

EPISODE 1: 2008: LAURA

History: teaching strategies

Unit focus: Australian History

Year level: Years 3–6

The Australian curriculum: History

The national history curriculum will be based on the interrelationship between historical knowledge, understanding and skills.

The history curriculum across Years 3–6 will be developed around four focus questions:

- 1 What do we know about the past?
- 2 How did Australians live in the past?
- 3 How did people live in other places?
- 4 How has the past influenced the present?

Historical knowledge and understanding

- **Historical significance:** The principles behind the selection of what should be remembered, investigated, taught and learned ...
- **Evidence:** How to find, select and interpret historical evidence ...
- **Continuity and change:** Dealing with the complexity of the past. This involves the capacity to understand the sequence of events, to make connections by means of organising concepts ...
- **Cause and consequence:** ... the ways that the legacy of the past shapes intentions and the unintended consequences that arise from purposeful action ...
- **Historical perspectives:** The cognitive act of understanding the different social, cultural and intellectual contexts that shaped people's lives and actions in the past ...
- **Historical empathy and moral judgement:** The capacity to enter into the world of the past with an informed imagination and ethical responsibility ...
- **Contestation and contestability:** Dealing with alternative accounts of the past. History is a form of knowledge that shapes popular sentiment and frequently enters into public debate ...
- **Problem solving:** Applying historical understanding to the investigation, analysis and resolution of problems ...

Students will develop historical skills that include:

- using common historical terms for describing time and sequencing events and developments in chronological order
- asking questions, finding relevant answers, and constructing informed responses
- developing a basic understanding of how evidence can be used to provide historical explanations
- developing appropriate techniques of organisation and communication.

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EPISODE CLIP: THE APOLOGY

ACTIVITY 1: THE STOLEN GENERATIONS

Subthemes: Culture; Historical events; Indigenous perspectives

Discover

- Ask students to discuss the following questions:
 - 1 What are the Stolen Generations?
 - 2 Why is the apology significant in Australian history?
- Refer to *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence* by Doris Pilkington Garimara. Students can also view the clip from the feature film at australianscreen, 'Rabbit-Proof Fence (2002)', <http://aso.gov.au/titles/features/rabbit-proof-fence/clip1>

[Please note that the clip from *Rabbit-Proof Fence* is rated PG (parental guidance) and permission should be gained from parents and the school principal before viewing. It is recommended that teachers view all film content before introducing it to students to ensure that it is appropriate for the class.]
- As a class, review the following websites and the information contained within them about the Stolen Generations:
 - 1 Australian Human Rights Commission, <http://www.hreoc.gov.au>
 - 2 —'Bringing them home: The "Stolen Children" report (1997)' http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social_justice/bth_report/index.html
 - 3 —'Bringing them home education module' <http://www.hreoc.gov.au/education/bth/index.html>
 - 4 ReconciliACTION Network, <http://reconciliaction.org.au>
- If possible, invite a local Indigenous Elder to the school to talk about reconciliation.
- Ask students to create a graphic organisational chart (a KWL Chart) about the Stolen Generations. A KWL Chart enables students to classify information based on prior knowledge. It will help students to organise information as they gather it and disseminate the data at the end of their research. The three basic areas of classification are:
 - 1 What I Know
 - 2 What I Want to know
 - 3 What I Learned.

Reflect

- Ask students to research personal accounts of Indigenous people who are part of the Stolen Generations. Collect their stories in an anthology to be displayed and read on National Sorry Day.
- Visit the National Sorry Day Committee on the website below: <http://www.nsdcc.org.au>

Download

- Student Activity sheet H1.1: Indigenous issues

Useful resources from The Le@rning Federation

R7150 Stolen Generations, 2000: Never the same again

R8950 Members of the Stolen Generations greet the Prime Minister after the Apology, 2008

R9158 Lousy Little Sixpence, 1982: Like one big family

R10316 Rabbit-Proof Fence, 2002: The wrong fence

R10332–R10337 Kevin Rudd's apology speech, 2008

ACTIVITY 2: REMEMBERING

Subthemes: Culture; Indigenous perspectives; Politics

In this clip, Laura looks at the faces of family and friends watching the apology at the local community centre and observes their reactions. The expressions on the faces of people in the clip demonstrate strong feelings about it. These facial expressions and gestures are emotional signposts.

