

Australian Aboriginal Culture



Raavya Sahsri Weerasekera

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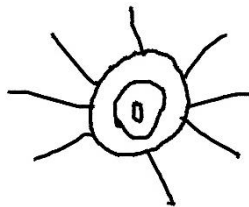
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This is a tribute to
**The Aboriginal people of Australia and their
ancestors,**



Foreword

Literary development is a yardstick to measure the development of a country. The Kotte and Dambadeniya eras stand out in the history of the world because they were literary enlightening periods. If so, this is the golden period in the history of the Mahamaya as well. This is the reason why our daughters have been enchanting through book writing for many years now. It is a special event that our writers have succeeded in building a culture of writing books in the school and spreading it to the entire school system and this time involving the global student community in it. Beyond this, this time the school community itself has also decided to rebuild the past Yatiwara writing tradition in the country in order to pay tribute to the founder of our school, Karadana Athadassi Thero. The Pirivena student monks have also taken up book writing “**The Herana Gatkarani** “ project was introduced. It is a matter of pride for me as the principal to lead the way in bringing about a qualitative change in the education of schools and Pirivena education through this academic and religious service, and it is also an achievement for the school. This book, which is the result of recognizing one's innate talent at an early stage in life and turning to writing, will undoubtedly be a help for future education and future life.

Shashikala Senadheera,

Principal, Mahamaya Girls' Collage, Kandy.

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Aboriginal Flag

Our precious Land

By Sashri Weerasekera

The night time sky is more precious

we can

make a wish by looking at the stars and

constellations

As we always walk on lands

at night or day we see the animals every way

No matter what we do we still take care of our land

No matter what, we take care of everything that is
precious

The most precious thing in the world is our land

We always want to take care and pay respect

For the elders both past and present



1. Introduction

Aboriginal Australians are the native people in Australia. There are 14 aboriginal tribes in Australia.

They have wide variety of cultural practice. Aboriginals are one of the world oldest tribes. Their language is different from place to place in Australia based on their tribe but most of them speak English today with Aboriginal phrases and words

Aboriginal Word	English
uwa (oo-ah)	Yes
wiya (wee-ya)	No
liru (leer-oo)	Brown Snake
mai (may)	Fruits and vegetables
Dingo	Wild Dog
Walpa (wharl-pa)	Wind
wati (wottie)	Man
minyma (min-ma)	Women
lungkata (loong-car-ta)	Blue-tongue lizard

2. Food

Aboriginal Australians eat range of meat such as Kangaroo, Possum, Emu, Brush turkey, Lizards and Snakes.

They eat a type of bread called damper. They make it by grinding wild seeds with water and cook it on fire. They make it sweet by adding bush honey.

They eat lot of natural seeds including wild passionfruit, wild oranges, bush tomato, bush banana, bush plums, mulga seeds and wattle seeds. Aboriginal Australians would also gather honey and nectar from bees, honey ants, flowers and trees.

They made their food by boiling, roasting, cooking on open fires and underground ovens.

3. Honey ants

This is a bush food that sweet and sour taste. Aboriginal Australians call it Tajla. These ants live in deep underground nests. We have to be careful and eat only the abdomen of the ant.



Honey Ant (Tajla)

4. Religion

Aboriginal Australians believe that human and earth is made by their god. They believe their dreams. They respect their gods by doing traditional dancing.

5. Traditional clothing

Adults use to wear a cloak made out of animal skins decorated with traditional arts. Children was with no cloths.

Men and women used to wear belts made out of animal skin.

