

JULY

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week is held in the first full week of July. It's a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society. The AOTM could be linked to a NAIDOC Week assembly through considering a student who has embraced learning about the Indigenous culture.

Activity Options

Hold an Assembly

Open the assembly with an acknowledgement of the traditional land owners. Invite an Aboriginal Elder to conduct a smoking ceremony, or a musical performance. The Elder could give a speech on a story about Aboriginal culture regarding the Aboriginal flag, their food, arts and crafts, dreamtime or a significant historical event.

Learn an Aboriginal Language

The Australian Aboriginal languages consist of around 290–363 languages belonging to an estimated 28 language families and isolates. Let's aim to emphasise and celebrate the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in cultural identity, linking people to their land and water and in the transmission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and rites, through story and song.

Many place names for our suburbs, rivers, mountains and parks are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language words. Noticing and paying attention to these words will generate greater appreciation and respect for the significance of language among all Australians. Identify some of your local place or street names.

Talking Points

- Describing the concept of 'Indigenous people'.
- Understanding Aboriginal cultural significance.
- What is the history of the local Aboriginal people?
- Discuss some famous Aboriginal People who we have celebrated as Australians.

Resources

[NAIDOC Week Teacher Guide](#)
[Dot Painting Resource](#)

Who might you ask to present the award?

- An Aboriginal Elder
- An Aboriginal sports person or community representative



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National Tree Day

National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day combine to make Australia's biggest community tree-planting and nature care event. Coordinated by Planet Ark, these are special days for all Australians to help planting and caring for native trees and shrubs. National Tree Day started in 1996 and since then more than 3 million people have planted 23 million seedlings every year, on this day.

Each year, around 200 000 Australian students participate in a special National Tree Day event designed just for children! It is a wonderful opportunity to get kids into nature and instill a love for the great outdoors, as well as teach them the importance of environmental stewardship and taking care of the planet.

Activity Options

Plant a Tree

Students could raise funds to contribute to purchasing a tree. The class then plants the tree within the school grounds on National Tree Day. Another option is for teachers to contact the National Tree Day Hotline on **1300 88 5000** or local council, to ask if the council would provide a tree and a location where the class could plant it.

Resources

[Planet Ark](#)

[Why Plant a Tree?](#)

[Schools Activity Guide](#)

Talking Points

- Importance and significance of trees to our environment
- Beautify your school and attract birds and other wildlife
- The consequences of the erosion of the world's forests

Who might you invite to present the award?

- A member of the local council
- An environmentalist
- An environmental science student from your local university