Discover

- Ask students to brainstorm ideas on how both Laura and Aunty Bev are affected by the apology. Student responses can be mapped out on a class poster.

Reflection

- Ask students to write what they believe are the thoughts of Laura or Aunty Bev about the apology.
- Construct a hot seat role-play where students take on the role of significant people in the apology. For example, it could be Kevin Rudd, or an Indigenous person in parliament. Students stay in role and answer questions from the class about how they perceived the significance of the apology.

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- Student Activity Sheet H1.2: Investigating loss

ACTIVITY 3: GOVERNMENT POLICY

Subthemes: Culture; Indigenous perspectives

The removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their parents was the accepted practice of state and federal governments. In 1997, the *Bringing them home* report focused on the practices of government from 1910–1970. On 13 February 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologised for the pain caused by decades of state-sponsored mistreatment of Indigenous Australians and the continuing impact on Australian society.

Discover

- Ask students to research government policies that had a negative impact on Indigenous people. This information can be merged into a timeline to plot significant events affecting Indigenous rights in Australia.
- As a class discuss the significance of events leading up to the apology.
- Ask students to research stories and statements in newspapers and magazines from Indigenous people following the apology. Refer to the teachers' notes, activities and worksheets on the website below.



- 1 Australian Human Rights Commission, <http://www.hreoc.gov.au>
- 2 —'Bringing them home, education module',
<http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/bth/index.html>
- 3 —'Bringing them home Community Guide 2007',
http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/bth/community_guide/index.html

Reflect

- Share the stories with the class. They can be presented as short essays, or pictorial stories.

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- Student Activity Sheet H1.3: Government practice

ACTIVITY 4: SYMBOLISM

Subthemes: Culture; Historical events; Indigenous perspectives

Discover

- In the clip, the Aboriginal flag plays a major role, but people also have beads, necklaces, ribbons and arm bands displaying the colours of red, yellow and black. Many Aboriginal people identify with these colours. Research the designer of the flag, Harold Thomas, and collect information on his background.

Reflect

- As a class, research and discuss the symbolic significance of the colour and shape on the Aboriginal Flag. Ask students to find out where the flag originated and what the design means. Refer to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/fastfacts/AboriginalFlag.html>
- As an extension activity, students could also investigate the meaning and significance of the Torres Strait Islander flag.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet H1.4: Symbols of unity

Aligned resources

Pilkington, Doris (Nugi Garimara) 1996, *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, Qld.

Australian Human Rights Commission, <http://www.hreoc.gov.au>

—'Bringing them home, education module',

<http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/bth/index.html>

—'Bringing them home Community Guide 2007'

http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/bth/community_guide/index.html

—'Bringing them home: The "Stolen Children" report (1997)'

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social_justice/bth_report/index.html

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/fastfacts/AboriginalFlag.html>



australianscreen, 'Rabbit-Proof Fence', <http://australianscreen.com.au/titles/rabbit-proof-fence/clip1>
National Aborigines and Islanders Observance Committee (NAIDOC), 'Aboriginal Flag',
<http://www.naidoc.org.au/NAIDOC-about/aboriginalFlag.aspx/>
National Sorry Day Committee, <http://www.nsdcc.org.au>
ReconciliACTION Network, <http://reconciliation.org.au>

Useful resources from The Learning Federation

R7150 Stolen Generations, 2000: Never the same again
R8950 Members of the Stolen Generations greet the Prime Minister after the Apology, 2008
R9158 Lousy Little Sixpence, 1982: Like one big family
R10316 Rabbit-Proof Fence, 2002: The wrong fence
R10332–R10337 Kevin Rudd's apology speech, 2008



Indigenous issues

1 Create a KWL Chart on the topic: 'The Stolen Generations'.

What I Know	What I Want to know	What I Learned

2 Research a story that has been reported in the media about the impact of government policies on Indigenous people in Australia between 1910 and 1970. This can be about an individual or group of Indigenous Australians.



