

Textual Representations of Australian's Indigenous People

Background Knowledge about Indigenous Australians

Worksheet 1

Task 1: In groups create concept maps using both text and images about:

- **Dispossession** of land, culture, religion, language and identity.
 - **The Policy of Protection** for Aborigines from 1909 to 1967.
 - **Assimilation** – forcing them to be white/English, language/Christianity/food, reserves, abolishing art and culture. Lack of ownership and possession.
 - **Stolen Generation**
 - **Protest Movement** - Day of Mourning 1938
 - **Reconciliation** Day 2000 and beyond
 - **The Role of the Link Up Program**
-

Sorry Day!!!!

Explore the controversy that erupted in the 1970s occasioning changes in policies, attitudes and the law in relation to Aboriginal and white communities, and see this in relation to Kevin Rudd's Apology Speech.

In the 60s & 70s, many people became active in promoting Aboriginal issues. Aboriginal people at this time did not have a vote, and were not included in the census. Voices were raised to further their rights, and a tent embassy was set up in the lawns outside the (now) Old Parliament House in Canberra. Poets, writers, political activists, politicians and ordinary people made their voices heard about Aboriginal people. The first census to include Aboriginal people was 1966, and after a referendum, Aboriginal people were able to vote in 1967.

Kevin Rudd's Apology to the Aboriginal people in Feb. 2008

www.abc.net.au/news/events/apology/text.htm Or

You Tube live: www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3TZOGpG6cM

Task 2: Students are to discuss the speech's significance and talk about whether it could have been made earlier in Australia's history. What are some of the different perspectives that listeners (Aboriginal and white, for example) might have had on this speech? Why?

Visit the National Sorry Day Committee website at www.nsdc.org.au/.

Media commentary on Sorry Day Speech:

<http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/politics/stolen-generations-sorry-apology.html#ixzz1qvNg1aMy>