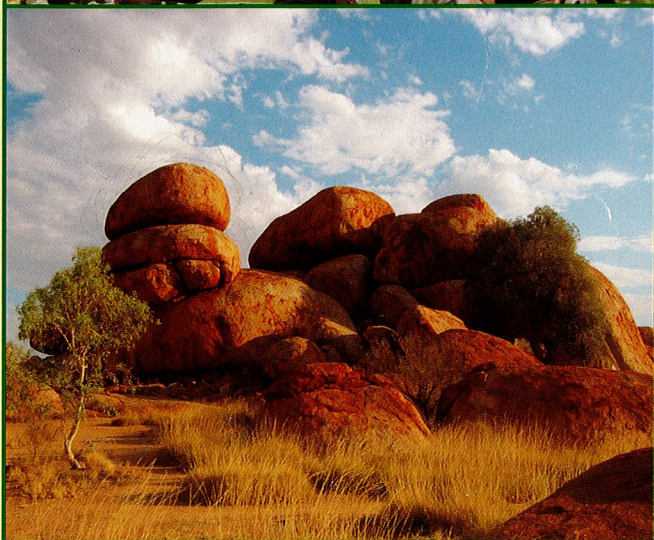


Shaping the Outback

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Have you ever thought about the patterns you can see in nature? Nearly everywhere you look you can see lines and shapes around you. If you throw a stone into a pond you can see circles in the ripples, at the beach you can see lines of waves and, in the sky, the wispy shapes in cloud formations.

Animals and plants come in many different shapes and exhibit different patterns and markings. Zebras have stripes on their skin, giraffes have spots, the shells of sea creatures grow in spirals and starfish have five arms. The shapes that we see in nature are solid shapes but the shapes that we imagine or picture in our minds are often flat shapes.

DO IT

- 1** What are some of the different shapes that you can see in the photographs?
- 2** Name a shape that you can see that looks like a solid shape.
- 3** Name a flat shape that you can see.
- 4** How would you describe the shape of a tree?
- 5** Are there any common shapes you know that are not in the photographs?
- 6** Which kinds of lines can you see in the photographs?

Manipulates, compares, sketches and describes shapes and lines in the environment

Shaping the Outback

WORKING MATHEMATICALLY

- 1 Go on a shape hunt in the bush. Sketch the different shapes that you see.
- 2 Did you find mainly straight shapes or curved shapes?
- 3 Go on a line hunt. Sketch the different types of lines that you see in the bush.
- 4 Did you find mainly straight lines or curved lines?
- 5 Draw three different types of curved lines.
- 6 Did you find any circles or spirals? If so, where were they?
- 7 How are shapes you see in buildings different from those you see in the bush?

INVESTIGATION

The curved shapes and lines that are present in the Australian environment are often seen in Aboriginal art. Paintings such as the one pictured below are often a kind of a map or a bird's-eye view of the countryside. The paintings show important features of the landscape that were carved out by spirit beings. Artists use dots, circles and different lines to represent nature.

- 1 What are the different shapes you can see in the painting?
- 2 What do you think the colours represent?
- 3 What are the different kinds of lines that you can see?
- 4 What do you think the circles represent?
- 5 What do the horseshoe shapes represent?
- 6 Can you see any animal tracks in the painting?
- 7 Use some natural materials that you have collected from the bush to make a design or artwork of your own.



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RESEARCH

- Use the library and Internet to find out more about shapes in nature.
- Research other examples of stripe and dot patterns found on animals.
- Investigate some Aboriginal dot paintings. What is the story behind each painting?
- What do the shapes in the paintings represent?
- Use your knowledge of the different shapes to make some paintings of your own.