

KIDS HOPE AUS.
THEMED MENTOR HOUR
November 2014



AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES

BACKGROUND

The resources for this unit are mainly focused on “hands-on” art activities. The background information may be useful for answering questions which may arise. Web resources are also included.

Welcome to the inspiring and ancient world of the Australian Aboriginal people, their art and their culture.

“To understand our law, our culture and our relationship to the physical world, you must begin with the land. Everything about Aboriginal society is inextricably interwoven with, connected to, the land.

Culture is the land, land and spirituality of Aboriginal people, our cultural beliefs, and reason for existence IS the land. You take that away, and you take away our reason for existence. We have grown the land up. We are dancing, singing and painting the land. We are celebrating the land. Removed from the land, we are literally removed from ourselves.”

(Mick Dodson, 1997)



ABORIGINAL HISTORY

Being Aboriginal has nothing to do with the colour of your skin or the shape of your nose. It is a spiritual feeling, an identity you know in your heart. It is a unique feeling that may be difficult for non-Aboriginal people to understand. **Linda Burney**, Extract from 'Aboriginal education training & development resource: presenter's handbook'.

- [Research](#) shows that Aboriginal people have been living continuously in Australia for more than 50,000 years. Each language group has its traditional lands defined by key landmarks and boundaries, including mountains, lakes, rivers and other natural and specific boundaries.
- Before 1788, it is estimated there were approximately 200-250 different languages spoken by Aboriginal people living throughout Australia.
- Many words from the various [Aboriginal languages](#) have come into common usage in English (although in many cases the words have been anglicised) including: barramundi, dingo, budgerigar, kangaroo, koala, kookaburra, taipan, wallaby, waratah, wombat and place names such as Noosa, Coonabarabran, Woy Woy, Woollahra, Toowoona (Bay), Kuring-Gai, Terrigal and Mudgee.

SPIRITUALITY, IDENTITY AND CULTURE

- [The Dreaming](#) is a western term used to describe Aboriginal spirituality. Language/clan groups have their own language term for spirituality. For most Aboriginals it is the basis of their spiritual identity. For them, the Dreaming is past, present and future and holds the law and lore, incorporating important knowledge and values, beliefs and understandings. It tells of the ancestral spirits that created the land and waterways, and remain as living forces, making these places sacred and significant.
- Storytelling, dance, painting and ceremony are important elements of Aboriginal cultures as they maintain law and lore.
- Aboriginal Australians are one of the oldest living cultures and have survived through adapting and changing over time and by maintaining a great affinity with the environment.
- Aboriginal elders are greatly respected because they are responsible for guiding and mentoring and keeping their Aboriginal heritage alive and ensuring its language, rituals, sacred ceremonies and knowledge are passed on from generation to generation.
- Family is very important to Aboriginal people and kinship relationships are quite complex. They define what a person may or may not do, what each person's responsibilities and entitlements are, and how they are related to others and to the land.

WEB RESOURCES

This website contains many activities, including art/craft, science, music and cooking:

http://www.snaicc.org.au/_uploads/rsfil/02516.pdf

Here, you will find information about Aboriginal games you may like to try:

<http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/sport/traditional-aboriginal-games-activities>

There 36 pages of worksheets, information and activities on this site:

https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/texte-text/lrag_1100100013259_eng.pdf

ABORIGINAL ART

- Aboriginal Art has survived for over thousands of years and continues to be one of the oldest art forms practiced today.
- Aboriginal Art consists of symbols. These symbols were used as a means of communication; communication of their lives on earth, their rituals, food, customs and also to show constellations and for ritual decorations. These works were almost always ceremonial or religious.
- Symbols were used in order to show the presence of different things or objects that existed around them.
- Unlike the well-known artists you've studied, Aboriginal artists created their works based on how the land was created, basing their subject matter mainly on patterns and animals.



These patterns and symbols were created using only the colours seen in nature, (for instance soil was seen in tints of reds, yellows and browns ochres. White, clay and charcoal colours were also used from natural materials.

