

LEGEND AND FOLKLORE SYMBOLS:

RAINBOW SERPENT

Respect the laws and keep the peace, and you'll be able to call upon the life-giving powers of the great Aboriginal Rainbow Serpent.

The Rainbow Serpent is one of the major figures in Aboriginal myth. It is seen as being both male and female, the original creator of life and linked with fertility, protection and peace. It punishes those who break the laws by sending storms and floods. Different tribes have different versions of the role of the Rainbow Serpent in creation, although every story involves water.

The fate of the Serpent

As the Rainbow Serpent slithered around on the Earth's surface it created the rivers and waterways, so vital to life and survival. Some myths describe how it then went into the sea to rest and became the Great Barrier Reef. Other tales say that it went into the sky and the rainbows are its reflection seen after the rain; the clouds are its trail through the heavens.

The Rainbow Serpent is said to have created the Earth's waterways by slithering across its surface, thus providing a means for life to survive.



SYMBOLISM OF THE SERPENT

The most obvious symbols of the Rainbow Serpent are – rainbows and serpents!

Quartz crystal is sacred to the Rainbow Serpent as it is used to harness its watery energies.

Create your own Rainbow Serpent charm by painting its likeness onto a round stone.

Waterways and water are strongly associated with this mythical creature. It is best to perform spells and rituals focused on the Rainbow Serpent close to rivers or streams.

Large, rounded boulders are sometimes thought to be the eggs of the Rainbow Serpent. A site between Alice Springs and Darwin

in Australia is called the Devil's Marbles and the smooth, rounded stones found here are popularly thought of as the serpent's spawn!

The Rainbow Serpent is often depicted pictorially by a horseshoe shape lying on its side – open to the left. Therefore, you can use horseshoes when working with its magic.