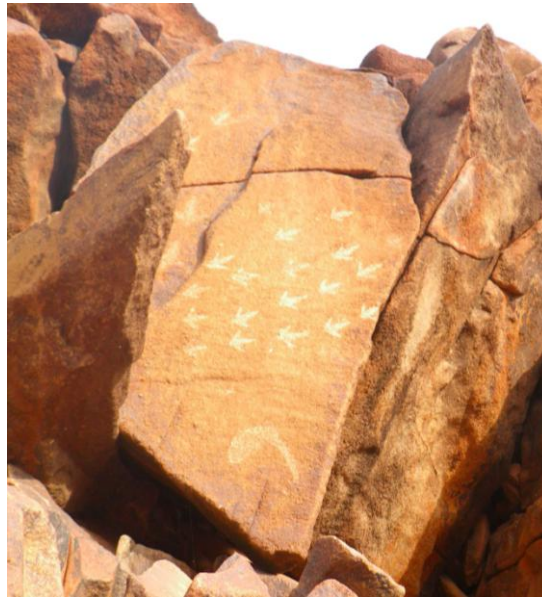


## Replica Petroglyph - Student Activity



Footprints petroglyph Burrup Peninsula

Aboriginal people chipped away oxidised rock to expose different coloured un-oxidised rock below. These petroglyphs remain for many thousands of years. Since petroglyphs are often reworked in later years the cultural reason for their existence must have continued to be very important. Vikings, Celts, Gauls and other Indo-Europeans have used petroglyphs similarly in pre-historic times. Later in Europe the technique of sgraffito was used to decorate medieval houses. Layers of different coloured plaster were applied and artists cut through layers to form a cameo relief. Students may wish to make their own replica petroglyphs using the sgraffito process

Materials per student

- Access to pictures of Aboriginal petroglyphs or the internet
  - A mould (half a Petri dish)
  - Kitchen spray
  - A small beaker or container to make the plaster of Paris mix
  - 2 tablespoons full of plaster of Paris
  - A spoon or stirring rod
  - A little water
  - Iron oxide or other colouring material.
  - A scraper or sharp metal nail
1. If using plasticine, mould it into a shallow dish shape
  2. Spray the inside of the mould lightly with oil to prevent sticking
  3. Make the first mix of plaster of Paris and water, to a custard consistency. Add sufficient oxide to make a rock-like colour.
  4. Quickly spread the plaster over the base of the mould and leave for five minutes to become a little firm
  5. Make a moister plaster mix but do not add colour
  6. Spread a thin layer of white plaster over the earlier thicker base.
  7. Leave the plaster to set. It may take about twenty minutes.
  8. Meanwhile research petroglyphs and decide what shape you will make for your own. It should be particularly significant to you.
  9. Start scraping and chipping your replica petroglyph.