



cultural infusion
Building Harmony & Wellbeing

NAIDOC WEEK

LEARNING RESOURCES

For Foundation - Year 6

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NAIDOC stands for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee' which was the name of the committee that was originally responsible for organising the national NAIDOC Week activities and over time the acronym has become the name for the entire celebration. NAIDOC Week is an annual commemoration that honours the history, culture, and accomplishments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

2024 NAIDOC week

The NAIDOC Week celebrations revolve around a thematic focus selected by the national organizing committee. In 2024, the theme is '**Keep the fire burning! Blak, Loud and Proud**', which pays tribute to the persevering strength and vibrancy of First Nations cultures. Fire is a symbol for the connection to Country, to community, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



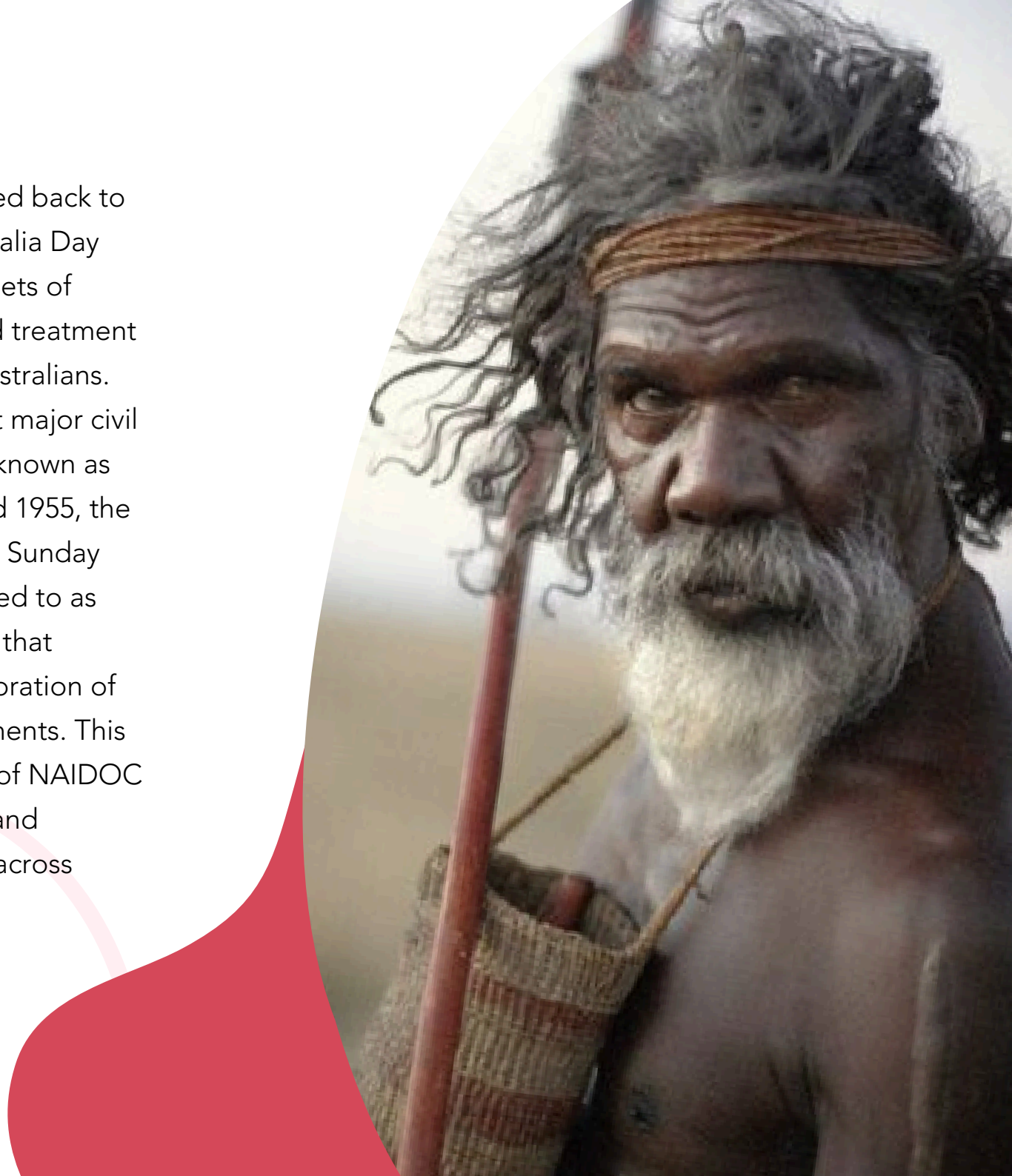


Why is NAIDOC week important?

