

National Sorry Day

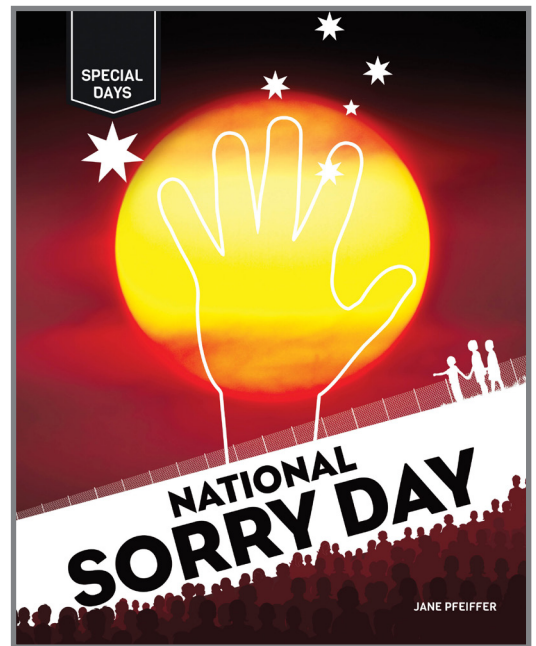
AUTHOR

JANE PFEIFFER

SCIS: 5440594

ISBN: 9781761400070

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Upper Primary



SYNOPSIS

National Sorry Day is held in Australia on 26 May each year. It is an annual event to recognise and apologise for the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly in respect to the Stolen Generations.

On this day, Australians consider how the events of the past 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.

STUDY NOTES

- Read the whole Apology made by the prime minister in 2008—a copy is on pp 27 and 28 of the book—then answer the following questions:
 - How do the words make you feel?
 - Would you like to add any comments that you feel the Apology missed?
 - 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?
- Look in your public or school library for a copy of the book, *Follow the Rabbit-proof Fence*, by Doris Pilkington. After reading it, have a class discussion about what happened to the three children after their long journey.
 - What would happen today if three children tried to walk such a long distance back home to their parents?
- Research the different events celebrated or commemorated on certain days or weeks in Australia.
 - Explore the different points of view about these familiar events.
- Examine the symbolism of different flags in Australia.
- Investigate 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.