

Make a 'rock' engraving

The sandstone around Sydney is rich in Aboriginal engraving sites, with a unique style of outlined figures.

Be inspired by Aboriginal rock engravings and make your very own artwork using air-dry clay or playdough, sand and carving tools.



Image: This engraving of an echidna is an example of the artistic expression of the people of the Guringai language group who lived in the area now known as Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

What to do:



1. Think of a **design**. It might be a place, animal or story you connect with?



2. Mix sand with your clay or playdough to add texture. Use a rolling pin or your hand to **flatten the clay**.



3. **Carve** your design into the clay using carving tools (pop sticks or children's cutlery can also be used for carving) or your fingers. You can leave imprints in the clay using natural items, such as banksia seed pods, or animal tracks using small animal figurines.



4. Once you have finished your design, brush over a little water then **sprinkle** with more sand. This will give your engraving a sandstone effect.



5. It will harden and dry into 'rock' overnight.

Some local rock art sites include:



- **Bondi Golf Course** – An extensive site with engravings of a whale, fish, humans and footprints (mundoes) (Latitude 33.88618° S, Longitude 151.28533° E)



- **Ben Buckler, Bondi** – This small engraving of a turtle is the last remnant of what was once a major engraving site which included a whale, a snake or eel, and two shields (Latitude 33.89288° S, Longitude 151.28291° E)



- **Tamarama cliff path** (McKenzie's Point)– A large engraving of a whale, ray or perhaps a basking shark (Latitude 33.89924° S, Longitude 151.27547° E)

Many national parks and reserves feature Aboriginal art. Please help preserve these sites and treat them respectfully when you visit, or simply appreciate by searching online.

The Australian Museum respects and acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the land and waterways on which the Museum stands.