Thousands of years ago, Aboriginals would create their works using only the natural materials left around them, (such as bark, clay, logs, trees, burnt sticks, rocks, etc....



The backgrounds of these art works were never blank. There is always a continuous use of dotting, patterns, lines or hatching to create a sense of movement within the work. These works of art could be labelled as Abstract.

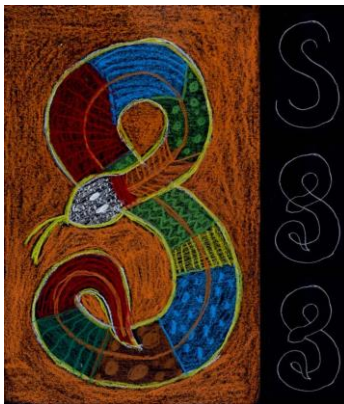


ART AND CRAFT

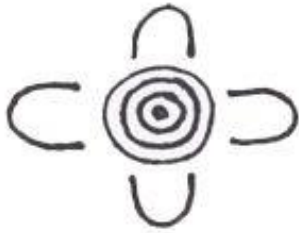
You will find a number of examples of Aboriginal Art on the following page, which you and your child may like to try.

The page of symbols can be used to create a pictorial story.

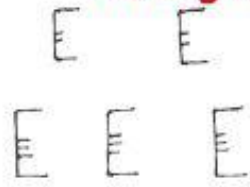
A template for dot painting is also included.



Aboriginal Symbols



People Sitting



Animal Tracks



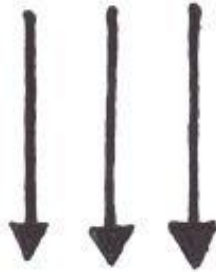
Sandhill



Rain



Honey Ants



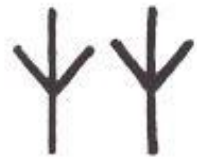
Spears



Woomera



Shield



Emu



Bush Tucker



Waterholes & Running Water



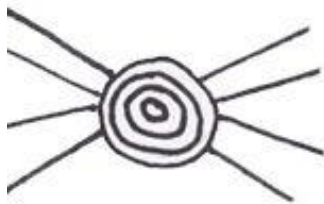
Boomerang



Kangaroo Tracks



Tracks/
Waterholes



Meeting Place



Campsite/
Waterhole



Hunting
Boomerang



Coolamon



Digging
Sticks



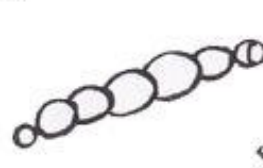
Woman



Man



Person



Witchetty Grub



Goanna

ABORIGINAL HANDPRINTS

Make your own cave wall handprints with this easy art project you can do with your kids. You can buy powder paint at most craft stores and is called tempera.

What you need:

- Piece of black or brown paper
- White powder paint (tempera)

Activity:

- Dampen the paper with a squirt bottle or damp cloth.
- Place your child's hand down firmly on the damp paper.
- Flick the white powder paint over the hand and the paper.
- Carefully lift your child's hand from the paper and look at the impression left behind.

BOOMERANG ART

This boomerang art project is simple to do and fun for kids of all ages. Older children can enjoy decorating their boomerang by dipping the end of a chopstick in paint and then creating a geometric dot pattern.

What you need:

- Brown cardboard
- Coloured paper
- Scissors
- Glue

Activity:

- Cut a boomerang shape from the brown cardboard.
- Cut small geometric shapes from the coloured paper.
- Glue the shapes onto the boomerang to form a pattern.



Notes:

- Older children may like to use paint to decorate the boomerang by dipping the end of a chopstick into the paint and then dotting the paint to make a geometric pattern.

ABORIGINAL STICK PAINTINGS

Paint and noise - does it get any better for kids? Take a wander down to the park to collect some sticks, then enjoy a historical art lesson, and later, a musical concert with this crafty activity.

