activity 32

university of minnesota duluth
www.d.umn.edu/tma/
Barbara Leo is keeping her ancestral traditions alive through her paintings. Paintings by aboriginal (native) Australians like this are sometimes called "dreamings." They use symbols and a map-like background made up of thousands of dots to tell stories and locate important sources of food and water in the central Australian desert.

For a long time, these paintings were kept secret and only shown to members of the tribes who created them. Over the past 20 years, artists within the tribes have created paintings for the outside world in their traditional style.
The witchety grub or bush tucker is a source of food protein; the grubs eat leaves of bush plums, so where there are bush plums, you will find witchety grubs. Find them in the painting above.

This work was painted as if you are looking down at a map.

The U-shaped lines are people.
The circles stand for campfires or waterholes.
The ovals are food bowls.
The straight lines represent sticks used for digging up grubs.