Investigating loss

In the clip, Laura looks at the faces of family and friends watching 'the apology' at the local community centre and observes their reactions. The expressions on the faces of people in the clip show strong feelings about the apology. These facial expressions and their body gestures are emotional signposts.

- 1 Choose Laura or Aunty Bev and write your thoughts about what you believe the character is feeling during the apology speech.

- 2 Select a character who was involved in the apology. It could Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, or an Indigenous person in parliament. Imagine you are this character for a hot seat role-play and write down your views about the event so you can answer questions from the class in character. Use the space below to prepare notes:

- 3 After watching the clip and parts of the apology, write a diary entry and explain how you feel.



Symbols of unity

In the clip, as well as the flag, people have beads, necklaces, ribbons and arm bands in red, yellow and black colours. Many Aboriginal people identify with these colours. Explore the significance and meaning as intended by Harold Thomas, who designed the flag.

- 1** Research the symbolism of the Aboriginal flag and the Torres Strait Islander flags.

- 2** In the clip, people have ribbons, arm bands, badges and jewellery to symbolise unity. Design your own piece of memorabilia that symbolises your support for the apology.



EPISODE 1: 2008: LAURA

English: teaching strategies

Unit focus: English

Year level: Years 3–6

The Australian curriculum: English

The national English curriculum is based on three interrelated strands:

Language: Knowing about the English language ...

Literature: Understanding, appreciating, responding to, analysing and creating literature ...

Literacy: growing a repertoire of English usage ...

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EPISODE CLIP: THE APOLOGY

ACTIVITY 1: LAURA'S APOLOGY

Subthemes: Culture; Indigenous perspective; Politics

Discover

- Before viewing the clip, ask students to think about its title, 'The apology'. Have students 'think, pair, share' what they predict the clip might be about. Invite students to record their ideas on a 'graffiti wall'. Ask students to brainstorm the word 'apology' and list all the ideas and words that come to mind. Discuss the list and have students write a brief description of what they think an apology means to them.
- After viewing the clip, as a class, note down all the significant events that occurred. Ask students to share and discuss.
- Discuss Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's speech to Parliament, apologising for Australian laws and policies that caused Indigenous Australians to be mistreated, and especially for the removal of Indigenous children from their families and the continuing impact on people today. Part of the speech is screened during this clip. You could also look at R10332 'Kevin Rudd's apology speech 2008 - item 1 of 6'.
- Ask students to respond to the following questions:
 - 1 Who is Kevin Rudd apologising to?
 - 2 What is he apologising about?
 - 3 Why is he apologising?

Reflect

- During the speech, ask students to look at how the filmmaker uses Laura to draw attention to the way people are feeling in the room and also to focus on how Laura herself is feeling.
- View the whole episode from the beginning scene where Laura accidentally sinks Michaelis's boat. Ask students to consider what apology Laura needs to make. Who has she offended and what did she do wrong? Ask students to write an apology letter from Laura to Michaelis.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E1.1: I'm sorry

Useful resources from The Le@rning Federation

R10332 Kevin Rudd's apology speech 2008 - item 1 of 6

ACTIVITY 2: SORRY

Subthemes: Historical events; Indigenous perspectives

Discover

- Introduce the concept of Stolen Generations to the class and discuss what this means. As a class, discuss why it is important to understand what happened and how it makes sense of Aunty Bev's story.
 - 1 Ask students to write down who they think the key characters are in this clip and why they think so.
 - 2 Share responses and discuss the techniques used by the filmmaker to focus audience attention on two characters: Laura and Aunty Bev.
 - 3 Discuss ways in which the camera is used throughout this clip to draw attention to people and their feelings as the events unfold. Start with the scene in the kitchen when Laura and her family are preparing to go to watch the apology speech.
 - 4 View the clip again and focus on Aunty Bev. Have students note what she does, how they think she is feeling and why. Highlight the moment when she is sitting quietly and Laura's mother asks her if she is all right.
 - 5 Discuss the reason why the filmmaker does this. It could, for instance, be intended to focus audience attention to Aunty Bev, foreshadowing that she will be a character of interest in the story.