What You Need:

- Assortment of sticks
- White acrylic paint
- A few earth-coloured paints
- Paintbrushes
- Egg carton or various pots to hold the paint

Activity:

Step 1: Squirt white paint into the egg carton and add the colours you wish to use.

Step 2: Mix the paints and keep adding colour until you're happy with it.

Step 3: Insert a paintbrush in each colour so they don't mix too soon (it's really unavoidable!)

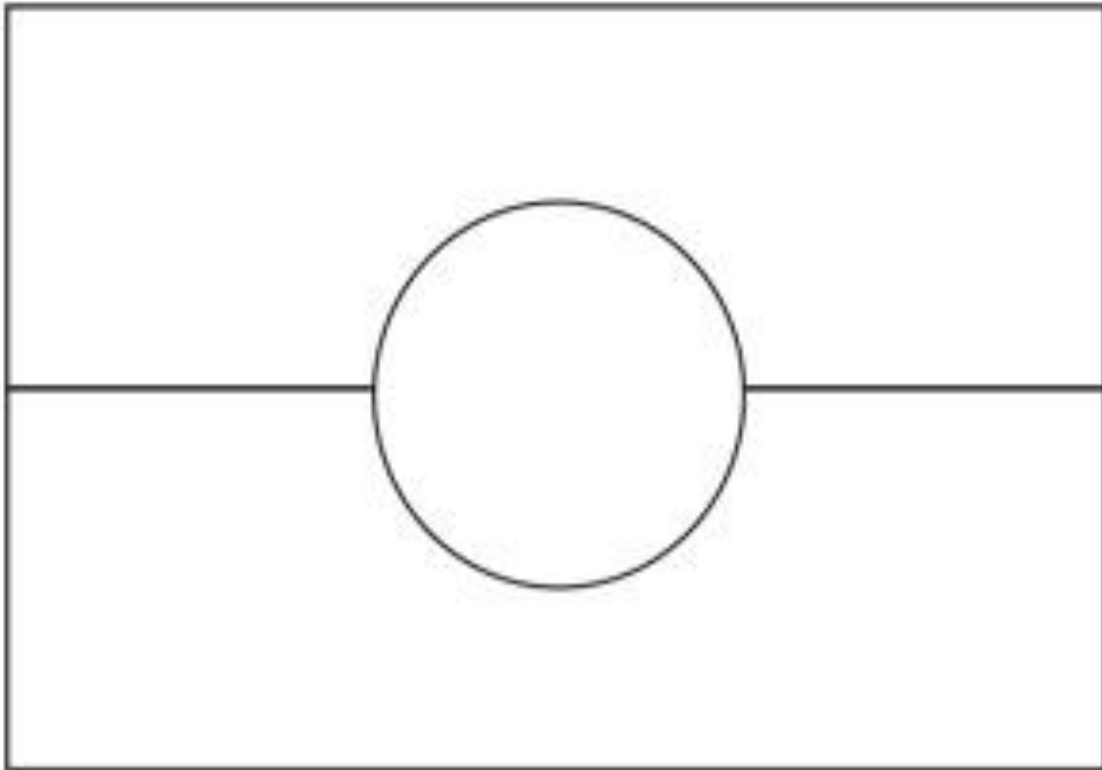
Step 4: Start painting the sticks. Encourage the kids to draw dots and lines as much as possible to create authentic Aboriginal-painted sticks.

Step 5: Once dry, some more dots can be applied over the colour to layer it up a little.

Step 6: Send them outside to make music with their sticks!