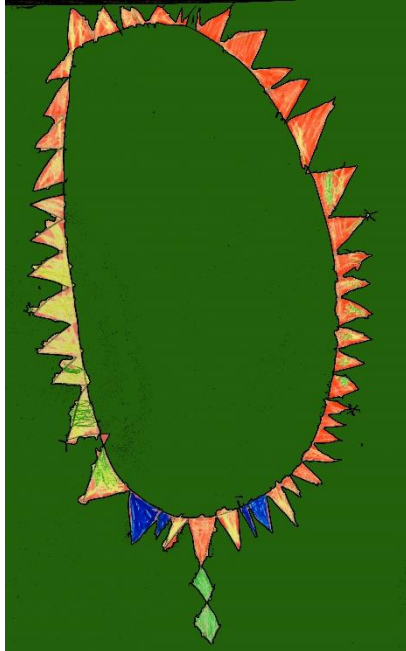
6. Cultural festivals

1. Parrtjima: Festival of light held annually in the beautiful landscape surrounding Alice Springs in Australia.

2. Tarnanthi: Indigenous art festival

7. Jewelry

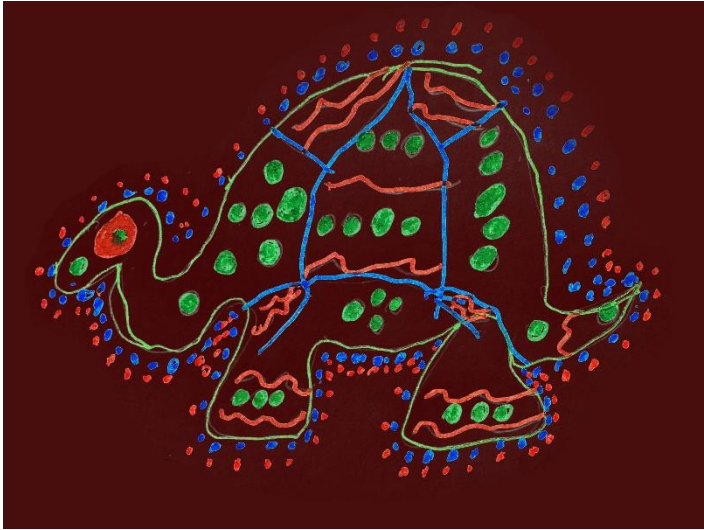
Bracelets, necklaces, hair clips were used. They were made out of Kangaroo tooth, sea shells, echidna quills and animal bones.



Necklace made out of sea shells

8. Drawings

They draw using colorful dots. They use animal blood, plant materials, earth colors and bones. They draw them to tell stories, adventures and maps.



Aboriginal art style turtle



Aboriginal art style Kangaroo

9. Hunting

Aboriginal people hunt animals, collect eggs and did fishing. Men and children used to hunt. Hunting trips take many days. They are good trackers. They track and follow the hunt. They used to hunt Kangaroos, wallabies, seals, wild birds. They also catch fish such as barramundi. During hunting men donot talk to each other.

10. Aboriginal tools

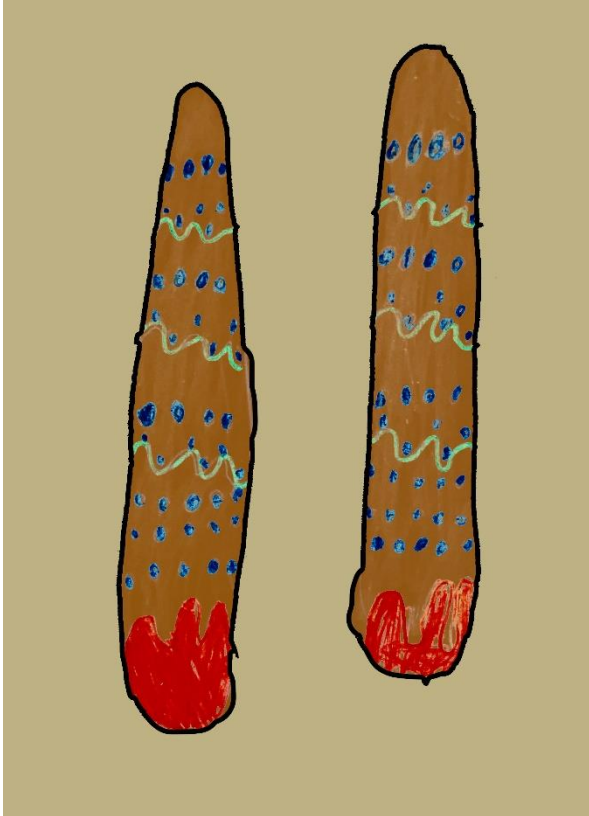
Aboriginal people made tools long ago. They used rocks, wood, and bones. Tools helped them hunt animals. They made spears, boomerangs, and knives. Some tools were used to cook food.



Boomerang: Used for hunting



Spear: Many kinds of Spears. Used for hunting and fighting.



