



cultural infusion

Education & Experiences

HARMONY WEEK

LEARNING RESOURCE

T. 1800 010 069

E. INFO@CULTURALINFUSION.ORG.AU

W. EDUCATION.CULTURALINFUSION.ORG.AU



Harmony Week is an annual celebration of the rich cultural diversity in Australia. As a nation co-existing with a vibrant variety of backgrounds, cultures, and religions, Harmony Week contributes to fostering our Australian identity and pride of diversity.

Why is Harmony Week so significant to celebrate?

Did you know that over half of Australians are either first generation migrants or come from a migrant background? Think about the variety of people, languages and food we can engage with across Australia. Not only does Harmony Week celebrate this diversity, but it also promotes inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging regardless of our differences. The values of this occasion reinforce the significance of bringing all people and communities together across Australia.

How did Harmony Week begin?

In 1966, the United Nations declared the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination following a mass shooting in Sharpeville, South Africa, which killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid in 1960. Following this, in 1999, the Australian Howard government aimed to foster a more integrated multicultural society and initiated Harmony Day. In 2019, this was expanded into Harmony Week by the Department of Home Affairs.



So, how can we celebrate Harmony Week?

There are many ways to celebrate Harmony Week, from showcasing cultural attire and stories, to sharing cooking and music. Orange is the representational colour of Harmony Week as it symbolises social communication, meaningful conversations, freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. Keep your eyes peeled for extra bursts of orange during this week, as Australians can showcase their support and respect of our cultural diversity and inclusivity by wearing this special colour. As a class, having discussions and doing activities with your fellow classmates is a valuable way to connect and learn with each other and can be explored through our ICAP (Intercultural Citizenship Ambassador Program) resources.

KEY WORDS

Diversity – the inclusion of people from different backgrounds, cultures, and religions

Significant – of great importance

Nurture – to care for and protect something as it grows

Migrant – the movement of people from one town or country to another with the intention to settle temporarily or permanently for a variety of reasons

Apartheid – racial segregation policy in South Africa from 1948 to the early 1990s

Integrate – to bring people together into equal participation

Multicultural – consisting of or relating to people of many different cultures and nationalities

Celebrate – to commemorate a significant event with certain festivities or gatherings

