understood by First Nations people for millennia. All the stories in this series are connected by a unifying idea: the land is alive. The land is a being, a living entity.

[abc.net.au/education/digibooks/back-to-nature/101748144](https://www.abc.net.au/education/digibooks/back-to-nature/101748144)



Local seasons: exploring First Nations weather knowledge

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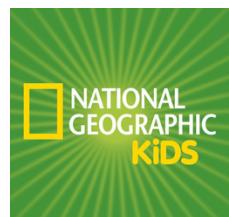
[abc.net.au/education/digibooks/back-to-nature/101748144](https://www.abc.net.au/education/digibooks/back-to-nature/101748144)



Facts About Indigenous Aboriginal Art & Culture!

Explore Australia's rich Indigenous Aboriginal arts and culture with our 10 amazing facts...

[natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/aboriginal-arts-and-culture/](https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/aboriginal-arts-and-culture/)



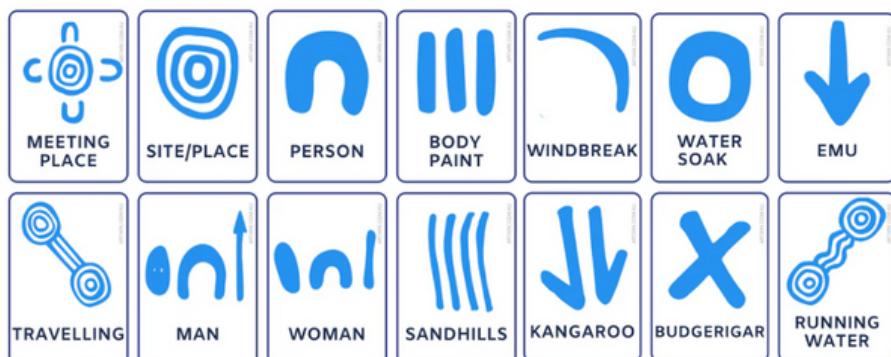
CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Aboriginal Art Educational Resources

Discover free teaching materials on Aboriginal art, culture, history, and symbols. Created for Australian classrooms, these resources support primary and secondary educators with flashcards, worksheets, Dreaming guides, and detailed articles. All content is curriculum-aligned and encourages respectful, accurate learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

artark.com.au/pages/aboriginal-art-education-resources

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Australian Aboriginal Art - Accessible for all Ages

This unit explores the work of Australian Indigenous artists Emily Kngwarreye, Makinti Napanangka, Rover Thomas, and Jimmy Pike. Students from K-6 engage in a variety of hands-on projects, including landscape artworks using natural colours, vibrant pieces incorporating Indigenous symbols, animal-track drawings with chalk pastel, Dreamtime-inspired artworks, and a sculptural goanna created through traditional weaving techniques. The unit builds understanding of Indigenous symbology and culture, supported by information sheets on each featured artist and cultural art practice.

creativekidsartlessons.com/australian-aboriginal-art/



Indigenous culture and seasonal knowledge

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hand down environmental and seasonal observations from generation to generation. This is valuable information that informs life on Country for many people.

[Indigenous weather knowledge](#)

[Indigenous seasonal calendars](#)

[Indigenous culture and seasonal knowledge](#)



CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Australian Good Meat Education

Discover Australian Good Meat Education school resources supporting Foundation to Year 12 classrooms with curriculum-linked learning! Free to access these innovative materials will spark student curiosity as they explore real-world practices and gain an up-to-date understanding of the paddock to plate supply chain, sustainable production, technology and innovation, careers, advertising and marketing, health and nutrition and more!

goodmeat.com.au/educational-resources/



Australian Good Meat Education
is an initiative of
 MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

Red Meat Green Facts

The Australian red meat industry is focused on care for the environment, being sustainable and caring for our livestock, whilst also playing an important role in Australian communities and global nutrition.

We're striving to improve animal welfare, so that our cattle, sheep and goats are healthy and happy and produce red meat of the very best quality, that is naturally high in protein and essential nutrients.

goodmeat.com.au/red-meat-green-facts/



Red Meat and The Environment

Australian red meat is more than just good for you – the industry also cares about a sustainable future for the planet and is contributing to Australia's net zero ambitions.

goodmeat.com.au/environmental-sustainability/



Aboriginal Agriculture, Technology and Ingenuity - Years 5 - 6

By looking at scientific research, archival footage and the journals of early explorers, we learn about the vast agricultural fields, ingenious aquaculture systems, sophisticated use of fire and successful industries that existed in Australia prior to colonisation.

abc.net.au/education/digibooks/bruce-pascoe-aboriginal-agriculture-technology-and-ingenuity/101734320



All about adaptations - Years 5 - 6 (extension)

Students will learn about the production of livestock in Australia, including the main regions of production, features and adaptations of common breeds and crossbreeds of cattle, sheep and goats.

Link to Teacher Guide [Activity 1.4 Online Learning Task](#)

Link to Student Lesson 1 (page 4) [Online Learning Task: What's special about Brafords?](#)



CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Seasons on the Farm

Students will learn about the features of seasons on farms and the jobs that occur because of the changing conditions. Australian Good Meat Education offers an extensive range of free, curriculum-aligned and classroom-ready primary resources. The Teachers guide offers a range of activities and suggested topics of discussion on farming.

Link to Teacher Guide: [Seasons on the Farm](#)



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A Year on our Farm

After students have had the opportunity to contribute their ideas, as a class, read the story 'A Year on our Farm' by Penny Matthews and Andrew McLean or watch the video clip reading of A Year on Our Farm. Students should listen for any jobs that the people in the story perform during the different seasons.

Link to Video: [A Year on our Farm](#)

Why are there Seasons

The team at SciShow walks kids through why there are seasons.

Link to Video: [Why Are There Seasons?](#)

The Four Seasons throughout the Year

This video the four seasons throughout the year explores why we have distinct periods, what the seasons involve and why we have them.

Link to Video: [The Four Seasons for Kids | Learn about the four seasons throughout the year](#)





DISCOVER QUEENSLAND'S BIGGEST CLASSROOM

Join schools from across the state bringing learning to life through the Ekka experience.



Scan here to get involved!





INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

The Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) is recognised for its excellence, over many years, by winning numerous awards at the International Fairs & Expos (IAFE) Awards.

IAFE has more than 1,000 members representing agricultural fairs from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

These awards represent the continued dedication the Ekka plays in bridging the country city divide, and educating the next generation on the essential role farming and agriculture plays in their everyday lives.



ekka.com.au