

Worksheet Week 2: The Stolen Generation

1) Read the explanations in the left column before watching the film. During the screening, answer the questions in the right column

The stolen generations	In the movie
Between 1910 and 1970 up to 100,000 Aboriginal children were taken forcibly from their families by police or welfare officers.	Name the police officer. Describe the removal scene
Most were under 5 years old. There was rarely any judicial process. To be Aboriginal was enough. They are known as the 'Stolen Generations'.	What is the name of the youngest girl?
What happened to them?	
Most were raised in Church or state institutions. Some were fostered or adopted by white parents.	Where exactly?
Many suffered physical and sexual abuse. Food and living conditions were poor.	What happens to Olive? Describe what they eat.
They received little education, and were expected to go into low grade domestic and farming work.	What type of activities do they have? Comment.
Why were they taken?	
They were taken because it was Federal and State Government policy that Aboriginal children - especially those of mixed Aboriginal and European descent - should be removed from their parents. Between 10 and 30% of all Aboriginal children were removed, and in some places these policies continued into the 1970s.	
The main motive was to 'assimilate' Aboriginal children into European society over one or two generations by denying and destroying their Aboriginality.	Who explains this theory? Describe the scene.
Speaking their languages and practising their ceremonies was forbidden	Who forbids them to do so?
They were taken miles from their country, some overseas	Distance between Jigalong and the settlement
Parents were not told where their children were and could not trace them. Family visits were discouraged or forbidden; letters were destroyed.	What does the Aboriginal lady crying outside Mr Neville's office want?
Children were told that they were orphans	Molly wants to know who the babies' mothers are, what is Martha's answer?
What were the results?	
The physical and emotional damage to those taken away was profound and lasting:	
Most grew up in a hostile environment without family ties or cultural identity.	Show signs of hostile environment in the movie.
The scale of separation also had profound consequences for the whole Aboriginal community - anger, powerlessness and lack of purpose as well as an abiding distrust of Government, police and officials.	How does the mother immediately react to the arrival of the police car?

2) Fill in the blanks using the following words:

emotional, long, forty, apology, society

On 13th February 2008 The Australian government took the _____ overdue step of apologising to the 'stolen generation' of Aborigines. The policy of integrating mixed-race children into white _____ started in 1910 and only ended in 1969. Nearly _____ years after it ended, newly-elected Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made the formal _____ in a parliament address on February 13, 2008. [...]Christine King from the Stolen Generations Alliance said February 13 was an extremely significant and _____ day. She said "Older people thought they would never live to see it, so it's very important." (Government press release)

3) True/ False:

- Australia's government has apologised to its indigenous population T/F
- The policy of integrating mixed-race children into white society ended in 1989 T/F
- February 13 was an emotional day T/F
- Older Aborigines knew they would live to hear the apology T/F

4) Listen to the recording and fill in the blanks

I move: Today we honour the Indigenous peoples of this _____, the oldest continuing cultures in human history. We reflect on their past _____. We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were stolen generations - this blemished chapter in our nation's history. The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia's history by righting the _____ of the past and so moving forward with confidence to the future. We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, _____ and loss on these our fellow Australians. We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country. For the pain, suffering and hurt of these stolen generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say _____. To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the _____, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry. And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a _____ people and a proud culture, we say sorry.

We the _____ of Australia respectfully request that this apology be received in the spirit in which it is offered as part of the _____ of the nation. For the future we take heart; resolving that this new page in the history of our great continent can now be written. We today take this first step by acknowledging the past and laying claim to a future that _____ all Australians. A future where this Parliament resolves that the injustices of the past must never, never happen again. A future where we harness the determination of all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to close the _____ that lies between us in life _____, educational achievement and economic opportunity. A future where we embrace the possibility of new solutions to enduring problems where old approaches have failed. A future based on _____ respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility. A future where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal _____, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country, Australia.

