

RECONCILIATION IN EDUCATION



LESSON PLAN

Stereotypes

Teacher provocation

"Myths are powerful. They influence the way we think about things of which we might not have direct experience. The most difficult relationship is not between black and white people but between white Australians and the symbols created by their predecessors. Most Australians do not know how to relate to Aboriginal people. They relate to stories told by former colonists. Individual Australians need to bust these powerful and often destructive myths by setting the record straight about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fellow citizens." - Marcia Langton Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies, University of Melbourne

Reading the above quote, are you aware of the stereotypes that exist that might be impactful on your relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and the broader community?

Links to the Curriculum

- Cross curriculum priorities
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

Links to frameworks

Educators challenge practices that contribute to inequities and make curriculum decisions that promote inclusion and participation of all children.

Dimensions of Reconciliation

Race relations: Positive two-way relationships built on trust and respect exist between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians throughout society.

Inquiry Questions

- What have you learned about Aboriginal culture?
- What have you learned about Torres Strait Islander culture?
- What myths have you heard about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?
- What do you know about the ways that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live, eat, work, and play?

Activities

Break stereotypes

Make sure that you have books and posters that show people in different work, living in different places, doing different things. There are some stereotypes that exist in Australia for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, so research what these might be and actively work to show a variety of First Nations people doing different things.

Invite First Nations people into your classroom

The best way to break down stereotypes is for students to meet people that do not fit a preconceived idea. Inviting First Nations people into your classroom to tell their stories is a simple and effective way that you can amplify First Nations voices, while also showing your students a diversity of thinking, feeling and being in Australia.

Share our pride

The Share our pride tool is an excellent way of learning about First Nations people to foster respectful and reciprocal relationships. The section called "Beyond the myths" is a great place to start when talking to students about stereotypes. Explore what some of the common misconceptions are about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and empower students to learn and share the truth. Go to the website [here](#).

Amplify First Nations voices

There are an incredible array of films and short videos where First Nations people are sharing about their identity. These are great for amplifying the voices of First Nations people in a virtual way and can often be a beginning step to learning about differences, and understanding the different ways that people live in Australia. The documentary called Who we are - Brave new clan is a great place to start, for different perspectives from 6 young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Media critique

Using the cool Australia resources for the Final Quarter, do a media critique with a focus on the way the media portrays Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and think about if the portrayal is fair, if the portrayal reinforces stereotypes, how the portrayal might contribute to how the broader community views Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people might feel as a result? Find the resources [here](#).

USEFUL RESOURCES AND LINKS

Narragunnawali - Who we are curriculum resources

The who we are resources on the Narragunnawali page are a great way of showing a variety of people and how they live.

Share our pride

The Share our pride website is an informative tool. This website will give you a glimpse of how life looks from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective. Visit the website [here](#).

Reconciliation Insights - Media

This resource created by Reconciliation Australia has some great insights into the media portrayal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the impact of this on Reconciliation in Australia.

