

The Australian Aboriginal Flag

Symbols

The Australian Aboriginal flag features three different parts. First, the flag is divided up into two horizontal halves. The top half of the flag is black and the bottom half of the flag is red. Then, there is a yellow circle placed directly in the centre of the flag.

- The black colour represents the Aboriginal people of Australia.
- The yellow circle represents the Sun. The Sun is the giver of life and protector of the people and their land.
- The red colour represents the earth. The red ochre (crumbly red rock) is used in ceremonies and is the Aboriginal people's spiritual relation to the land.



History

The Australian Aboriginal flag was designed by aboriginal artist, Harold Thomas, in 1971. It was first raised on 12th July that year at Victoria Square in Adelaide, South Australia, on National Aborigines Day. It also became the official flag for the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra when it was first raised there in 1972. The flag was originally designed to recognise land rights and has now become a widely recognised symbol of the unity and identity of Aboriginal people. In July 1995, the Australian Aboriginal flag was made a 'Flag of Australia'.

Use

The Australian Aboriginal flag should be flown or displayed with the black at the top and the red at the bottom. The flag is displayed at Aboriginal centres and is well recognised as the flag of the Aboriginal people of Australia. It has special significance on days of particular importance to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, such as NAIDOC Week and National Reconciliation Week. It is also flown with the Australian National flag and the Torres Strait Islander flag on days of national importance, such as ANZAC Day and at international events, such as the Olympics.