Reflect

- Look at how the filmmaker uses Laura to draw attention to the way people are feeling in the room and also to focus on how Laura herself is feeling.
- Ask students to imagine the feelings of the older people in the room during the speech and how Laura might be feeling. Think about why they would be feeling the way they do.
- Two characters are the focus in this clip: Laura and Aunty Bev. Have students write a description of the event from their differing points of view: Laura's as she struggles to understand what is going on and Aunty Bev's as she deals with her feelings on this day. Students may wish to use a 'sunshine wheel' to explain their points.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E1.2: Character profiles

ACTIVITY 3: AUNTY BEV'S STORY

Subthemes: Indigenous perspectives; Language and scripting; Politics

Discover

- Aunty Bev tells Laura a little about the story of how she was taken from her mother when she was so young she can no longer remember her. As a class, discuss how Aunty Bev feels about this now and what impact this story might have on Laura. Ask students how they feel about this story.



- Play the clip from R10333 'Kevin Rudd's apology speech, 2008 - item 2 of 6' to the class. Focus on the story of one woman, Nanna Nungala Fejo. Ask students to note any information that they think is important in the story. Have students read the story of Nanna Nungala Fejo in the transcript from this resource.

Reflect

- In small groups, discuss and compare this story to that of Aunty Bev.
- Have students draft a letter to the Prime Minister describing how they feel about this situation and what it means to them.
- You could show students selected clips from the film *Rabbit-Proof Fence* for more insight into the way children were taken from their families. Clips from the film with teachers' notes are available from australianscreen, 'Rabbit-Proof Fence (2002)', <http://australianscreen.com.au/titles/rabbit-proof-fence>
- Please note that *Rabbit-Proof Fence* is rated PG (parental guidance) and permission should be gained from parents and the school principal before viewing. It is recommended that teachers view all film content before introducing it to students to ensure that it is appropriate for the class.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E1.3: Dear Prime Minister

Useful resources from The Le@rning Federation

R10333 Kevin Rudd's apology speech, 2008 - item 2 of 6

ACTIVITY 4: EMOTIVE LANGUAGE

Subthemes: Culture; Language and scripting

Discover

- Replay the scene in the *My Place* clip showing Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivering his speech. Ask students to note any words or phrases he uses that particularly resonate or 'stick in their heads'. Some examples might be 'fellow Australians', 'pain', 'suffering and hurt', 'Stolen Generations', 'indignity', 'degradation' and 'we say sorry'.
- As a class, discuss the impact these words and phrases have on the audience in the clip. Ask students:
 - 1 How do these words make you feel?
 - 2 What was the intention of the Prime Minister when choosing these words?
 - 3 Are these words successful in stressing the intent and meaning of his apology? Why or why not?
- Discuss responses and have students define key words and phrases and the impact these words have on the listener.
- Using a transcript of the speech, ask students to highlight other interesting and emotive words that are used. Refer them to R10332 'Kevin Rudd's apology speech 2008 - item 1 of 6'.
- Look also at the use of repetition of the phrase 'we are sorry'. Discuss why the speech writer uses this phrase in the speech; does this repetition add or detract from the power of the speech? Why or why not?



Reflect

- Drawing on this information, ask students to discuss the elements they think are important in a good speech or public speaking. Using this as a guide, ask students to write a one-minute speech on a topic of their choice and present it to the class.

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- Student Activity Sheet E1.4: Choosing your words

Useful resources from The Le@rning Federation

R10332 Kevin Rudd's apology speech 2008 - item 1 of 6

ACTIVITY 5: THE OLD FELLA

Subthemes: Culture

- The ancient Moreton Bay fig tree provides a quiet place for Laura and her Aunty Bev, who was taken away from her family and is a member of the Stolen Generations. Laura sits close to her as she tells her poignant story.

Discover

- Ask the students to find out more about these magnificent trees. The image of the Moreton Bay fig is a constant feature of the *My Place* episodes. Have students investigate these trees to find out if they originate from Australia, where they got their name and any other interesting information. Ask the students to present their findings as a report to the class.
- Additionally, take the students on a nature walk within the school grounds to explore native trees. List which ones they find with their species name. Collect sample leaves to make a botanical journal of information, samples and drawings.

