

Australia



Bark Painting

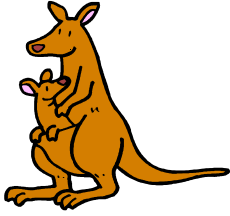
Before paper was invented people wrote on lots of different materials to record important information. The Aboriginal peoples of Australia painted on tree bark. The bark is first stripped and soaked in water, before being heated over a fire to make it pliable.

You can paint pictures directly onto pieces of soaked and flattened bark, or on paper made from bark fibres. The flat sheets of cork that are used for floors and pin boards are made from the bark of the cork-oak tree. This bark makes an ideal surface for painting.

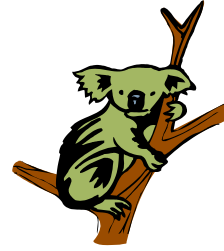
Materials: Sheet of cork or cork tile (unvarnished), masking tape, wooden board, tracing paper, pencil, spirit-based felt-tip pen, acrylic paint in white, ochre (dirty yellow), burnt sienna (rust brown) and burnt umber (dark brown), paint brush and stick.

How:

- 1 Tape corners of cork sheet or tile onto a board to prevent it moving or rolling up.
- 2 Find an idea from an art book, or copy a picture of a native Australian animal. Draw your design on tracing paper. Turn over the tracing paper and pencil over lines on the back.



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- 3 Tape the tracing paper to the cork and pencil over the lines. Remove the tracing paper.
- 4 Go over the traced outline with felt pen. Add background pattern.
- 5 Paint flat areas with a brush. Use your fingers or the end of a stick to form the dot pattern in the background.
- 6 Leave to dry.