Music

Music plays a major role in traditional Aboriginal societies and is linked with a person’s ancestry and country (the animals, plants and physical features of the landscape). It is traditionally connected with important events such as the bringing of rain, healing, wounding enemies and the winning of battles.

Music is used throughout an Aboriginal’s life to teach what must be known about their culture, about their place in it and about the world of nature. Children are encouraged to dance and sing about everyday tasks.

A didgeridoo is a type of musical instrument. It is one of the oldest instruments to date. It consists of a long tube and is traditionally made of eucalyptus. Today, didgeridoos are most commonly made from PVC piping. The didgeridoo is played only by men, and usually is played during ceremonies, singing and dancing.

The Australian Aboriginals have had no written language and rely on oral methods and music to pass on their knowledge. Without a written language, they could pass on knowledge through songs.