NAIDOC Week offers a valuable occasion to commemorate the rich and multifaceted cultures of Australia's First Nations peoples. The observance showcases their artistic expressions, musical traditions, dance forms, languages, and cultural practices, cultivating deeper understanding and appreciation within the broader Australian populace. The week also underscores the ongoing challenges and inequities confronted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, such as disparities in health outcomes, educational attainment, and socioeconomic status. It serves as a platform to raise awareness and promote constructive dialogue surrounding these critical issues. Furthermore, NAIDOC Week celebrates the contributions, resilience, and accomplishments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, activists, artists, and community members. This recognition helps to challenge prevailing stereotypes and inspire younger generations. The events and activities organised during NAIDOC Week bring together First Nations and Non-First Nations Australians, fostering greater mutual understanding, respect, and collaboration within local communities.

How did NAIDOC week begin?

The origins of NAIDOC Week can be traced back to the Aboriginal rights movement. On Australia Day 1938, protesters marched through the streets of Sydney to draw attention to the status and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. This demonstration was one of the earliest major civil rights gatherings globally, and it became known as the "Day of Mourning". Between 1940 and 1955, the Day of Mourning was held annually on the Sunday preceding Australia Day, commonly referred to as "Aborigines Day". In 1955, it was decided that Aborigines Day should incorporate a celebration of Aboriginal culture, heritage, and achievements. This evolved into the modern-day observance of NAIDOC Week, which highlights the contributions and accomplishments of First Nations people across Australia.





So, how can we celebrate NAIDOC week?

NAIDOC Week is primarily celebrated by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in recognition of their culture, history and achievements. These celebrations are often open for the Australian public to participate in as well. NAIDOC week is a great time for Australians of all different ethnic backgrounds to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Many schools, government offices, universities, churches and businesses organise their own cultural and learning NAIDOC Week activities. Australians can celebrate NAIDOC Week by attending community events and cultural festivals, supporting Indigenous businesses and artists, learning about Indigenous history and culture, engaging with Indigenous-led initiatives, and reflecting on their own biases and understanding. Participating in NAIDOC Week activities helps to raise awareness, foster reconciliation, and celebrate the rich and enduring heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Voices from Cultural Infusion's First Peoples presenters

WHAT DOES NAIDOC WEEK MEAN TO YOU?

FROM AUNTY MONICA



“The spotlight is shined on Indigenous issues and some of the inequities.”

“To be visual and seen is so important.”

“When we get together there’s a sense of comfort and solidarity.”

“For non-Indigenous people it’s certainly a great time to learn more.”

Voices from Cultural Infusion's First Peoples presenters

"It's about Aboriginal people coming together."

"It's about sharing the culture"

"It's about the achievements of Aboriginal people."

"NAIDOC is just bringing everybody together."

"It's about having fun."

WHAT DOES NAIDOC WEEK MEAN TO YOU?

FROM UNCLE PAUL





What is your advice to Educators celebrating NAIDOC week?

Aunt Monica —

"We would love NAIDOC week to be every week."

"I would encourage teachers to go forward themselves in acknowledging that week."

"There's many things you can do."

"All it takes is their own initiative really."

Uncle Paul —

emphasises the importance of schools embracing Aboriginal cultures **"all year round"** regardless of First Peoples children enrolment.

KEY WORDS

indigenous - used to refer to the people who originally lived in a place, rather than people who moved there from somewhere else

a rich tapestry of culture - the culture of a certain group, place or time which is deeply layered and complex

commemorate - to remind people of an important event or person from the past with a special action or object

populace - the ordinary people who live in a particular country or place

stereotypes - a set idea that people have about what someone or something is like, especially an idea that is wrong

Day of Mourning - a protest held by Aboriginal Australians on 26 January 1938, the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet, which marked the beginning of the Australia's colonisation

