Main Topic: Identity
Sub Topic: Celebrations

Please note:
Excellent resources and activities for this theme are contained within the Lower Primary Teachers Resource Book of the Scholastic Reconciliation Kit, connected to the big book Festivals.

Excellent resources and activities for this theme are contained within the Upper Primary Teachers Resource Book of the Scholastic Reconciliation Kit, connected to the book Celebrating.

- **Dig It: Festivals and Celebrations** (DVD) is a good introduction to this topic. In the DVD, students are presented with information about NAIDOC week, Ramadan, Anzac Day and Chinese New Year in Australia and how festivals and celebrations define our community and preserve our heritage and culture.

- Brainstorm holidays and significant events which are celebrated in Australia.
  - Anzac Day
  - Labour Day
  - Christmas
  - NAIDOC
  - Pentecost
  - Queen’s Birthday
  - Australia Day
  - Melbourne Cup
  - Valentine’s Day
  - Ramadan
  - - Foundation Day
  - - Easter
  - - Harmony Day
  - - Chinese New Year
  - - Hanukah

  ○ What is the significance of each event?
  ○ How is each occasion celebrated?
  ○ Do all Australians celebrate all the events?
  ○ For which cultural groups are the celebrations significant?
  ○ Are they religious, social, political or historical events?
  ○ How long do the celebrations last?
  ○ What special foods are eaten or not eaten (fasting)?
  ○ Are there special ceremonies associated with them?
  ○ Are the participants actively involved?

- Read the big book Festivals from Scholastic Reconciliation Kit. Discuss the events that celebrate or commemorate Aboriginal people and culture.
  - NAIDOC
  - Survival Day
  - Sorry Day
  - Reconciliation Week
  - Mabo Day
  - Anniversary of the Bringing Them Home Report
  - Anniversary of the National Apology 13th Feb
  - World Day of the Indigenous Child 4th Aug
  - Human Rights Day 10th December
  - Coming of the Light (TSI)
  - Aboriginal Sunday (1st Sunday in July)

- Identify the similar characteristics of all the celebrations as identified in the Festivals big book:
  ○ Food
  ○ Dancing
- Singing/Music
- Special clothes or make-up
- Friends and family

- Discuss: Have students ever attended or participated in any of these events? How did they participate? How did it make them feel?

- Discuss the significance of these days for Aboriginal people. Discuss the significance of these days for all Australians.

- Read Christ the King Celebrations from the Stories from Kimberley Catholic Schools series. List the ways that people from the Djarindjin Lombadina community celebrate their parish feast day.

- On The Way To The Ceremony is a board game from the NNBNN kit. In playing the game, students are directed to focus on the various aspects of celebrations and ceremonies.

- Read the book Corroboree. Using a map of your local region identify the places where celebrations are held today and where they were held in the past. Identify the route that people would have taken to get to the celebration. Remember Aboriginal people would have walked and collected food on the way to the ceremony so their progress would not have been as quick as is today. Their path would have followed the easiest route such as along a river or through valleys. Identify modern day roads which follow a similar path.

- The 26th of January is celebrated as Australia Day for many Australians and Survival Day for others. Identify the reasons for each and investigate the events organised to mark the day.  

- One People Sing Freedom documents the largest gathering of Indigenous people since 1788, a protest march against the bicentennial celebrations of 26 January 1988. While most white Australians celebrated the 200th anniversary, some Aboriginal people commemorated the event in mourning. While hundreds of thousands of people packed the foreshores of Sydney harbour for the celebration, Aboriginal people from all over Australia marched in protest through Sydney.

- Australian Screen Online (ASO) offers access to 3 clips from the documentary at: http://aso.gov.au/titles/tv/one-people-sing-freedom

- Australia is a multicultural nation and many Australian people continue to celebrate occasions which are significant to their country of origin. Discuss how celebrating significant events helps people maintain their cultural identity.

