



# Quaker Kids

## Children's Meeting Resource Kit 3: Reconciliation

In 2008 the Australian Government made a public apology to the Stolen Generation. Here are some activities to help Children understand the history of invasion/settlement, dispossession and removal and to help them think about their role in the reconciliation process.

### Welcome to Country

Consider beginning your children's meeting with the following introduction:

*“For tens of thousands of years Aboriginal people in Australia have participated in “Welcome to Country” ceremonies. These ceremonies take place when people from one tribe visit another tribe's land. Usually an elder will officially welcome the newcomers to the land. Then there might be dancing and song. Quakers try to acknowledge this tradition by inviting an Aboriginal elder to do a Welcome to Country whenever we meet for Yearly Meeting.*

*At a smaller gathering where an Elder is not able to attend, it is okay to do an “Acknowledgement of Country” where the facilitator of an event will acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the group is meeting. Do you know who the traditional owners are for your meeting house? How could you find out? Does your meeting house have a permanent sign acknowledging the traditional owners?”*

### Activity: Facing racism

Aims: To help children think about what it's like to be discriminated against. You need at least 5 children for this activity.

Materials needed: coloured paper ie red and blue, and masking tape, and enough room to move about.

Project link: The Kapululangu Aboriginal Women's Association in Balgo teach traditional Law and Culture. They run culture classes (pictured), sand drawings, culture camps and traditional healing programs for women and girls as well as language classes for non-Indigenous people.

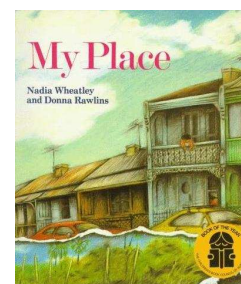


How it works: This activity can get cause distress, so don't let children leave without being debriefed. For ten minutes or so, the “red” group will have the privileges (sitting on chairs rather than the floor, being allowed to speak without raising their hands or whatever you decide) Tape one piece of coloured paper to the back of each child so that they are now identified as either part of the “blue” group or the “red” group. Allow this inequality to play out for about ten minutes or until people start to get into the roles.

Discussion: It is important to debrief this exercise as children can get very upset if it is allowed to go on for too long. Ask the children what it was like to be in the “blue” group and what it was like to be in the “red” group. Was it fair? Ask if they can see any similarities between the way that Aboriginal People are treated and the way that the “blue” group was treated.

## Story: My Place

Read the children's book "My Place"\* to the children's meeting group. This book traces the history of inhabitants of a piece of land over 200 years. It begins and ends with Aboriginal people. See if they notice the flag on the cover of the book. Then ask them to draw a pictorial timeline including changes that have taken place before and since white settlement in Australia. Here is a guide with some significant dates:



60,000 yrs ago	Human life existed in Arnhem Land, the Northern Territory
10,000 yrs ago	the Boomerang is invented and used
1588	Trade takes place in northern Australia with Macassans (from Indonesia)
1788	British settlement takes place, without consent of Indigenous people
1790	Pemulwuy leads a resistance movement in Sydney stretching over 12 years
1800s	Aboriginal people displaced from land, and many killed by small pox, poisoned waterholes and whilst fighting for their land
1901	Federation: Aboriginal people are not included in constitution and forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families begins
1965	The Freedom Rides took place through north-western New South Wales
1967	Indigenous People were allowed to vote, following a referendum
1972	The Aboriginal "Tent Embassy" is erected outside Parliament House in Canberra, demanding land rights
1976	Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) passed
1997	The "Bringing them Home" report told the story of the Stolen Generations
2007	John Howard implemented the Northern Territory "Intervention"
2008	Kevin Rudd made a public apology to the Stolen Generation

\*If you would prefer to share a different story, we have suggestions below. An alternative activity might be to ask the children to draw some native animals such as the bilby, emu etc.

## Time for Action: get a group of kids involved in the following activities

- Invasion Day: 26 January each year, a time to reflect on the impact of white settlement
- National Sorry Day: 26 May each year, a time to acknowledge the stolen generation
- Reconciliation Week: 27 May to 3 June 2009, includes commemoration of 1967 Referendum and Mabo Decision
- NAIDOC Week: 5-12 July 2009, A celebration of Indigenous achievements
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day: 4 August each year

## Books and Resources

(If you can't find these resources, please contact the QSA office)

A is for Aunty, by Elaine Russell <http://www.antar.org.au/shop/books>

A home for Bilby, by Joanne Crawford <http://www.magabala.com>

Joshua and the two crabs, by Joshua Button <http://www.antar.org.au/shop/books>

My Place, by Nadia Wheatley, available from most book shops

Reconciliation Australia - <http://www.reconciliation.org.au>

How to celebrate NAIDOC - <http://www.naidoc.org.au/NAIDOC-about/howToCelebrate.aspx>

ANTaR - <http://antar.org.au>

Aboriginal Australia language groups map - <http://antar.org.au>

Timelines of pre-settlement and settlement history -

<http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/history/index.html>

<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/reconciliation-resources/history-of-reconciliation>