



Teacher Resource

# Sorry Day

## Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

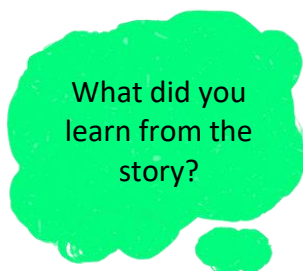
1. Who are the Stolen Generations?
2. What impact has the Stolen Generations had on Australia's First Nations people?
3. What is National Sorry Day?
4. Which former Prime Minister gave the apology speech?
5. What do you understand more clearly since watching the BTN story? Discuss as a class.

*This document may contain the names and images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased. It also contains links to sites that may use images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased.*

## Activity: Personal Response

After watching the BTN Sorry Day story, ask students to finish one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- It was interesting to learn that...
- Learning about Sorry Day made me feel...
- BTN did a story about Sorry Day because...



## Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Sorry Day story. Use the questions below to guide the discussion.

- Who are the Stolen Generations?
- Why were some children separated from their families?
- What is National Sorry Day?
- Why do we have special days or weeks like Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week?

### EPISODE 13

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

#### KEY LEARNING

Students will understand the significance of National Sorry Day and learn more about the Stolen Generations.

#### CURRICULUM

##### HASS – Year 3

Significant events, symbols and emblems that are important to Australia's identity and diversity, and how they are celebrated, commemorated or recognised in Australia, including Australia Day, Anzac Day, NAIDOC Week, National Sorry Day, Easter, Christmas, and other religious and cultural festivals.

##### HASS – Year 4

The effects of contact with other people on First Nations Australians and their Countries/Places following the arrival of the First Fleet and how this was viewed by First Nations Australians as an invasion.

##### HASS – Year 5

The impact of the development of British colonies in Australia on the lives of First Nations Australians, the colonists and convicts, and on the natural environment.

##### HASS – Year 6

Changes in Australia's political system and to Australian citizenship after Federation and throughout the 20th century that impacted First Nations Australians, migrants, women and children.

## Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Sorry Day story. Here are some words to get them started.

STOLEN GENERATIONS	FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE	ASSIMILATION
APOLOGY	RECONCILIATION	ACKNOWLEDGE

## Activity: Sorry Day Research

After watching and discussing the BTN Sorry Day story, what questions do students have? The KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on the issue and consider what they would like to know and learn.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	<u>H</u> ow will I find out?

### Questions to research

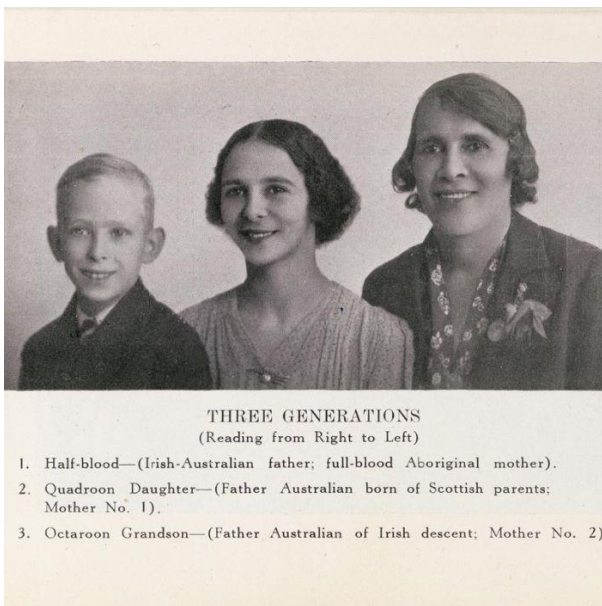
Students will develop their own question/s to research about the Stolen Generations and National Sorry Day. Students will collect and record information from a wide variety of sources. Students may develop their own question for inquiry or select one of the questions below.

