National Sorry Day Lesson/Unit Ideas

It is essential to note that these are only some examples of activities which may be used to teach students about Sorry Day and to develop their own thoughts, feelings and opinions based around Sorry Day. The below information gives you some guidelines as to the types of things you can implement into your classroom to deepen student knowledge.

Please follow the links for some supporting information based around Sorry Day and the Stolen Generations

* National Sorry Day in Australia

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/national-sorry-day>

* Learning about the Stolen Generations- the National Sorry Day Committee’s School Resource

<http://vaeai.org.au/_uploads/rsfil/000386_fadc.pdf>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Unit Ideas** |
| Foundation-Year 2 | * Develop an artwork based around your family and share your story * Guest Speaker to talk about Connection to Place/Land   - Trace around your hand and write some of the words describing how you would feel if you were taken away from your family. Decorate the hand using Aboriginal colours/earthy colours and some symbols used by Aboriginal People to represent family.   * Set up whole school wall. Give students a space to draw a picture or write a short note, stick them on the wall and have a whole school picnic nearby. |
| Year 3/4 | * Cut out cardboard hands and feet to be decorated as above and get the students to write a message to the Stolen Generations. Tape cooking skewers to the back and plant them across the front out your school so that the community members can see that you recognise the struggles endured by members of the Stolen Generations. * Learn about meaning behind Sorry Day and create a wordsearch with words based around topic of apology and reconciliation. * Write an acrostic poem ‘Sorry Day’ to show understanding of the importance and meaning of Sorry Day. * Set up whole school wall. Give students a space to draw a picture or write a short note, stick them on the wall and have a whole school picnic nearby. |
| Year 5/6 | * Cut out cardboard hands and feet to be decorated as above and get the students to write a message to the Stolen Generations. Tape cooking skewers to the back and plant them across the front out your school so that the community members can see that you recognise the struggles endured by members of the Stolen Generations. * Ask some Elders to come into your classroom/school to speak about their experiences. Remember they may not want to go into things in too much depth. They might tell some stories of how they lived in the past compared to now. * Buddies activity where students may work with younger students in the school to develop mural/artwork * Develop a speech that could be presented at school morning tea, lunch or assembly * Set up whole school wall. Give students a space to draw a picture or write a short note, stick them on the wall and have a whole school picnic nearby. |
| Year 7/8 | * Ask some Elders to come into your classroom/school to speak about their experiences. *Please note: they may not want to go into things in too much depth. They might tell some stories of how they lived in the past compared to now.* * Students to write own apology letters (make a class Sorry Book) * Write a speech that could be selected to be presented at school luncheon/ recess/ over speaker system as an apology * Set up whole school wall. Give students a space to draw a picture or write a short note, stick them on the wall and have a whole school picnic nearby. |
| Year 9/10 | * Archie Roach Song- Took the Children Away * Briggs- The Children Came Back   <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-wMbFntrTo>  Reflection writing piece on these songs and their meanings.   * Students to write own apology letters (make a class Sorry Book) * Essay Writing Task * Discuss the ‘*Bringing Them Home* report’   <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/bringing-them-home-report-1997>   * Set up whole school wall. Give students a space to draw a picture or write a short note, stick them on the wall and have a whole school picnic nearby. |

Resource Links

Please Note: Links provided below are not appropriate for all year levels. Please view these links carefully and consider whether they would be appropriate for the age group of your students.

* Splash ABC- Sorry Day Resource

<http://splash.abc.net.au/home#!/digibook/618742/national-sorry-day>

* Prime Minister Kevin Rudd moves that…This was the first order of business in the new Parliament House in Canberra 2008.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKWfiFp24rA>

* Comments from Rick Powell and other Aboriginal people with regard to the Apology speech

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCU38nqRjE8>

* A Tribute to the Stolen Generations, background music/song by Archie Roach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-PmHgVjel0>

* Brown Skin Baby song by Bob Randall with historic footage and some captions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6qmgMXt-mw>

* Adam Briggs “The children came back” song about the Stolen Generation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-wMbFntrTo>

* “Rabbit Proof Fence” movie trailer (rated M)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lbnk8wSVMaM>