



PROGRAM GOALS

- Learn about Australia's unique cultural features

GRADES

1st to 3rd

MATERIALS

- Q-tips
- Paint

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Ensure students are actively engage with the project

Paint Your Story!

Bring out your students' creativity as they learn about the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo native Australian culture. The Aborigines were the first people to live in Australia, and they carry a rich cultural history. See below for a variety of questions to engage your students even further:

- Do you know where Australia is?
- What animals can you find in Australia?
- Do the animals have patterns on its body?
- How can you show the patterns on their body through dots?

Design your own animal using colors and symbols from Aboriginal Art. Encourage your students to do their best as they dot their animals with paint and create symbols. Be creative with the artwork! Once the students are finished with their paintings, have them share their artwork with the class or a buddy. Please encourage them to explain how and why they place the dots or symbols. Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email education@kidszoo.org to express how you used these supplemental activities!

Cultural History:

The Aborigines (Ab-orig-i-nees) were hunters and gatherers who settled in Australia around 40,000 years ago. They had an intricate spiritual and social life, and they numbered around 300,000 members in the late 1700s. They would share stories about their experiences through their artwork. They use a piece of bark as a canvas, and they used a technique called dotting and used colors associated with the earth. They would use brushes, sticks, or their fingers to paint designs that share their stories about their dreams, rituals, and experiences.

Example:





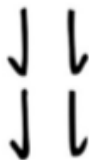
Aboriginal Symbols



SNAKE



EMU



KANGAROO TRACKS



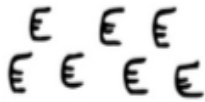
STAR



WATER



BOOMERANG



ANIMAL TRACKS



CAMPSITE OR
WATERHOLE



MOUNTAINS



RAIN

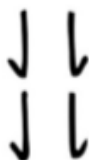
Aboriginal Symbols



SNAKE



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KANGAROO TRACKS



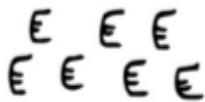
STAR



WATER



BOOMERANG



ANIMAL TRACKS



CAMPSITE OR
WATERHOLE

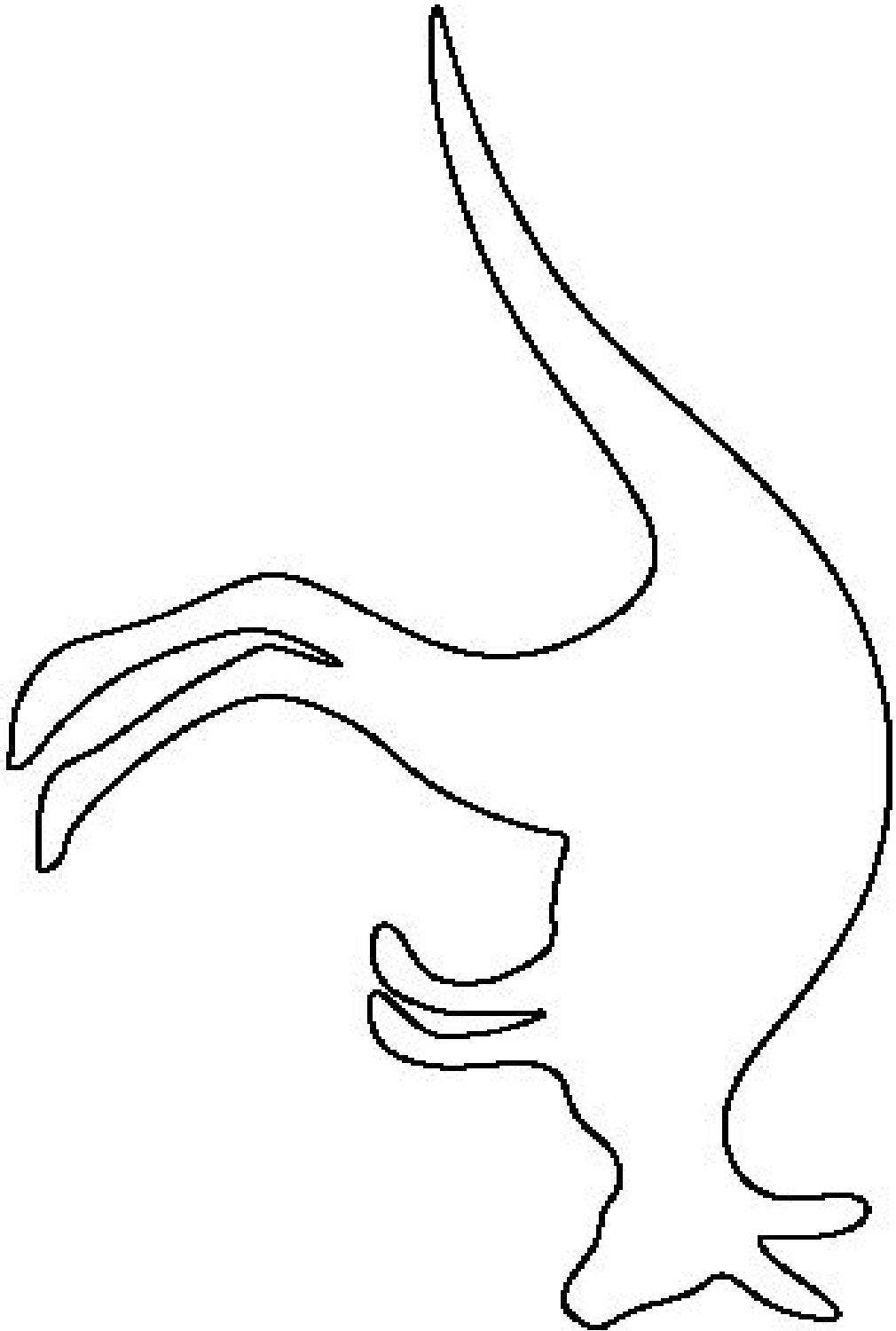


MOUNTAINS



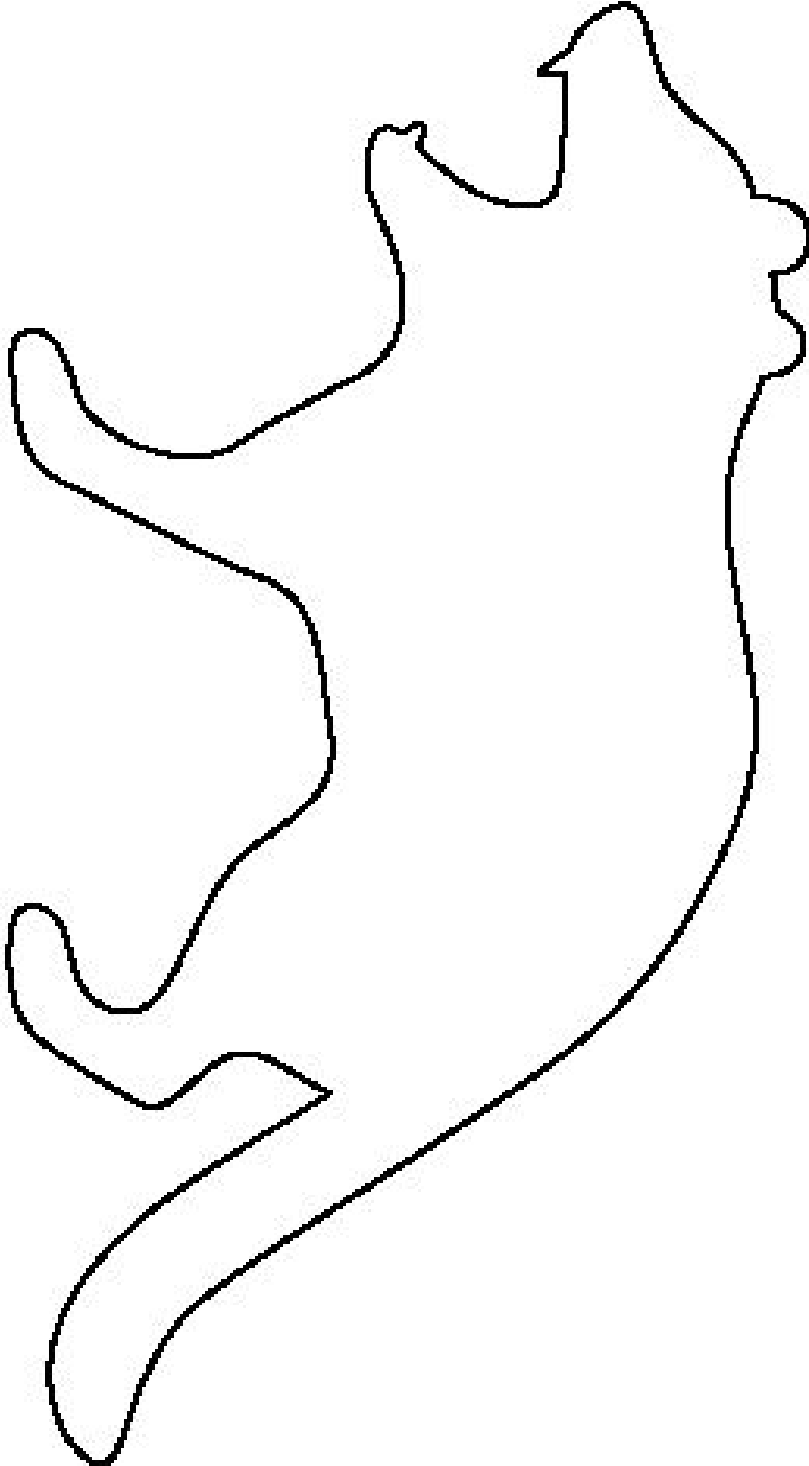
RAIN

Aboriginal Art



Eastern Grey Kangaroo

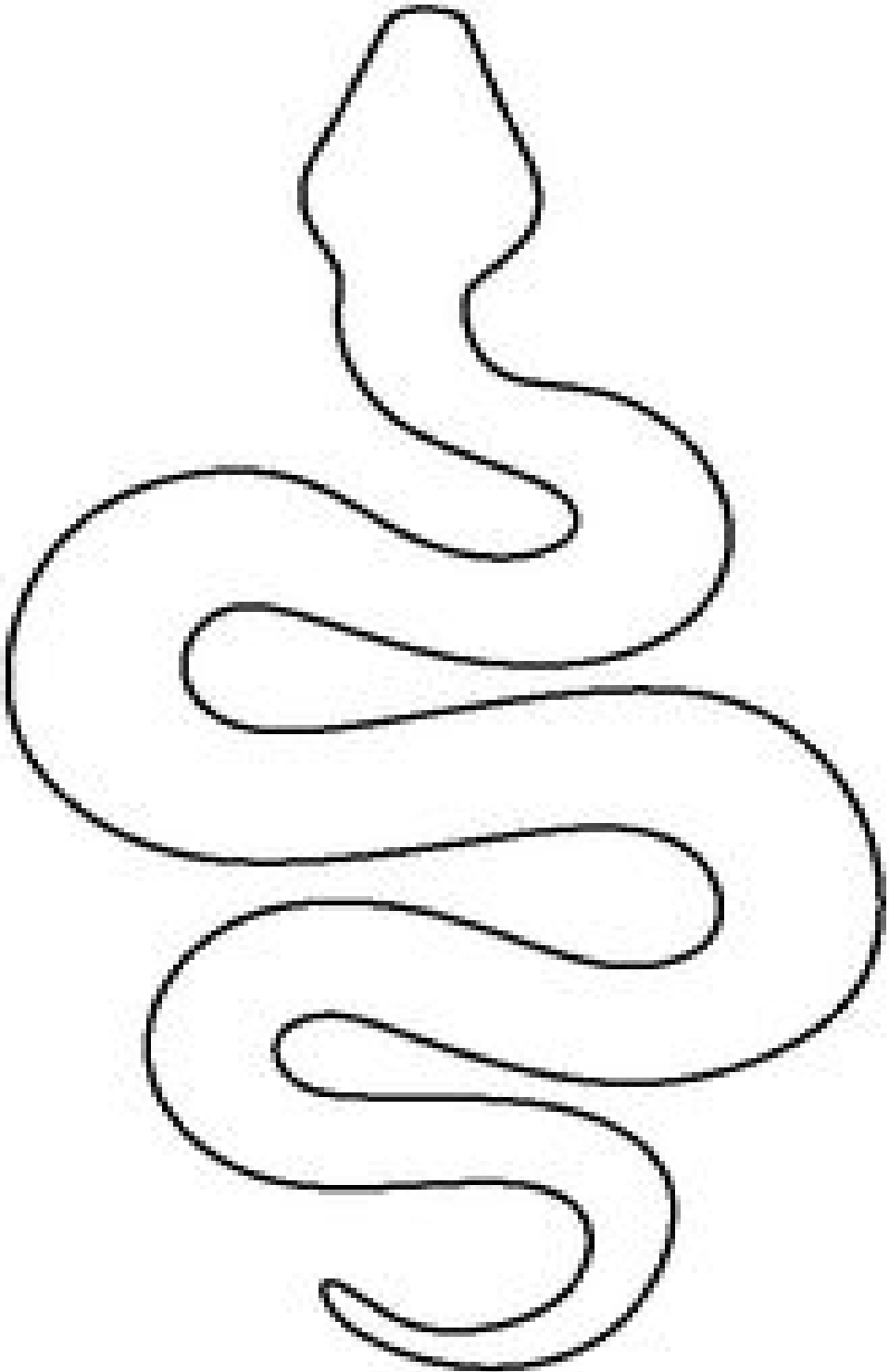
Fun Fact: Their long, powerful legs allow them to cover 20 feet or more in a single hop, and they can hop backward. They can reach a top speed up to 40 mph for short bursts, and they can travel long distances at 10-15 mph.



Tasmanian Devil

Fun Fact: When the European settlers heard screams and growls at night, they imagined it was an otherworldly creature lurking in the bush. Upon seeing the devil's red ears and sharp teeth, they named the creature the Tasmanian Devil.

Aboriginal Art



Woma Python

Fun Fact: Woma pythons hunt small mammals, birds, and other snakes at night. They trick their prey by hiding their bodies and wiggling the tips of their tails. The prey thinks the tail is food, so they go to try to eat it, but the python wraps their tails around their prey to enjoy their dinner.



Cockatiel

Fun Fact: Although parrots are known more for their talking, cockatiels can talk, too! Their voices sound very singsong compared to human voices. Males talk more than females do, but both will whistle and peep. They are quite loud in the mornings to let their mate know where they are.