

rain

goanna

Symbols are invented and used to represent something else. They are a part of visual communication and a part of storytelling.

Symbols are all around us and we encounter them in our everyday lives.

Some symbols are universal, they are used all over the world. Some are particular with certain cultures or groups.

What do these symbols represent? Put the words into the crossword above.

ACROSS

DOWN

- 1.
- 3.
- 6.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

- 1.
- 2.
- 4.
- 5.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

We acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay our respects to the elders both past and present of the Wiradjuri Nation.

campsite

The WPC is a branch of Dubbo Regional Council.
 76 Wingewarra Street, Dubbo
westernplainsculturalcentre.org
 ph: (02) 6801 4444



DENDROGLYPHS

CARVED COUNTRY

A SIGNS & SYMBOLS worksheet



What are Symbols?

What are Symbols?

In the past, people did drawings on rocks and on cave walls to tell stories and record events.

Drawings became symbols and the symbols developed into the alphabet. But symbols are still a powerful way to communicate.

The letter **A** started out as a symbol for an 'ox'. The image (an ox head) came from Egyptian hieroglyphics, but the word is from the Semitic languages which translated as *aleph*. This symbol has changed over time until it became what we now know as an **A**.

woomera



Egyptian Hieroglyphic
c3200 BCE - 400CE



Proto-Sinaitic
c1850 - 1550 BCE



Phoenician
c1200 - 150 BCE



Archaic Greek
c750 - 480 BCE



Archaic Latin
c500 BCE



Roman
c1 CE



Modern Latin script

Match the symbols with the words



Money



War



Night



Cunning



Wisdom



Idea



Peace

What do these symbols represent?



Draw some other symbols that you recognise

Some Aboriginal symbols and their meanings



Human tracks



Resting place



Honey ant site



People sitting



Witchetty grub



Water



Running water



Possum



Man



Coolamon



Yam plant

star

Can you unscramble these words?

- 1. airinbgoal
- 2. sraced
- 3. cnoutry
- 4. lggnuaae
- 5. wiajdrui
- 6. komlaraii
- 7. cvaerd
- 8. sobmys
- 9. dlegpnordyh
- 10. cioaimtomnuch communication
- 11. ttiardniaol
- 12. hsotriy
- 13. bruail
- 14. uiqune
- 15. prtates
- 16. ceormeny
- 17. crtoule
- 18. atonress
- 19. vuaisl
- 20. seitors

Words and **symbols** appear simple but they are often used in combination to tell complex stories.

For generation after generation symbols have served as a vital means of relaying important cultural beliefs and values to people.

Symbols are all around us, they are very important as part of our **visual** communication.

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Wiradjuri

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Words and symbols for *Tree*

Words and Symbols that mean **TREE** from around the world.



The word **tree** is just a word that has been made up and applied to the object that we see in the landscape. This makes it easier when we want to talk or write about that object.

Tree is an English word for that object, other countries that speak different languages have different words for tree.

- Italian - **albero** French - **abre**
- Filipino - **puno** Swedish - **trad**
- Maori - **rakau** Indonesian - **pohon**

Here are two modern symbols for a tree.



They are different but we understand them both to reference a tree.



This is ancient Chinese script for a large tree. Knowing what it represents, we can see the form of a tree in the symbol.

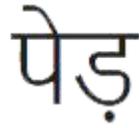
But not all Chinese characters look like what they stand for.

traditional

The Ancient Egyptian hieroglyph for a tree is very simple. Perhaps this was because it often had to be carved into sandstone?



Kamilaroi



This symbol is used in Hindi when they want to talk about a tree. In Hindi, the sound they make is *ped*.

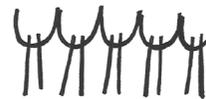
ancestors

This is a Persian symbol for a cypress tree. It has been used in the designs on Persian rugs for hundreds of years.



The Kamilaroi symbol for tree is very simple, but it could be confused for many things if we did not understand its meaning.

This is an Aboriginal symbol for a forest.



Even letters are just small symbols that have been made up. They are put together to make up words, which are then put together to make up sentences and paragraphs.

Can you find the words for TREE in the different languages listed here?

E C U R P Q X R I G B I
 T O X P A R B O L J A P
 A E Z P U B V T C F U O
 R D O U D E N T R O M H
 B E S N H S D E R E V O
 O D I O D A S E D N S N
 R C S J E I I K B O M P
 A A I S B T U T M S S Y
 K H F H K P A Q Z T T E
 A O H A W A L D D A R B
 U Y F J H I B Q T B O W
 A P W A C N E R P L M A
 B P A R V O R E N O X J
 R U N A A L O T R A D J
 E P O K O K O T Q Z E U

language

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ALBERO
(Italian) | ABRE
(French) | OSISI
(Igbo) |
| ARBOL
(Spanish) | STABLO
(Bosnian) | DENTRO
(Greek) |
| BAUM
(German) | PYEBWA
(Haitian) | RAKAU
(Maori) |
| POKOK
(Malaysian) | SHAJARA
(Arabic) | STROM
(Czech) |
| POHON
(Indonesian) | COEDED
(Welsh) | PUNO
(Filipino) |
| SAITPAIN
(Burmese) | DEREVO
(Russian) | ARBOR
(Latin) |
| CAHOY
(Cebuano) | ZUHAITZ
(Basque) | TRAD
(Swedish) |
| ARVORE
(Portuguese) | | |

Aboriginal

Create some new symbols, symbols we haven't seen before. You could come up with something of your own meaning. It may concern an important issue, or be a personal flag or coat of arms.

There is no written language for Australian Aboriginal people. Through the generations their important cultural stories have been expressed in ceremony by symbols, stories and dance.

Symbols are still used to communicate stories of cultural significance. We often see it now as a painting on canvas, but the deeper meanings are hidden from us. The stories are passed down through their family. They cannot paint a story that does not belong to them.

It is important to pass on the information to preserve the culture. The ceremonies are used to convey the knowledge of the land, events and beliefs of the Aboriginal people

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Symbols in Storytelling

