Learning Intention & Success Criteria:
L.I: To learn about Australian animals and traditional Aboriginal attitudes to the environment through using dot painting techniques to create animal masks.

S.C: I can create artwork using traditional Aboriginal colours and styles and identify several Australian animals, their habitat and lifestyle.

Pre-requisite knowledge and/or links to previous/future lessons:
• Previous knowledge/lesson on Aboriginal painting techniques and culture.
• Basic knowledge of Australian animals.
• Future lesson on Aboriginal dancing mimicking animal movements.

Resources/materials/equipment required:
• Information sheet: Australian Animal Masks – FSC site.
• Acrylic, non-toxic paint.
• Painting equipment: kebab sticks, toothpicks, cotton buds.
• String, twine, or elastic cord.
• Scissors and glue.
• Optional: ICT to present dreamtime story.
• Optional: artificial feathers, fur and other materials to enhance masks.
Additional Resources:
How to teach dot painting to kids (watch from 40s-3mins):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiRSRzmVnw

Dreamtime Stories (Brolga Song recommended):
http://www.abc.net.au/dustechoes/dustEchoesFlash.htm

Preparation:
Choose dreamtime story that features Australian animals (e.g. Brolga song) and decide which animal masks to use. Print off mask outlines onto card thick enough for masks or paste onto card/cardboard – or have students do this in lesson. Set up tables with paint and painting equipment for each student.

Lesson Introduction:
(15 minutes)
• Show/present dreamtime story.
• Distribute masks and (optional) information sheets.
• Discuss the animals featured in the story, and the relationships the people have with the animals.
• Revisit techniques of dot painting, and discuss how masks can be made to look like animals – patterns, colours etc.

Main Component of Lesson:
(30 minutes)
• Students stick masks to card and cut out mask outlines
• Students create mask using dot painting techniques, making choices about colour and pattern.
• Leave masks in a safe, aerated place to dry.

Lesson Conclusion:
(10 minutes)
• Students share what they know about the animal they have chosen.
• Collect student work and display around classroom/can be used for follow up lesson with dancing or students can take home.

Learning Outcomes:
• Students strengthen knowledge of a traditional art form (Aboriginal dot painting)
• Students make choices about technique, colour, pattern and style.
• Students take ideas and concepts from a narrative and express these ideas through their own work.
• Students maintain a record of their work by displaying around class or keeping in portfolio.

Alternative Versions:
• For older year levels or more advanced students, make use of the Animal Masks Information sheet, or have students research the animal they have chosen.
Aboriginal Connection to the Land

Aboriginal peoples used the plants and animals around them for all of their food, shelter, tools, and other needs. Aboriginal people never used up all of one resource. They learned that using too much today means that there would be less left for the future. From a young age they learned all about the plants, animals and the land around them, what they could be used for, and how to care for them. This means that Aboriginals learned a deep respect for all living things, and an understanding that all living things depend on each other to survive, even humans. By understanding the connection between all living things, Aboriginal peoples preserved the landscape, plants and animals for thousands of years.

EASTERN GREY KANGAROO:
- Marsupials (mammal with a pouch).
- Mainly nocturnal (active at night)
- Live on grassy plains and open forests.
- Are found all over Eastern Australia.
- Fur is coloured light and dark brownish grey, with creamy white belly.
- Feed on grass, leaves and roots.
- Can't move backwards.
- Preyed on by dingoes and humans.

BRUSHTAIL POSSUM:
- Marsupials (mammal with a pouch).
- Live in open forests and urban areas all over Australia and New Zealand.
- Feed on leaves, fruits, blossoms, food scraps from humans.
- Nocturnal (active at night).
- Fur can be silver-grey, brown, black or gold.
- Protected species in Australia.
- Preyed on by dingoes, foxes and cats.
- Threatened by cars.

GOANNA:
- Reptiles
- 25 different species in Northern and Eastern Australia
- Live in all types of habitats; open woodland, swamps, and deserts.
- Scales can be coloured green, black, brown, yellow and red, and provide camouflage.
- Feed on insects, other lizards, small mammals, birds, eggs, and dead animals.
- Threatened by habitat destruction and feral dogs and cats.
Aboriginal Art and Masks
The Aboriginal connection to the land is seen in their art. Lots of Aboriginal artwork contains images of animals, plants and the landscape around them. This shows that animals and the land were a very important part of daily life. Aboriginal masks were used for a variety of ceremonies, rituals and dances to learn about and show respect for the land, animals and plants that allow the people to live. Here are some sayings that help us to understand how Aboriginal peoples think about the land: “We do not inherit the Earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children" “The land is our mother, feeding all her children; all the animals, including all men.”

**SHORT SNOUGHTED ECHIDNA**
- Monotremes (mammals that lay eggs).
- Are found all over Australia and New Guinea.
- Fur is dark, reddish brown, with cream coloured spines.
- Feed on ants and termites.
- Have a long, sticky tongue to catch prey.
- Can dig holes quickly with front claws, or curl into a ball to evade predators.
- Preyed on by goannas, dingoes, foxes, feral animals.
- Many are killed by cars.

**BROLGA:**
- Birds
- Live in wetlands, grassy plains, coastal mudflats and irrigated croplands.
- Found in tropical North and Eastern Australia.
- Feed on tubers, crops, snails and slugs, insects, frogs and mice.
- Feathers are mainly grey, with orange-red band on the head.
- Brolgas are famous for their beautiful mating dance.
- Preyed on by foxes.
- Threatened by poisoning, power lines, and destruction of habitat.

**KOALA:**
- Marsupials (mammal with a pouch).
- Live in trees in eucalypt forests and low woodlands and coastal islands.
- Are found in Eastern Australia.
- Sleep for 18 hours a day.
- Feed on Eucalyptus leaves, which are poisonous to other animals.
- Preyed on by dingoes, wedge-tailed eagles, pythons, feral.