

Activity worksheet

The painted designs on the Yirrkala Bark Petition proclaimed Yolngu law to the Australian Parliament, revealing the people's traditional relationship to the land. The text is in English and Gumatj languages. Although the Yolngu didn't achieve the constitutional change they wanted, they helped pave the way for the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land rights.

1. **Read** the material from *The Little Red Yellow Black Book* (pages 154-155).
2. **Summarise** what you have learned about the document using point form notes.

2 **Navigate** to the following site and study the Yirrkala Bark Petition.
<https://aiatsis.gov.au/collections/collections-online/digitised-collections/yirrkala-bark-petitions-1963>

3 **Write** about your first visual impressions of the Yirrkala Bark Petition.

4 **Check** the textbox on this page, headed 'What are annotations?' and refresh your knowledge of how to work with them.

5 **Annotate** the image of the Yirrkala Bark Petition given to you by your teacher. The image gives you the front view. To see the reverse side, go to page 155 of *The Little Red Yellow Black Book*. Complete some annotations based on your observations and impressions of the piece.

Aim to **identify, describe** and **explain the significance** of the petition's various elements.

6 **Comment** specifically on the effect created when traditional bark painting is combined with text typed on paper — the dominating printing technology in the 1960s when the petition was first created.

What are annotations?

Annotations are brief explanatory notes made on a page in the margins around a piece of text. They usually consist of a **label** or title, followed by some **point form notes**. The notes explain the significance or meaning of the selected element of the text.

In the text itself, **certain features are marked out**. These may include headings, words, phrases, paragraphs, verses, examples of literary techniques, quotations or other elements. Sometimes they are highlighted or underlined. Lines or arrows may be used to point to the element and to link it with the appropriate notes and labels.

