

Paint Making Art Literacy Project

Inspired by Australian Aboriginal artists

Students will learn how aboriginal artists mixed pigments to create paint. Then, they will make an Aboriginal inspired dot painting on a boomerang.

Vocabulary

Aboriginal - various Indigenous peoples of the Australian mainland and many of its islands.

Supplies:

Mica powder	Glue
Popsicle sticks	Mixing cups
Dot tools	Wooden boomerangs
Black construction paper	Wipes

Setup notes

Cover desks with a placemat.

Write student names on back of wooden boomerangs.

“Paint” Prep:

1. Pour ~½ inch white glue into small cups, 1-2 per student.
2. Add 1-2 spoonfuls of mica powder into cup. Use a variety of ~6-8 colors. Do NOT stir.
3. Add popsicle stick to cup.

The Project

1. Hand out 1-2 cups to each student to stir and create paint to be shared with a small group.
2. While students are mixing paint, hand out paper plates, dot tools (a variety of sizes to share), black construction paper, and a wipe to each student.
3. Allow students to select 1-2 colors and assist them in pouring a small amount (approx. size of a quarter) onto their plate.
4. Students can practice the dotting technique (holding tool vertically upright, dot in paint, dot on paper) on the black construction paper and practice making a few designs/symbols. Encourage students to experiment with different sizes of dot tools. *Note: students should clean the tip of the dot tool after use/before changing colors using the baby wipe.*
5. Once they are ready, hand out wooden boomerang for students to paint. *Note: students can recycle or take black construction paper home, but ensure there is enough dry/clean space for the boomerang so it doesn't inadvertently stick to the paper.*

Clean up & Display

- Place boomerang on drying rack.
- Place cups of paint and popsicle sticks in the trash.
- Mount boomerang to black construction paper using 3 glue dots. Add student label.
- Hang dried artwork on classroom gallery wall.

