

At Home Science – Boomerangs

Science for Families: using what you have at home

WOW! How far can you jump? **Be Outside With Brevard Zoo** asked the question, "Are you a frog, a jackrabbit, or a kangaroo?" Kangaroos can jump 25 feet! Your challenge was to go for a walk and collect things in YOUR pockets. What did you collect? Kangaroos also have pockets (or pouches). They are marsupials. Marsupials are mammals with pouches, which they use to carry their underdeveloped babies, while they suckle and mature. Kangaroos live in Australia. There are about 250 marsupial species alive in Australia, around 120 marsupial species in South America and just one (the Virginia opossum) living in North America. Did you know? Marsupials did not always live in Australia. 125 million years ago, marsupials originated in North America! Read more <https://www.livescience.com/64897-why-marsupials-in-australia.html>



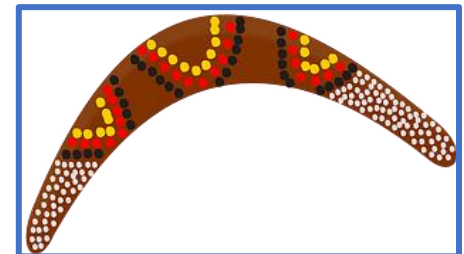
Fun With Learning

The indigenous people of Australia or Aboriginal people have created beautiful art for 40,000 to 60,000 years. There are many forms of Aboriginal art including rock painting, dot painting, rock engravings, bark painting, carvings, sculptures, and weaving and string art. Aboriginal art uses symbols to tell a story. Their art has been passed on for thousands of years and is vibrant and beautiful.



Dot painting is made up of small dots of paint. Traditional colors have meaning. Yellow represents the sun, red the desert, brown the soil, and white the clouds and sky. Quite often dot painting depicts animals or dreams.

Challenge: Choose what you want to paint. It can be paper, a rock, a stick, a piece of bark, or any other item. There are several way to introduce dot art with kids. A book is a good place to start. *Why I Love Australia* by Bronwyn Bancroft is a good example of beautiful illustrations! Choose your art medium and tools. For younger kids, Qtips and paint are perfect or even markers. For older kids, a paint brush or markers work well. They can just start painting or they can draw a design with pencil first. I always suggest starting with a simple outline of an animal. **It's art time!**



Cool Science

Australia, the land down under have some of the most unique animals in the world! They also have one of the most unique weapons in the world – the boomerang! The oldest rock art in the world, the Indigenous Australian rock art, depicts boomerangs being used as hunting weapons. The rock art is potentially 50,000 years old. Today, boomerangs are mostly used for recreation. A world cup international competition, is held every other year. Teams from Germany and the United States dominated the competition as of 2017. There are different types of throwing contests: accuracy of return; Aussie round; trick catch; fast catch; and endurance. Read more about the competitions <http://usba.org/the-sport/>

Give it a try! How did it fly? I'm not sure if this is a parent challenge or a child challenge. I did it! Parents, take the time to make more than one for a fun, family competition! Older kids can do this, they will just need to be neat. FYI, my second one was best!

Origami Boomerang - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kprLtErg8U>

Ninja Star Boomerang - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7-qt8UcWqc>