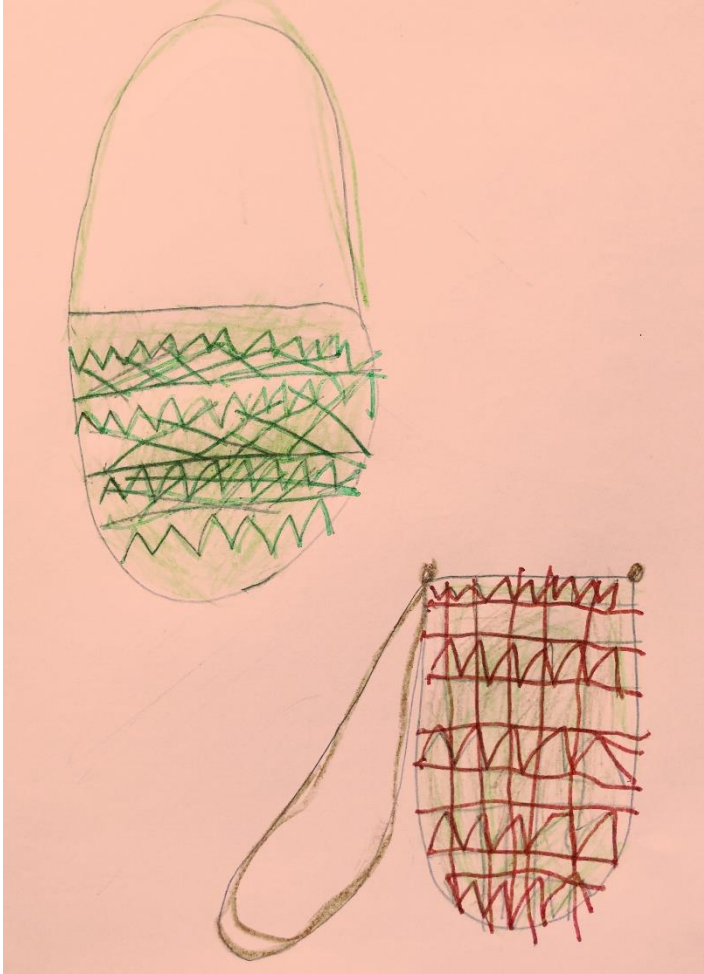
Clap sticks: Musical instruments used in ceremonies



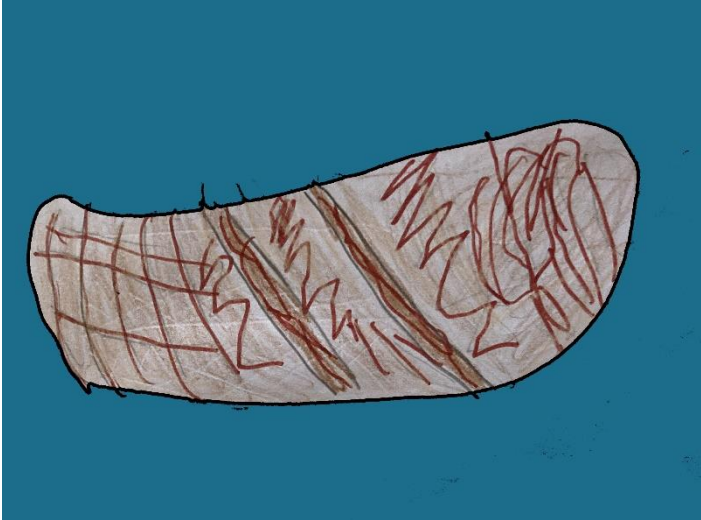
Axe: Stone axe with wooden handle



Clubs (Boondi) : Weapon made of wood



Baskets: Made with native grasses.



Canoe: Used for travel and fishing



Coolamon: a dish used to carry food



Many toys were there for kids such as dolls, animal models and boomerangs.



Shield: made out of wood or bark to guard themselves when fighting

11. Aboriginal Families

Aboriginal families are in large groups. Grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, children, uncles, aunts and cousins. Elders teach their children about their culture and values. They respect their elders.



Raavya Sashri Weerasekera,
Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy

Afterward

According to my concept, under the project that has been running since 2014 to direct school children to writing, we have been fortunate to have planted more than sixty thousand writer seedlings in the local literary field. The objectives of this project are to improve the quality of education, to promote literature that will contribute to the future development of the country, to hone the abilities of the future generation, and to build a platform to showcase the creations of children.

It is our social responsibility to create the fertile soil for those seeds to sprout and grow. This is the only project in recent history that has been implemented continuously for several years at the school level, provincial, national and international levels for the sake of the productivity of education.

This time, it is special that the *Pirivena* student monks have also been involved in this. The nation should be grateful for the dedication shown by the Principal, daughters, teachers, parents and alumni of *Mahamaya Balika Vidyalaya*.

The printed book is still the main tool of our education. The enjoyment that a child gets from a book cannot be provided by anything else.

It is experimentally proven that the use of various electronic devices to store human knowledge and the distancing of children from books has been detrimental to the quality of education and has created various problems in society. This project, which is being implemented as a solution to this, has been adapting the smart younger generation of the digital age to modern technology by writing electronic works for the past two years, together with school children in the country.

To take their creations to international readers, Mahamaya girls have built a digital fiction

for their own, literary creative abilities.

My congratulations to the young writers who have entered it through their creative abilities.

Project Founder and Coordinator,

Senevirathne Maha Lekam