



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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By using this kit effectively, that is, with the teacher as a facilitator of learning, children will develop thinking, analysing, decision-making and communication skills. Children will also be practising imaginative, predictive and evaluative thinking which will be needed to gain meaning from text later. This kit can be used to develop in children, the skills required for reading, and clearly is a Pre-Reading Kit!

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Australia's Greatest Rock Art. By Grahame L. Walsh. (Book and associated video). E.J.Brill-Robert Brown and Associates, 1988. \$129.95.

This publication is superbly presented and was obviously well researched. It is a comprehensive study of Aboriginal rock art illustrating the diversity of styles, subject matter, method, purpose and significance. The author gives a detailed and valuable analysis of the motifs, symbols, patterns and figures, and their significance, as well as the methods and material employed by the artist. He emphasises the fact that there is a purpose for all Aboriginal art. It was not purely for art sake but it also served some higher purpose. Hence not all examples of Aboriginal rock art are of high artistic quality due to the fact that not only 'good' artists executed them.

Walsh leads the reader to an appreciation of Aboriginal rock art through comparison with rock art in other parts of the world as well as focusing our attention on its antiquity.

The author cites historical reasons for the fact that until recently, Aboriginal art was held in little regard. He supports this view with extracts from historical accounts/records of non-Aboriginal explorers, settlers and government officials. He expresses the view that there is a growing appreciation of Aboriginal art and that there needs to be further efforts to protect significant sites and art works.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED . UP-US-TR