Studio Arts, Unit 1 Outcome 1: Ritual and Ceremony

Organise for an elder with in your community to come and talk with students on ceremony and ritual. Use this a source of inspiration for a sound and or video work about journey.

"Kaltjiti artist sing country, dance country and paint the song of their lands. The epic song cycles of the Western Desert peoples have resounded for thousands of years across these sand dunes of central Australia, echoed back from the orange rock faces of the granite hills and eddied around the deep blue rock holes where precious water hides from the scorching sun.

The creation ancestors first sang these songs at the dawn of time. These giant beings strode the land changing their shape from human to beast or plant, to water, earth or wind. The landscape still holds their resting forms in rounded hills, the fury of their flight was caught in twisted bloodwood trees and their flesh – know transformed – wraps the marble gums as dappled bark. Songs sung down the generations have kept the land alive and spirit of her people strong." Dr Diana James, Author, Painting the Song Kaltjiti artists of the sand dune country, 2009



Activities

- Organise for an elder to come to your school to talk about ceremony and ritual
- Ask why ceremony and ritual are important to Aboriginal people.
- Get students to take notes and ask questions, draw sketches.
- Get students to record their journey from home to school every day for a week.
- Listen to particular sounds and enhance or descrease the sounds depending on how fast or slow they were going
- Get students to try and mimic the sounds they hear with other tools and their bodies.
- Write a descriptive poem about your journey from home to school.
- Create a vessel you can house your sound piece in
- Get students to notice the mundane rituals they do every day, video this.
- Look back at old photographs and find particular events, special occasions from your family members. Recreate this event by making a stop motion animation.