

The Ochre Story

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What is ochre? Ochre is found across Australia and other parts of the world. It is a red, hard clay which is very high in iron. The iron in the clay makes it red. Ochre can also be other colours like white, yellow, green, or grey.





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How was ochre used? This special clay had many uses for First Nations people. It was painted on rock walls to tell stories. It was painted on skin in special ceremonies. It was also used in medicine and body cleaning. It is still used in all these ways today.



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Ochre was dug up in large, hard chunks of rock. There were many ochre quarries across Australia. The ochre was broken away from the rock. It was then made into a fine powder.