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MARS IN INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA

Abstract

I present a number of accounts of the planet Mars in Australian Aboriginal culture. Astronomy forms a rich part of Australian Aboriginal culture and the socio-cultural associations with night sky is complex. Despite this there is limited wider understanding of how Mars is seen within these cultures by the wider scientific community. Using historical and ethnographic descriptions gathered from audio, video, visual, and written resources, a larger understanding of the perceptions and role Mars plays in Australian Aboriginal societies is available.