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Introduction Video - Teacher Notes

Students Activities

Q: What can you paint on your self?

A: Totems, landforms, family group, trees, animals, nature

Q: What colour materials are used when Isaac is painted up

A: Black Charcoal and White Ochre

Q: What 'paint up' is painted on Isaac

A: Fresh waterways that run through country

Q: What is the importance of water to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

A: It is a resource that gives and sustains life

Q: What do waterways usually represent?

A: The Rainbow serpent

Q: Where do you find ochre?

A: Usually where there is a water source

Would be good for students to see ochre in all forms and the process on mixing the ochre, all main colours would be good; red, white, yellow and also the charcoal

Q: What does red Ochre represent:

A: Initiated men, men that have been in ceremony

Q: What has Stuart painted on himself?

A: His family, Whale totem, landform, water holes running through the mountains into the ocean – It is a 2 way paint up.





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Q: How was a traditional paintbrush made?

A: A stick with beeswax and human hair?

Q: Why would Aboriginal people cover themselves in ochre?

A: Ceremony, hunting – Animals could not smell them

Q: What does Hayley's paint up represent?

A: A possum – A possum is an important totem in Sydney

Q: What colour ochre was used on Hayley?

A: White and Black Charcoal

Q: What colour ochre do women wear if they have been initiated:

A: Yellow

Q: Why are smoking ceremonies important?

A: They clear the spirits, cleansing, cleanses the area making sure there are no bad spirits around and nothing bad inside the person.

Q: What materials does Stuart use in the smoking ceremony?

A: Yellow blood wood tree (Leaves)

Q: What does the yellow blood wood tree provide and what does it symbolize?

A: Natural medicine tree and a Grandmother tree, provides lots of medicine and is very powerful

Q: What do you think Isaac, Hayley and Stuart were doing when they bent down towards the fire?

A: Cleansing their spirit

Q: What instruments do you see used in the smoking ceremony

A: Didgeridoo/ Yidaki, Clap sticks and boomerangs





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Q: What were coolamons used for?

A: To carry babies, carry food such as yam, berries and fruits

Q: What are trees called after a coolamon has been cut out?;

A: Scarred tree

Q: Traditionally what tools would Aboriginal people use to make a coolamon

A: Stone Axe, stone chisel

Q: Why does dirt get rubbed onto the tree after the coolamon has been removed?

A: To help the tree heal, gratitude, giving thanks and being thankful

Q: What stops the coolamon from curling in on itself

A: Sticks are placed across the coolamon to stop it from curling

Q: Can you learn the farewell dance remember to see the different movements between the girls and boys.

A: Let's try to learn the movements together

