Main Topic: Social and Political
Sub Topic: Missions and Reserves

- Watch the DVD *Sisters Pearls and Mission Girls* about the St John of God sisters and the Beagle Bay Mission in the Kimberley.


- List as many positive and negative points regarding the effect that missions had on the Aboriginal people in *Sisters Pearls and Mission Girls*.

- On a map of Western Australia pinpoint the places where missions and reserves were established and identify the similarities and differences.

- Discuss with students how and why missions came to be established in Australia. What role did the missionaries play?

- Timeline – During what period of Australian history did Missionaries come to Australia to “civilise” the Aboriginal people?

- Missions & Reserves for Aboriginal people were established by groups of missionaries all over Australia. Read about some outside of WA at: [www.teachers.ash.org.au/dnuttting/germanaustralia/e/hermannsbq.htm](http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/dnuttting/germanaustralia/e/hermannsbq.htm)

- Research a mission or reserve in Western Australia, clearly identifying:
  - location
  - administrators
  - why it was established
  - when it was established
  - if it still exists or how long it existed
  - for whom it catered
  - first hand accounts of people who lived there
  - what the living conditions were like
  - how people were treated
  - what the residents did each day

- The DVDs *Taking the Children*, *The 1905 Act* and *Old Country New Country* have information about some missions and reserves in Western Australia.


- Students create an artwork in response to the information and how it makes them feel.

Resources:

• Green, N. Aborigines of New Norcia 1845 – 1914. UWA Press, Nedlands, WA, 1989


• Nannup, A. When the pelican laughed. Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 5th Fremantle, WA, 1992

• Templeton, R. & Jackson, S. Tell me why. Magabala Books, Broome, WA, 2005

• Show us a light : the child artists of Carrolup. A film by Nancy Jones. (DVD) Blue Film & Video. 28min.


• Rabbit Proof Fence (DVD). 2002

• Pilkington, D. Follow the Rabbit Proof Fence. UQP, St Lucia, QLD, 1996.

• Old country, new country: an Aboriginal history of Western Australia from the Dreaming to Reconciliation. (DVD). Ed Dept of WA, Perth, 1999.

• Taking the children : Western Australia’s Stolen Generations (DVD). Stolen Generations Alliance.