COLOURING SHEETS



A full page flag can be found on this website:

http://d33y93cfm0wb4z.cloudfront.net/Jolanda/Colouring_images/flags/Australia_Aboriginals-flag.pdf

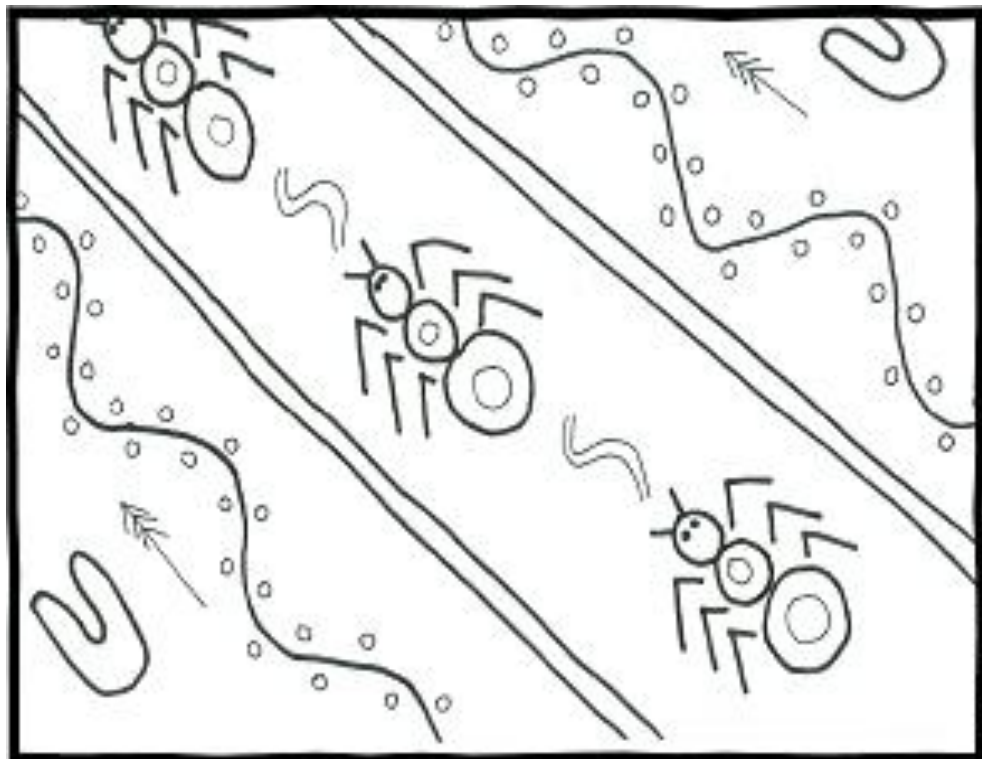


Australian Aboriginal Flag - The meanings of the three colours in the flag, as stated by Harold Thomas, are:

