



WANDANA
Aboriginal
EDUCATION & EVENTS



Introduction Video - Teacher Notes

Students Activities

Q: What can you paint on yourself?

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 of mixing, white would be best to start with. There are multiple videos YouTube that could help.

Q: What does red Ochre represent:

A: Initiated men, men that have been through 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 do 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 ochre and charcoal

Q: In Stuarts Country, what colour ochre do women wear if they have been through initiation?

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 bloodwood tree provide and what does it symbolize?

A: It is a Grandmother tree, it is very powerful and provides a lot of natural medicine.

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: Yidaki, clap sticks and boomerangs





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Q: What are 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 did 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 Yanu Munyana the farewell dance? Remember to be aware of the different movements of the boys and girls

A: Let us try to learn the movements together

