



Teacher Resource

# Reconciliation Week

## 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. In your own words, explain what reconciliation is.
2. What does the theme for Reconciliation Week, *Now More than Ever*, mean to you?
3. How does your school celebrate Reconciliation Week or support reconciliation?
4. How do the young people in the BTN story think reconciliation can be achieved?
5. How did this story make you feel?

## Activity: What did you See, Feel and Learn?

As a class ask students to discuss their thoughts and feelings about the BTN Reconciliation Week story. Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- How do you FEEL about what you saw in the story? Make a list of words that describe how you felt after watching this story.
- What did you LEARN from the BTN story?
- What QUESTIONS do you have? Think of three (open-ended) questions you would like to ask about the story.



## Activity: Class discussion

Hold a class discussion about reconciliation using the following questions as a guide. Record the main points of the discussion on a mind map with Reconciliation at the centre.

- What is reconciliation?
- Why is reconciliation important in Australia?
- What values are important to reconciliation?
- Why do we have special days or weeks like Reconciliation Week, Sorry Day, Mabo Day and NAIDOC Week?
- How does your class and/or school support reconciliation?

### EPISODE 14

28th May 2024

### KEY LEARNING

Students will understand the significance of Reconciliation Week.

### 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.

***Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this document may contain images and names of deceased persons.***

## Activity: Let's talk about reconciliation

Reconciliation Australia's theme for 2024 is ***Now More Than Ever***. The theme is a reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will – and must – continue.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

Discuss the theme as a class, using the following questions to get the discussion started:

- What does the theme for Reconciliation Week 2024 mean to you?
- What are some of the important issues that are talked about during Reconciliation Week?
- What actions does your school take to help support reconciliation? (For example, Welcome to Country, celebrate Reconciliation Week with school activities).
- Why is it important to take action?



## Activity – Choose a Project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

**Reconciliation timeline**  
Create a timeline which looks at key events in Australia's reconciliation history.

**Reconciliation Flags**  
Create reconciliation flags in the colours of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander flag. Each student will write on a flag, a message that celebrates reconciliation.

**Dreaming Trails**  
Learn more about the dreaming trails in your local area. Meet Rookie Reporter Tyrone in this [BTN story](#) to tell you what the river means to his people - the Ngarrindjeri.

**Bush Tucker**  
Create a bush food trail/Indigenous garden in your school. Find out if you have an Indigenous food trail near your school that you could visit for inspiration and to learn about Indigenous plants local to your area.

## Activity: Poster Competition

### ABC Education – Acknowledgement of Country poster competition 2024

Create a poster featuring an [Acknowledgement of Country](#) written in the Indigenous language of your local area!

Find out the Indigenous language of your local area, and then [work with your local Indigenous community](#) to translate an Acknowledgement of Country into that language. Finally, use your visual art skills to create an eye-catching poster featuring the translated Acknowledgement of Country. In your poster, please use imagery that reflects your local area. For example, don't include a picture of Uluru if your school is in Canberra.

This fantastic [interactive map](#) of Australia's first languages can help you find your local language.

If you can't find your local language, or if you are having trouble with the translation, please [contact First Languages Australia](#), who may be able to put you in contact with a local language educator who can help.



ABC Education - An Acknowledgement of Country poster in Gathang language submitted by Bulahdelah Central School, NSW. (*Bulahdelah Central School, NSW*)

## Useful Websites

- [National Reconciliation Week](#) – Reconciliation Australia
- [Voice Referendum Result](#) – BTN
- [Reconciliation Week 2021](#) – BTN
- [BTN Stories about Indigenous Culture](#) – BTN
- [Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures \(Resources\)](#) – ABC Education
- [Reconciliation Week 2021 \(TR\)](#) – BTN