Black – represents the Aboriginal people of Australia

Yellow disk – represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector

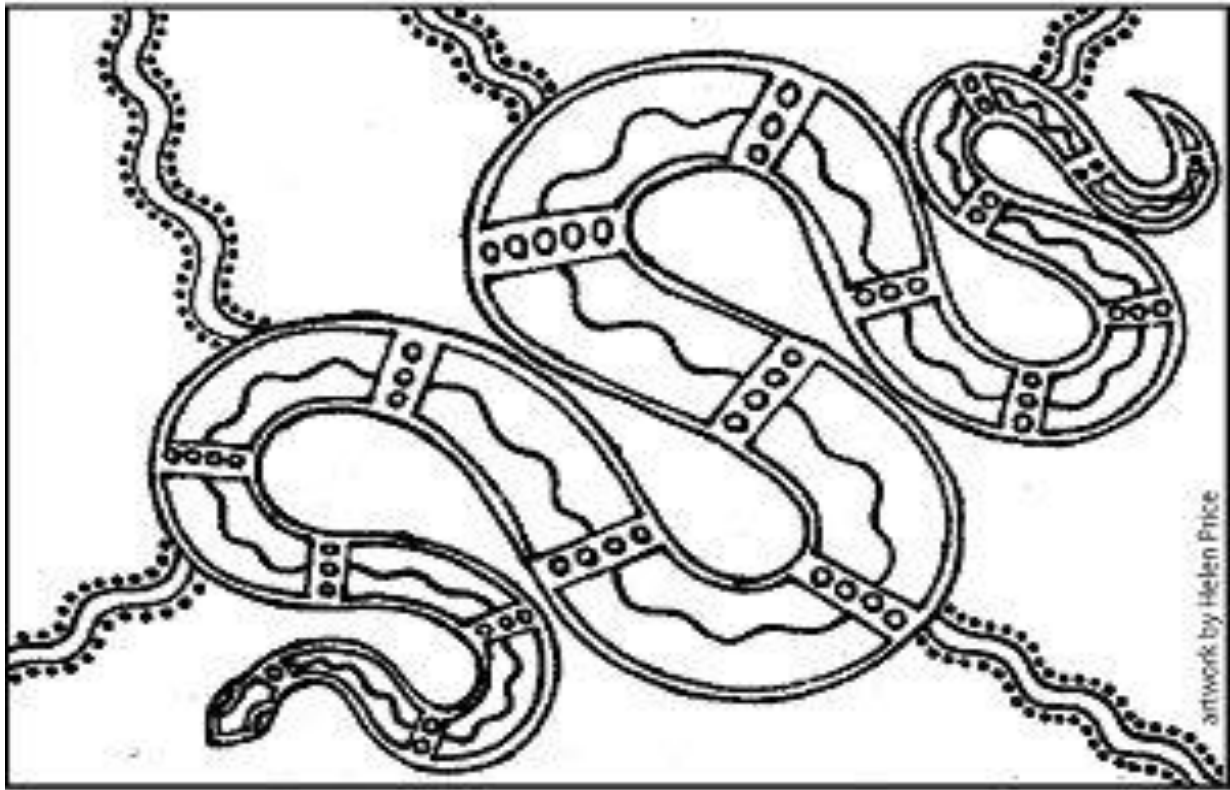
Red – represents the red earth, the red ochre used in ceremonies and Aboriginal peoples' spiritual relation to the land



Artwork by Olwyn Avery

www.globalkidsoz.com.au
SIMPLY INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN'S ARTS & CRAFTS

