

POSSUM SKIN CLOAKS WITH MAREE CLARKE

UNDER 5s ACTIVITY



WHO IS MAREE CLARKE?

Maree Clark is a First Nations woman. She belongs to the Yorta Yorta, Wamba Wamba, Mutti Mutti and Boonwurrung peoples.

Maree makes art to stay connected to her culture.

She shares her art with her family, friends and community.

This helps keep culture strong for children now and in the future.

Maree made a special possum skin cloak. She used sixty-three possum skins to make it. The cloak tells stories and keeps culture alive.



Markings are drawn inside possum skin cloaks. The markings are like little maps.

They tell stories about the person who wears the cloak. They show their Country, their culture and their family. Each cloak is special and tells its own story.

WHAT IS A POSSUM SKIN CLOAK?

A possum skin cloak is a special coat.

Aboriginal people in south-east Australia have worn these cloaks for a long, long time.

The cloaks are made from possum skins. They keep people warm when it is cold, dry when it is wet and cosy when they sleep.

When a child is little, they get a small cloak. As the child grows, more possum skins are added. The cloak grows with them.

The cloak is very special. People keep their cloaks for their whole lives.



Maree Clarke *Walert – gum barerarerungar: Tipperary, Ireland Dunstable, Britain Yorta Yorta Trawlwoolway Boonwurrung Mutti Mutti Wamba Wamba* 2020. National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. © Maree Clarke / Licensed by Copyright Agency, Australia. Photo: Tom Ross

Maree Clarke drew special markings inside her possum skin cloak. They show the important places in her life. Now it's your turn! Think about the important places in your life and draw them here.



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Watch Maree's
introduction to possum skin
cloaks at [ngv.melbourne/
possum-skin-cloaks](http://ngv.melbourne/possum-skin-cloaks)