



LEARNING GUIDE

Bridging Now to Next

The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2025 is "Bridging Now to Next". This theme encourages reflection on the past, present, and future, urging all Australians to work together towards a more united and respectful nation.

The theme's artwork, created by Kalkadoon woman Bree Buttenshaw, features native plants symbolizing resilience and renewal, as these plants are known to thrive after fire and adversity.

PAST

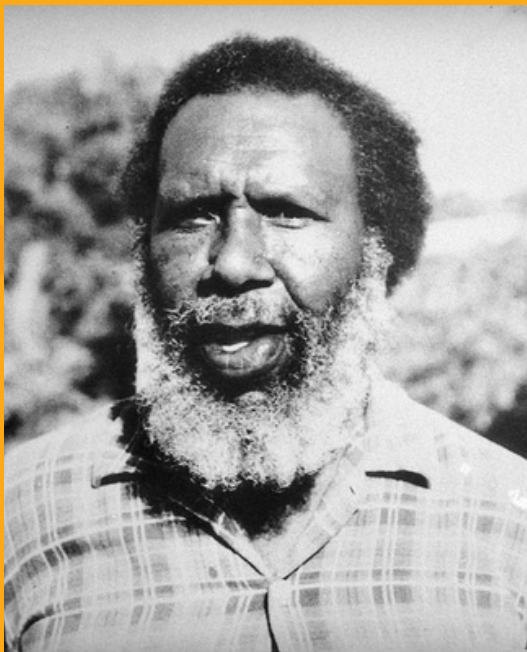
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trailblazers have paved the way for us all to follow. Beginning with some of the key events which are marked during National Reconciliation Week, look back at the historic pursuits for equity and respect led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Discuss the historical background (colonisation) that led to inequalities, and how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and individuals came together to challenge these injustices across the course of history, and together with the support of the broader non Aboriginal community have successfully ended many inequitable practices across the nation.



PAST

27th May marks the anniversary of the 1967 referendum when Australians voted to remove clauses in the Australian Constitution that discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Learn about some of the key people who fought for this change with a focus on the work of Faith Bandler and Pearl Gibbs



3rd June marks the historic 1992 Mabo decision in which the High Court of Australia recognised Native title—the recognition that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights over their lands did survive British colonisation. Learn about Eddie Mabo and his fight for the recognition of Native title.

The day before National Reconciliation Week, 26 May, is National Sorry Day, which was first held in Sydney in 1998 and is now commemorated nationally to remember and honour the Stolen Generations. Learn about what happened during the Stolen Generation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community members who fought to have an apology to recognise this.



PRESENT

Look at what contemporary issues Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people want solutions to, e.g. -

- Climate Change
- Cultural Sustainability
- Racism
- Treaty
- Truth telling

Research Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advocates and some of the advocacy that they are currently engaging in to create a better nation for us all.



Look at the way other workplaces, education sites and community members are supporting this work and discuss what you and your students are currently doing to support and uplift this work to create positive change.



NEXT

What are you going to do next?

Discuss achievable ways that you can commit to centring and amplifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices moving forwards into the future.

What can you do individually or as a group that commits to creating a respectful and united nation?

What can we do to show respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Culture at home, work and at school moving forwards?

Make a commitment individually, as a class and as a whole school of one thing that you will commit to do **NEXT** to create a more united and respectful nation.

FURTHER READING

There are some great books by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors that explore the past and present pursuits for equity, unity and respect.

- Always Was, Always Will Be by Aunty Fay Muir & Sue Lawson
- We are Australians by Duncan Smith & Nicole Godwin
- Our Flag Our Story: The Torres Strait Island Flag by Bernard Namok Jnr; Thomas Mayo; Tori- Jay Mordey
- Somebody's Land by Adam Goods and Ellie Lang
- Sorry Day by Coral Vass and Dub Leffler
- Took the Children Away by Archie Roach
- Freedom Day: Vincent Lingiari And the Story of the Wave Hill Walk-Off by Rosie Smiler, Thomas Mayor and Samantha Campbell
- Respect by Aunty Fay Muir & Sue Lawson
- Say Yes: A Story of Friendship, Fairness and a Vote for Hope by Jennifer Castles & Paul Seden



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025
**Bridging
Now to
Next**



Reconciliation
South Australia