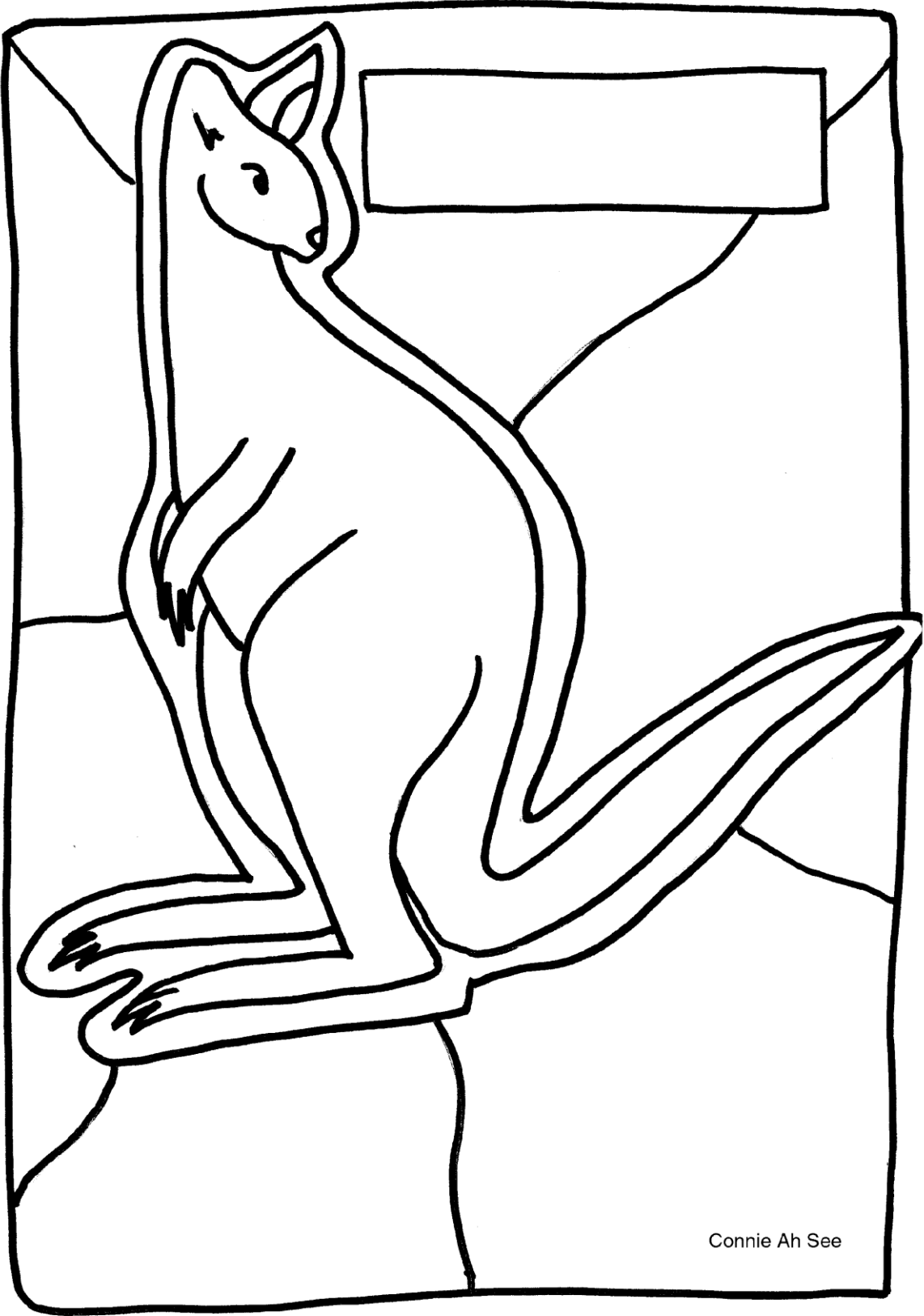

brisbanekids.com.au



artwork by Helen Price

www.globalkidsoz.com.au
www.globalkidsoz.com.au


brisbanekids.com.au



Connie Ah See

COLOUR AND MAKE YOUR OWN STICKERS



1. color all the different icons.
2. cut along dotted lines.
3. Stick on double sided tape or find a stick and tape it onto other side.
4. Go and show it off, have fun! 😊



A GAME TO MAKE

Use cardboard, paint and stones to make this game.

Teach children aboriginal art symbols, and have children paint aboriginal art symbols on a set of stones to use to play tic tac toe (also called "ngaka ngaka", which means "look look").



ABORIGINAL STORIES

Dreamtime stories play a central part in the culture. Find some story books, suitable for the age of your child, and enjoy them together.

There are a number of these stories on You Tube, found on this website. Check them out for suitability for your child before sharing them.

<http://www.pinterest.com/allysundra/aboriginal-education-and-literature/>

You will also be able to find books to share at your local/school library.

Discuss your child's impressions of the story after you have shared them.

AN AUSTRALIAN RECIPE

DAMPER BREAD

Steps 1 & 2 may need to be completed at home before your mentor hour!

Ingredients:

6 cups self-rising flour

3 teaspoons salt

3/4 cup margarine

1 cup milk

1 cup water

Directions:

1. Mix flour and salt in a bowl. Cut in margarine and mix well. Add water and milk. Mix until well blended.
2. Set aside in a bowl covered with a damp cloth and let rise for 35-40 minutes.
3. Put on a floured board and knead lightly. Shape into two loaves and put on a greased cookie sheet.
4. Before baking, cut an "x" on the top of the loaves about 1/2" deep. Brush the tops of loaves with milk. Bake 10 minutes in a 200 degree celsius oven. Reduce heat to 180 degrees celcius for 15 minutes. Let cool and enjoy.