Reflect

- Have the students write a haiku poem about their chosen tree/s.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E1.5: The ancient fig tree

ACTIVITY 6: TWO APOLOGIES

Subthemes: Indigenous perspectives; Politics; Relationships

Discover

- The story in this episode is about two apologies:
 - 1 Laura's apology to Michaelis for sinking his dinghy and disposing of his dog's ashes
 - 2 Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Discuss the nature of an apology and why it is sometimes so hard to say sorry.



- As a class, discuss the differences between the two apologies in this story. Ask students to look at the script for Episode 1: 2008: Laura and find the scene where Laura apologises to Michaelis. She never really articulates what she did but the apology is understood and accepted anyway. Compare this with Prime Minister Rudd's apology speech where he clearly outlines all the actions and events he is apologising for.

Reflect

- Discuss the way in which Laura apologises and how Michaelis receives it. What do students think of this as an apology? Do they think it is good enough? Why or why not?
- Compare the ways in which both apologies are received by the people being apologised to. In Prime Minister Rudd's case these are the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, represented in this story by Auntie Bev and Laura's family, and in Laura's case, it is Michaelis.
- Using these discussion points as a guide, ask students to write a letter of apology to a teacher, friend or family member.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E1.6: Comparing apologies

Aligned resources

australianscreen, 'Rabbit-Proof Fence (2002)', <http://australianscreen.com.au/titles/rabbit-proof-fence>

Useful resources from The Le@rning Federation

R10332 Kevin Rudd's apology speech, 2008 - item 1 of 6

R10333 Kevin Rudd's apology speech, 2008 - item 2 of 6



Character profiles

1 After viewing the clip 'The apology', answer the following questions:

a Who are the key characters in this clip?

b How does the show focus your attention on Laura and her Auntie Bev?

c How is the camera used in this clip to draw attention to people and their feelings as the events unfold? Start with the scene in the kitchen when Laura and her family are preparing to go to watch the apology speech.

d What do you think Auntie Bev is thinking about when she is sitting quietly and Laura's mother asks her if she is all right?

e How do you think the older people in the room are feeling? How is Laura feeling? Why are they feeling this way?

2 The two main characters in this clip are Laura and Auntie Bev. Write a description of the event from Laura's point of view as she struggles to understand what is going on. Then write a description from Auntie Bev's perspective explaining how she is feeling on this day and why.

a From Laura's perspective:

b From Auntie Bev's perspective:



Choosing your words

- 1 After viewing the clip of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivering his apology speech, note any words or phrases he uses that are emotive or descriptive in the table below. Find out what these words or phrases mean. Do you think that they have an impact on the listener?

Words or phrases	Meaning

- a How do these words or phrases make you feel?

- b What was the intention of the Prime Minister when choosing his words?

- c Are these words or phrases successful in stressing the intent and meaning of his apology? Why or why not?

- 2 Look also at the use of repetition of the phrase 'we are sorry'. Why did the Prime Minister use the repetition of these words in the speech? Does this repetition add or detract from the power of the speech? Why or why not?

- 3 Write a one-minute speech on a topic of your choice and present it to the class.



The ancient fig tree

The ancient Moreton Bay fig tree provides a quiet place for Laura and her Aunty Bev, who was taken away from her family and is a member of the Stolen Generations. Laura sits close to her as she tells her poignant story.

- 1 Research the Moreton Bay fig. Where did it get this name? Find other interesting information to present as a report to the class.

- 2 Collect samples, make drawings and find as much information as you can about native trees in your area. Write a haiku poem about your chosen tree or trees.



Comparing apologies

The story in this episode is about two apologies: Laura's apology to Michaelis for the sinking his dinghy and disposing of his dog's ashes, and Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

- 1 Look at the script for Episode 1: 2008: Laura, and find the scene where Laura apologises to Michaelis. Consider the way she apologises and how Michaelis receives it. What do you think of this as an apology? Do you think it is good enough? Why or why not?

- 2 Compare the ways in which both apologies are received by the people being apologised to. In Prime Minister Rudd's case it is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, represented in this story by Aunty Bev and Laura's family, and in Laura's case, it is Michaelis.

- 3 Write a letter of apology to a teacher, friend or family member, keeping in mind what you have learned from the clip.