- Harmony Day is an opportunity for all Australians to celebrate the cultural diversity of Australia. Many schools celebrate Harmony Day. Discuss the concept of Harmony Day. Brainstorm with students a new event which would celebrate all Australians and our cultural diversity? Students can give this occasion a special name and develop a plan for celebrating the event at their school?
- Speak with the Principal and other teaching staff about what will need to be done?
- Organise the Welcome to Country
- Advertise the event: make a poster or banner that depicts this new event; create a radio jingle to advertise the day
- Publicity: contact your local newspaper; organise a photographer to record the event.
- Write an invitation to the principal of your school, parents and other important people in your community.
- Plan a ‘feast’ menu for the day.
- How will you cater for the day?
- How should the classrooms or school be decorated for the day?
- Will students dress in a particular way or colour to symbolise the day?
- Select a song / piece of music that represents your day
- Students and other people in your school community could perform
- Plan special games or activities

- NAIDOC day or week, is for celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures. Plan the NAIDOC celebration for your school

- If you were to become Prime Minister and set aside one day for public celebration of Australia’s Aboriginal peoples and cultures what would this day be called. How should this day be celebrated?

- Watch the video Jardiwampa Walpiri Fire Ceremony or Kawayawayama: Aeroplane Dance.
  - Jardiwampa Walpiri Fire Ceremony follows the Warlpiri people as they live out their law and culture in a series of traditional ceremonies, culminating in the Warlpiri fire ceremony. The ceremony is performed every few years and airs out conflict between people and allows them to honour family obligations.
  - Kawayawayama: Aeroplane Dance records a story of the Yanyuwa people of the Borroloola area, NT. The dance was created after an American "Liberator" bomber crashed in the area in December 1942

- Australian Screen Online shares 3 clips from the Jardiwampa video at: http://aso.gov.au/titles/documentaries/jardiwampa-blood-brothers

- Discuss the activities and conversations that take place between Aboriginal elders and their children in the lead up to one of the ceremonies. This could be extended to a writing activity.

- Encourage children to understand that many traditional Aboriginal songs and dances which are performed during celebrations and ceremonies are about hunting animals for food or of stories from the Dreaming. These dances have been passed down through many generations and will continue to be passed on to the next generation of dancers into the future.

- Invite a dance group to perform and talk to the students about the role of dancing within a corroboree or ceremony.

• Ask members of your local Aboriginal community to take students to visit an area in which local Aboriginal people have held or continue to hold their celebrations. Students should take note of the information given about who attends, when the celebration occurs and what activities are undertaken. Construct a mural depicting this place using materials from the local environment. Discuss how uses of this place may have changed over the years.

• Invite a local Aboriginal Elder into the classroom to discuss the meeting places of significance to the local Aboriginal community. Have they always been the meeting place? If not why not? Has European settlement changed the way Aboriginal people use their sites for social gatherings? What happened at these places? Did all the men, women and children go? Why or why not?

• Encourage students to understand that different types of food are available in different climates and different seasons. For example, show a mango from the north and examine fruits which are ‘in season’. Discuss how many traditional peoples including Aboriginal people had no shops to buy food – they had to hunt and gather food or eat those foods which were seasonally available as crops and that today many of these traditional foods are incorporated within our ceremonies and celebrations. Create posters or charts depicting the foods used within Australian ceremonies or celebrations. Identify where they come from and at what time of the year they are available.

  ○ Mango Festival – Broome
  ○ Springtime in The Valley – Swan Valley
  ○ Wine Festivals – Margaret River and Mt Barker
  ○ Ngan Girra (Bogong Moth) Festival – near Albury, NSW

Resources

• Park, L. *Festivals*. Scholastic, Lindfield, NSW. 2002

• Briggs, S. *Celebrating*. Scholastic, Lindfield, NSW. 2002

• *Lower Primary Teachers Book*. Reconciliation Kit. Scholastic, Lindfield, NSW. 2002

• *Upper Primary Teachers Book*. Reconciliation Kit. Scholastic, Lindfield, NSW. 2002

• Wallam, A. & Kelly, S. *Corroboree*. Cygnet Books, UWA Press. 2004

• *On the way to the ceremony* (game) from *Nidja Noongar Boodjar Noonook Nyininy*(kit). Catholic Education Office, Leederville & Murdoch University, Perth. 2000

• Djarindjin Lombadina Catholic School. *Christ the king celebrations*. Stories

- *Dig it: festivals and celebrations* (DVD), VEA, Bendigo, VIC, 2003. 28min.
- *Jardiwampa, a Walpiri fire ceremony* (video) Film Australia, NSW, 2006. 55min.
- *Ka-wayawayama: aeroplane dance* (video) produced and directed by Trevor Graham. Film Australia, Lindfield, NSW. 1994. 59min.
- *One people sing freedom* (DVD) ABC TV, 1988, 50min.