5) Match the following phrases

1. take the long overdue step
2 removed from their parents and adopted
3. youngsters were forcibly removed from
4. The idea was to breed out
5. it would be a bridge
6. an extremely significant

a. their mothers and fathers
b. and emotional day
c. of apologizing
d. to the future
e. by white families
f. the Aboriginal colour

6) Pair Work: Try to use the vocabulary below

STUDENT A	STUDENT B
1. Who are the stolen generations?	1. Why were Aboriginal children taken away from their families?
2. What did you think of the movie?	2. What did you think of the forced removal scene?
3. What did you think of the scene where Mr Neville says no?	3. What are your feelings about the Stolen Generation?
4. Do you think Australia's policy amounted to ethnic cleansing?	4. Was it important to apologise to the stolen generations?
5. Why do you think it took so long to make an apology to Aborigines?	5. Did you like the Prime Minister's speech?
6. Why is the word 'sorry' important as part of the apology?	6. Do you agree with Australia's Opposition Leader who said that petrol prices were more important than the apology to Aborigines?
7. What could the apology mean to a non-Indigenous Australian?	7. What do you think the adults who were stolen from their families decades ago think of the Australian government's apology?
8. Do you think the Aborigines should also receive financial compensation?	8. Will the apology really be a "bridge to the future"?
9. What do you think the world thought of Australia's policy of taking Aboriginal children and giving them to white families?	9. Have you ever heard about any similar policy in France?
10. Comment on: "we shouldn't apologise when many Aboriginal people are actually better off because they were removed from dysfunctional families"	10. Comment on "Australians today shouldn't apologise for something they aren't directly responsible for"

abiding	to close the gap	ethnic cleansing	to lay claim to	powerlessness	scale
abuse	degradation	to fail	life expectancy	proud	stake
to acknowledge	dysfunctional	forcibly	loss	purpose	step
to amount to	educational	grief	low-grade	removal	stolen
to apologise	achievement	to happen	mistreatment	to remove	to take heart
apology	to embrace	hurt	motive	to request	wrong
better off	emotional	to implement	officials	resolve	
to break up	enduring	judicial process	overseas	respectfully	

7) Grammar

Complete the following sentences using the subjunctive:

"We the Parliament of Australia respectfully request that this apology be received in the spirit in which it is offered as part of the healing of the nation".

The Prime Minister demands that the Aboriginal community _____ (to accept) his apology

The Aborigines demands that the reforms _____ (to be) implemented.

The Conservatives request that the Prime Minister _____ (to focus) on other issues.

Give the function of underlined words:

We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments.

Rewrite equivalent sentences using the given elements:

For the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.

They say sorry because _____ (to break up)_____

And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.

They say sorry due to _____ (to inflict)_____

We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments

They apologise as _____ (to enforce)_____

We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

They apologise owing to_____ (to remove)_____

Give the function of underlined words:

The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia"s history by righting the wrongs of the past.

We today take this first step by acknowledging the past and laying claim to a future that embraces all Australians.

It's high time + preterit modal

It's high time the government _____ (to apologise) to the Stolen Generations.

It's high time the government _____ (to implement) reforms to bridge the gap between Aborigines and white Australians.

8) Translation

A la fin du XIXe siècle, la thèse selon laquelle les Aborigènes formaient une race inférieure condamnée à s'éteindre recueillait un large consensus.

On estime officiellement qu'au cours du siècle passé, au nom d'une politique d'assimilation, plus de 100 000 enfants aborigènes ont été retirés à leurs familles et tribus, souvent de force, pour être placés dans des institutions et des familles d'accueil où la pratique de leur langue et de leur culture leur fut expressément interdite.

9) Extra:

Aborigines (Wikipedia- simple English)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
D																									

A _____ **A** _____ **A** _____ **A** _____ **A** _____
 D C N R P D J Y D H D E I P Y L Y H Z N D P Z
 _____ **A** _____ **A** _____ **A** _____ **A** _____ **A** _____
 R A Z H D R Y F Z G Z I G J Z I K D C N R P D J Y D
 . _____ **A** _____ **A** _____ _____ **A** _____
 R A Z B D P P Y F Z T R A Z P Z D E I C R
40 000 _____ **A** _____ **A** _____ **A** _____ _____
 B Z D P N D L I M D H B I K R A Z M
 _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
 N C K K Z P Z T X A Z H X A Y R Z G Z I G J Z
 _____ _____ **A** _____ **A** _____ _____ **A** _____ **A** _____
 K P I M E P Y R D Y H D P P Y F Z T Y H D C N R P D
 _____ **A** .
 J Y D