

# Australian Mythology

...

# Dreamtime

The beginnings of Australian mythology center around the Aboriginal belief system known as Dreamtime, which dates back as far as **65,000** years.

Aboriginals believed Earth was created by **spiritual beings** who physically represented the land, sea, animals and people.

“Everything in the natural world is a **symbolic footprint of the metaphysical beings** whose actions created our world.”

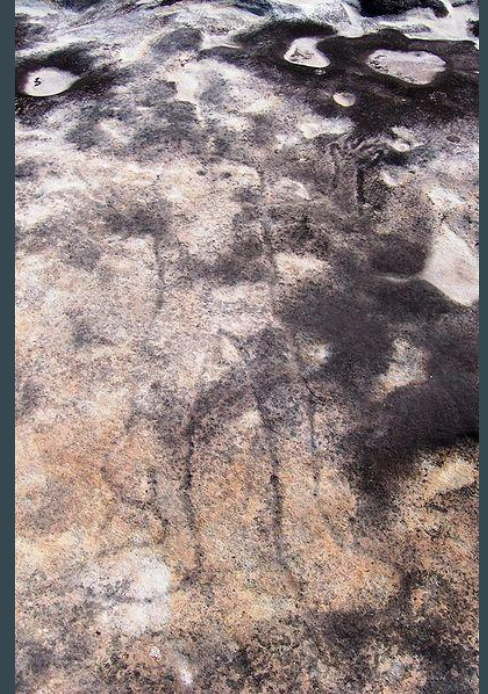
Through practices such as storytelling, dance and art, Dreamtime provided the foundation for Aboriginal culture and spirituality.





Stencil art showing unique clan markers and Dreamtime stories symbolising attempts to catch the deceased's spirit.

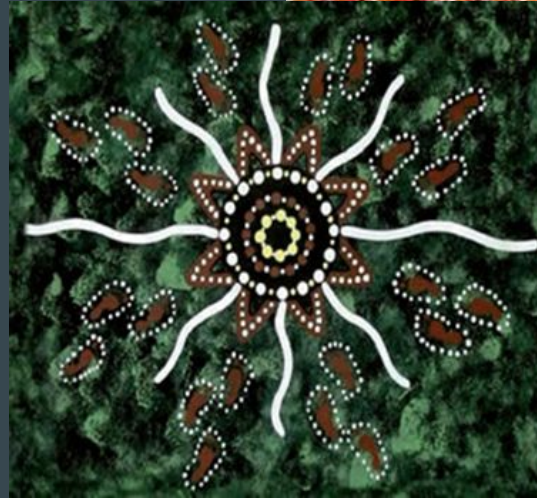
Ku-ring-gai Chase-petroglyph, via Waratah Track, depicting *Baiame*, the Creator God and Sky Father in the dreaming of several Aboriginal language groups.



# The Story of Dot Painting

The indigenous people of Australia, or Aborigines, use **dot painting** as a form of storytelling.

With dots of paint traditionally made from **natural pigments**, they create patterns and images of plants and animals that represent their culture's **creation myths**.

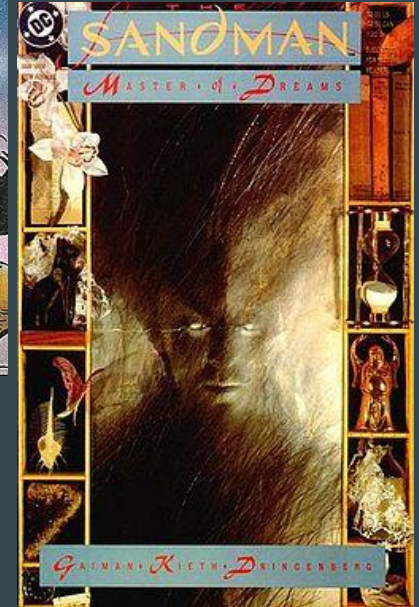
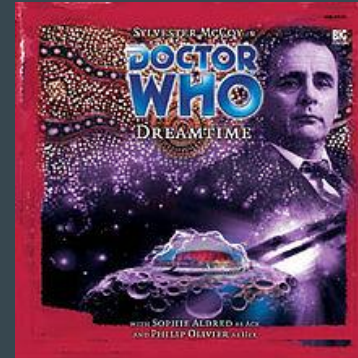


# Dreamtime | In popular culture

It became a widely cited concept in the 1980s.

By the late 1980s was adopted as a cliché in **New Age** and **feminist** spirituality.

It appears in many non-Australian works including Marvel and DC Comics, British Doctor Who audio-dramas and European songs.



# Bunyip ('devil' or 'evil spirit')

A large mythical creature which is said to lurk in **swamps** or **billabongs** and eat people from the shoreline.

It is said to be a **reptilian marsupial hybrid**, with sizes comparable to "a large dog", and displays of violent, territorial behavior.

Swamps and rivers are their preferred home.

Often "preferred" to attack women and children.

