

Geography Alive: Stage 3 (Topic 1: Factors that shape places

Lesson 5: Breaking the link with Country: The Stolen Generation		
<p>Content focus:</p> <p>In this lesson, students focus on 'Country' and how the taking of Aboriginal children from their parents (the Stolen Generation) broke this link. This provides a geographical context for the commemoration of Sorry Day.</p>	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet 1: Hand template • A copy of <i>Sorry Day</i> by Coral Vass and Dub Leffler, Published by National Library of Australia, ISBN: 978-0-642-27903-3 – Recommended Year Levels: Years 3–6. • Archie Roach's song "Took the Children Away". https://www.nfsa.gov.au/collection/curated/took-children-away-archie-roach • Stolen Generation Stories: Access via The Healing Foundation website and the Stolen Generation Testimonies website. Teachers are advised to review the content of videos to decide suitability for their students. • ABC Television "My Place" – The Apology Episode. This dramatisation makes the stories and concepts surrounding the Stolen Generation and the 2008 Apology accessible for middle and upper primary aged students. • Worksheet 1 copied onto light cardboard, washi tape, paint and paintbrushes, craft sticks or similar. 	
<p>Key inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is meant by the term 'Country'? Why is it so important to Indigenous Australians? • What is the 'Stolen Generation' and what was its impact on the children affected? • What do we have National Sorry Day? What does it commemorate? 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explains interactions and connections between people, places and environments • demonstrates an understanding of 'Country' and its significance to Indigenous Australians • appreciates the impact of the removal of Indigenous children from their families, especially as it relates to their relationship with 'Country' • recognises the significance of National Sorry Day to Indigenous Australians. 	<p>Lesson sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Explain to students that National Sorry Day is held on May 26 every year and acknowledges the plight of the Stolen Generations. Explain one of the important cultural and emotional impacts of the taking of children from their parents was the break of children's link with 'Country'. • Step 2: Read <i>Sorry Day</i> to the class, highlighting the nature of the process taking place and its impacts on families. • Step 3: Have class listen to Archie Roach's song "Took the Children Away" and view the "My Place" – The Apology Episode. • Step 4: Empathy task: As the students to reflect on how they would feel if they were being forcibly separated from their parents. • Step 5: Read the text on National Sorry Day at the back of the picture book. Highlight the statement "Families were torn apart and prevented from teaching their children about their Indigenous culture. Important connections to traditions, language, community and Country were broken forever. Generations later, people are still feeling the trauma and grief." Ask students to reflect on the relationship between Country and the wellbeing of Indigenous people. • Step 6: To commemorate National Sorry Day construct you own '<i>Sea of Hands</i>'. Cut out the hand templates ready to paint (see Worksheet 1). Use the washi tape to mark out the word 'sorry' on the paper. Younger students may need some help with this. Provide students with the paint colours of the Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander flag and then ask them to paint over the top of the washi tape. Remove the tape and attach the hands to the craft sticks.

