

Creation Stories

Old stories told by Aboriginal people tell about Australia since time began and of the creation of people, land, animals and plants. **Creation stories** (or **Dreaming stories**) teach children about beliefs and the rules for living with each other and the land. These stories are about the past, the present and the future. Paintings are one way that Aboriginal people tell their creation stories.



Wandjina

The story of Wandjina belongs to Aboriginal people of the Kimberley region in Western Australia. Wandjina are their **Creator Ancestors**. Wandjina are known as the bringers of rain. They make and control the weather and are the **Protectors of Country**. These stories are very old.

▲ Charlie Alyungurra did this painting of Wandjina on bark in 1975.

Rainbow Serpent

The Rainbow Serpent is the most common Creator Ancestor in Aboriginal culture. Different Aboriginal groups across Australia have their own stories about the Rainbow Serpent.



- ▲ This painting shows a Rainbow Serpent that travelled through **Country** making the hills, mountains and waterways. This creation story belongs to the Lardil people of Mornington Island in Queensland. Goobalathaldin (Dick Roughsey) did this painting on canvas in 1975.