



## SYMMETRICAL ART... INSPIRED BY DOT PAINTING

This artwork is bold, colourful, fun and inspired from art by some Indigenous Australian people. In the past this art would pass on information, tell stories and be based on dreamtime stories. Take a look at some of these artworks to inspire your own.



Figure 1. Lolly Creek by April Nulgit



Figure 2. Tingari by Thomas Tjapaltjarri



Figure 3. Women's Ceremony by Joylene Reid Napangardi



Figure 4. Women's Ceremony Marlene Young Nungurrayi

### YOU WILL NEED:

Paper / card

Pencil

Black marker pen

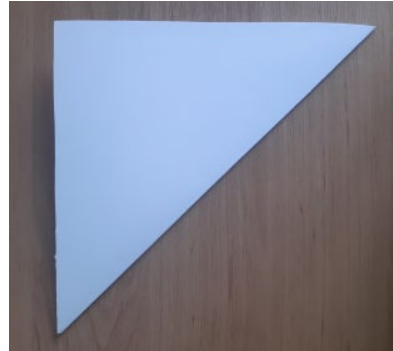
Paints or colour pens

Cotton buds

Water / wet cloth

## STEP 1

Begin by taking a square piece of plain card (white card will probably work best initially). Then, fold your card in half – you can fold your card either straight down the middle or diagonally. This is your centre line which will help you make your design symmetry.



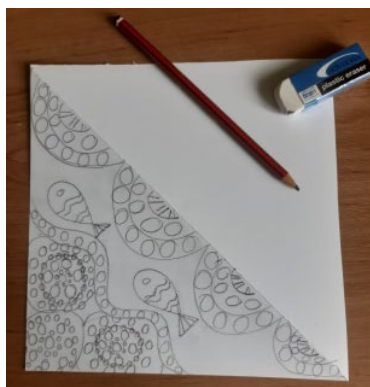
## STEP 2

On one half begin to map out your design, first using a pencil so you can easily rub something out if you change your mind. If you like animals, maybe think about your favourite. Or if you like flowers, choose a flower shape. You may find some of the images above helpful to inspire your design. Equally you can skip ahead and use the pre-prepared template below.

**Tip:** It might be helpful to have an idea of where you want your dots of colour to go. You can mark them out in pencil first and then rub them out before applying the colour. Another helpful method is to circle just some of the circles using the black marker pen. For example, I outlined some of the larger dots.

**Remember:** Use the folded line down the middle to guide your pattern. You could place the edge of a mirror down this line which will reflect one side of your pattern. This will give you an idea of how your whole design will look.

Once you are happy with your design, outline the key shapes with a black marker pen.

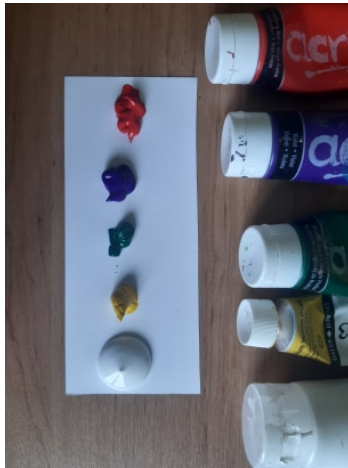




### STEP 3

Now, this is the fun part. Choose 4 to 5 colours for your design. As you can see, I have chosen red, green, yellow, purple and white. Allocate each paint colour with one cotton bud (don't mix the paint otherwise it will be a big mess!). Now, dip one end of a cotton bud in paint, and dab it onto your design to create small dots. If you have enough paint, you won't need to dab too hard.

**Tip:** If you don't have cotton buds, you can use the end of a pencil or paintbrush. Use a wet cloth to wipe the end once you have finished.



### Step 4

Once one half of your design is looking beautifully coloured. Begin the process again on the other side. This time you just need to follow what you have already done so that it is symmetrical.

**Tip:** If you are doing this with someone else, why not swap your designs and each of you have a go at completing the other side of the other person's design?



## TURTLE TEMPLATE

Print out this template and use it as a base to add your colour dots. Begin from Step 3 from the instructions above.

