



NATIONAL SORRY DAY

Learn About:

- The long history
- Molly's story
- The Stolen Generations
- Australia's Assimilation Policy
- The 1967 Referendum
- The Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation
- A Walk for Reconciliation
- The Sorry Books
- National Sorry Day events
- How to say 'Sorry'
- looking to the future

SERIES	Special Days
TITLE	National Sorry Day
AUTHOR	Jane Pfeiffer
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READING AGE	8-16 years
BIC/CBMC	YQH/D5N79

ABOUT THE BOOK

Australians mark National Sorry Day on 26 May each year. This special day is a time to reflect on how government wrongdoings have affected and continue to affect Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their cultures. It is also a time to consider what reconciliation means for the future of all Australians.

Australians celebrate or commemorate a number of special days throughout the year. These special days give us the chance to reflect on the past, appreciate our lives, and look to the future together.

ABOUT THE SERIES

The Special Days series looks at some of Australia's important days, the history behind each day, and how Australians celebrate or commemorate the day. Inside each book you'll find statistics, fun facts and photographs, as well as current information on how each special day plays a part in Australia's rich culture. Every book is a valuable resource designed to support Australian students and teachers, and cover Australian Curriculum topics.



CLASSROOM DISCUSSION IDEAS

SAYING SORRY

Read the whole Apology made by the Prime Minister in 2008. A copy is on pages 27 and 28 of the book.

How do the words make you feel?

Can you think of any comments that you would like to add to the Apology? Do you feel any major issues were missed or excluded?

Has the Apology resulted in changes to the way most Australians think about the Stolen Generations?

Is there an Indigenous Elder in your community who would like to talk to the class about the Apology and what they think about it?

RECONCILIATION

Why is reconciliation important and what benefits might it bring to Australian communities who must function as an interconnected society?

Think about the ways in which our inherited or preconceived ideas might influence the way we react to, interact with and respond to cultures and traditions outside our own.

What are the benefits of learning about other cultures and ways of life and how does this knowledge enhance our individual experience of the world we live in?

Who is responsible for achieving reconciliation? What can we do as individuals to assist in this process to ensure change at a grass roots level?



AUSTRALIA'S ASSIMILATION POLICY

Discuss what assimilation means.

Have you ever assimilated yourself with others in order to fit in with a group of people, an unfamiliar situation or a new environment?

How did this make you feel? How might you have felt if you needed to this for a long time?

What if you were forced to assimilate against your will? What if that group did not share any of your values, beliefs, culture or traditions? How might this make you feel?

If assimilation means thinking and behaving in the same way as those around you, how might this affect the flow of new ideas and innovation? Could this affect creativity and social progression? What about scientific innovation and technological advancement?

How might Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples feel about the suppression of their culture, their values and their ways of life? As Australia's first inventors and custodians of the land, could Australia's First Peoples have important knowledge that could enhance the way of life for all Australians? Should Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People have greater influence in the 21st Century, in the multicultural Australia that we know today?



AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM SUBJECTS AND TOPICS

HISTORY

Year 3

Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, Anzac Day, and National Sorry Day).

Year 3

Investigating the lack of citizenship rights for Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australia, illustrated by controls on movement and residence, the forcible removal of children from their families leading to the Stolen Generations, and poor pay and working conditions.

HASS

Year 3

Examining the symbolism of flags

Year 4

Exploring different points of view about a familiar event (for example, Australia Day, National Sorry Day).

