



Linking Past and Present

The Legacy of East Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Islands



Australian Rock Art

There are thousands of sites in Australia where rocks are engraved and painted with silhouettes of humans and animals. Many of these rock-art sites have existed for

almost 10,000 years. Every year, visitors tour these sites and learn about the early people of Australia.

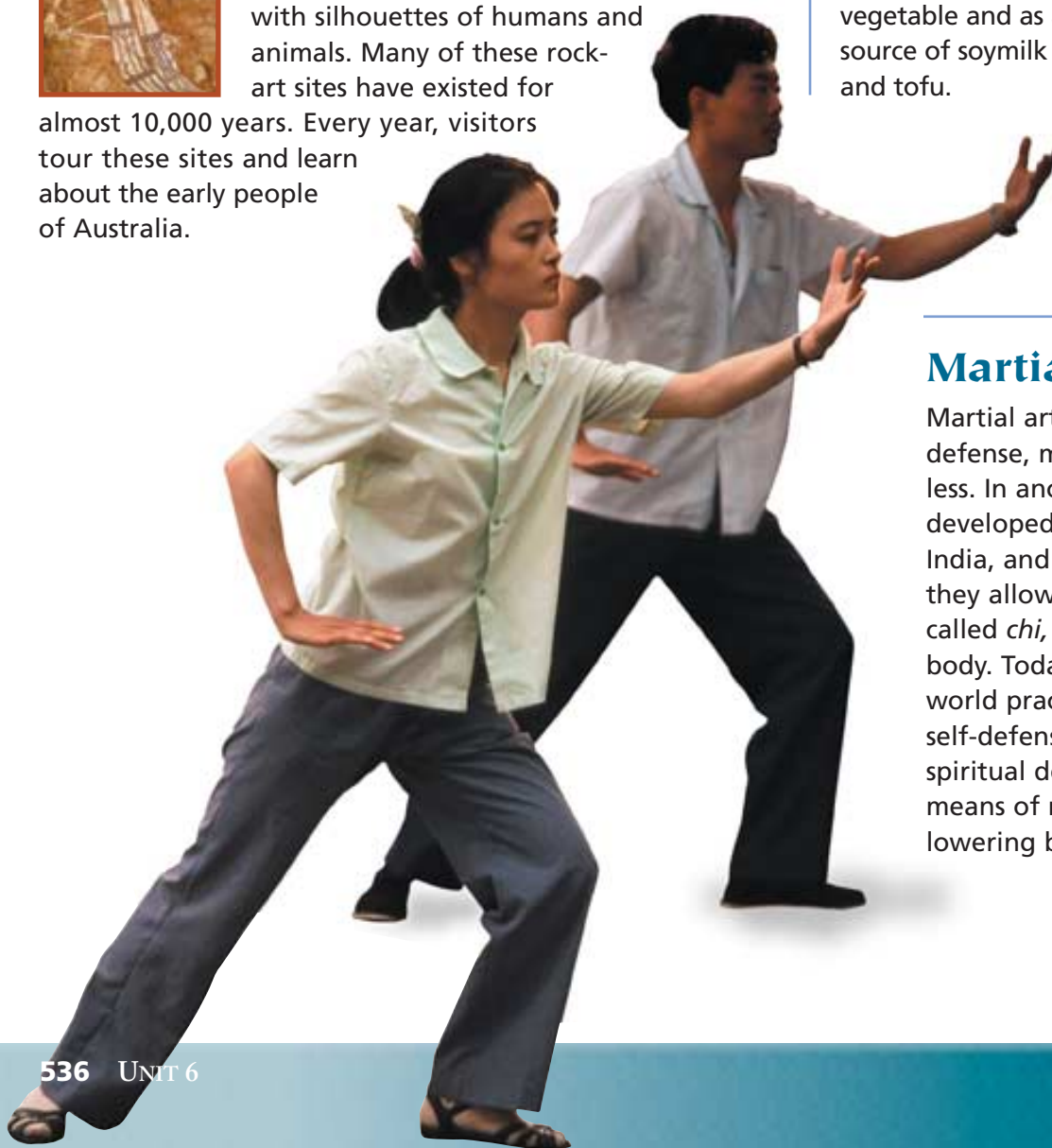
Soybeans

Although the origin of the soybean plant is unknown, soybeans were being grown in China around 1200 B.C. They were introduced into the United States in 1804 and today are used as a vegetable and as a source of soymilk and tofu.



Martial Arts

Martial arts are forms of self-defense, many of them weaponless. In ancient times, people developed martial arts in China, India, and Tibet in the belief that they allowed peaceful energy, called *chi*, to flow through one's body. Today, people around the world practice martial arts for self-defense, sport, exercise, and spiritual development and as a means of reducing stress and lowering blood pressure.





Origami

Origami, the art of folding paper into artistic objects, most likely originated from *gohei*, the art of folding cloth offerings in the Shinto religion of Japan. In origami, paper is folded to create figures of birds, animals, flowers, and people. Some origami figures actually have moving parts. Hundreds of books and courses on origami are available throughout the world.

Boomerangs

A boomerang is a curved, flat stick that is thrown either as a weapon or as a toy. Although boomerangs have been found in many parts of the world, they are most often associated with Australia and its native people, the Aborigines. Most Aboriginal boomerangs were “nonreturning”—that is, they did not return after they were thrown. A correctly thrown returning boomerang, on the other hand, will fly out, loop around, and return to the person who threw it. Returning boomerangs are used mainly for sport and as children’s toys.

Find Out More About It!

Study the text and photos on these pages to learn about inventions, creations, and contributions that have come from East Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Islands. Then choose the item that interests you the most and do research in the library or on the Internet to learn more about it. Use the information you gather to write an article for your school or local newspaper that tells more about the contribution.



RESEARCH LINKS
CLASSZONE.COM