- Who are the Stolen Generations?
- What does the term 'Stolen Generations' mean? Why do you think the Indigenous children taken from their families are known as the "stolen" generations?
- It was Government policy that Indigenous children be removed. What reasons did governments give to justify taking Indigenous children?
- In 1992, Prime Minister Paul Keating delivered a speech in Redfern Park. Why was it seen as a defining moment in Australia's reconciliation with its First Nations people? Watch the speech [here](#).
- What is the *Bringing Them Home* report and what did it recommend?
- What does the word 'Sorry' represent in the context of the Stolen Generations?
- Why is National Sorry Day an important day? How is it important for First Nations people, for the Stolen Generations and for other Australians?

## Activity: Visual Literacy

Below are images that relate to the Stolen Generations or Sorry Day. Students look at the image and then respond to the following questions:

- What do you see in this image?
- What do you think is happening?
- What does the image tell you about the Stolen Generations or Sorry Day?
- How did the image make you feel?
- What question/s would you like to ask about the image?
- Create a caption for each image.



[Link to image](#)



[Link to image](#)



[Link to image](#)



[Link to image](#)

## Activity: Apology speech

Watch former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd deliver the apology to the Stolen Generations on behalf of the Australian Parliament. [View here.](#)

- How did watching this video make you feel?
- What does Kevin Rudd ask non-Indigenous Australians to imagine?
- Why was the apology seen as an important part of the reconciliation process in Australia?
- Further investigation: Research how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people responded to the apology.



## Activity: A voice from the Stolen Generation

Students watch this video [A voice from the Stolen Generation](#) to hear a personal account from Donna Meehan a Gamilaroi woman. Donna was taken from her family in 1960 and adopted by a white family. In this video, Donna explains how confused and isolated she felt as a teenage Aboriginal woman growing up in non-Aboriginal family and community.

- How did watching this video make you feel?
- What emotions and reactions did Donna experience as a child?
- What effect did Donna's experiences have on her?
- What questions do you have about the Stolen Generations? Write down 2 questions that you would like to explore further.



A voice from the Stolen Generation

## Activity: Recognise and Celebrate First Nations Culture

Discuss with students, ways they could recognise and celebrate First Nations culture in their class or school. Some ideas are:



Have you held a Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement of Country at your school? Find out what the difference is between the two and why they are important in showing respect to and understanding First Nations people. Visit [Reconciliation Australia](#) for more info. [Read this ABC article](#) to find out why an Acknowledgement of Country is important (and advice on how to give one).



Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who've made a difference and inspired others. Choose an Indigenous woman who inspires you and research in more detail. Share your findings with the class. Watch this [BTN NAIDOC Indigenous Women](#) story to learn more.





Recognition can make you feel valued, respected and that you belong. What does recognition mean to you? Create a presentation explaining what it means to be 'recognised'. Constitutional recognition is something a lot of Indigenous people in Australia have been campaigning for. But what exactly is it? Watch BTN's [Explainer on Constitutional Recognition](#) to learn more.



In Australia many places are known by their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander names. Indigenous communities share the stories behind place names of their country in the [This Place](#) series. Do you know the meaning of the place names where you live? Students can explore the place names where they live using the [Gambay interactive map](#)



Learn First Languages through song. The [Marrin Gamu song](#) was created to introduce people to the diversity of Australia's first languages. The song incorporates words from several different Indigenous language groups within Australia. [Follow these instructions](#) to get involved in creating and sharing your song.

## Activity: Choose a project

Students choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their work to a partner, small group or the class.

### Sorry Day Remembrance Wall

Create a remembrance wall for National Sorry Day. Use words to represent feelings, memories or write messages of commemoration for the Stolen Generations.

### Sorry Day Special Assembly

Organise a Sorry Day assembly or ceremony at your school. Invite people from local Aboriginal communities, parents and friends. Consider inviting Stolen Generations survivors to your assembly as a guest of honour.

### Create an Artwork

Create an artwork/visual representation of how they imagine it would feel to be separated from your family.

### Reconciliation timeline

Create a timeline which looks at key events in Australia's reconciliation history. Some examples of key moments include the Mabo decision, the 1967 Referendum, National Apology, Bringing Them Home report.

## Useful Websites

- [Apology 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#) – BTN
- [Government Apology](#) - BTN
- [Stolen Generations](#) - BTN
- [National Museum Australia](#) – National Apology
- [National Sorry Day](#) – Reconciliation Australia