Main Topic: Social and Political
Sub Topic: Reconciliation

- The websites for Reconciliation Australia: [www.reconciliation.org.au](http://www.reconciliation.org.au) and Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR): [www.antar.org.au](http://www.antar.org.au) are a good place to start to find out what Reconciliation is and what each of us can do to promote it.

- Discuss with students the key issues of Reconciliation, as presented in the interviews on the Reconciliation Australia website (Opinions)
  - Sorry
  - Health
  - Land & Culture
  - Language & Education
  - True Reconciliation

- Discuss with students the Respect Campaign on the ANTaR website.

- Discuss with students the key issues of Reconciliation, as defined in the books:
  - 1. Understanding Country
  - 2. Improving relationships
  - 3. Valuing cultures
  - 4. Sharing histories
  - 5. Addressing disadvantage
  - 6. Responding to custody levels
  - 7. Agreeing on a document,
  - 8. Controlling destinies

- Become familiar with the FLARES model for Reconciliation from the book Reconciliation: It Starts With Me! Ask students to develop an activity around one of the elements of the model which could be implemented in the school:
  - FAITH
  - LEARNING
  - ACTION
  - RESPECT
  - EMPATHY
  - SHARING

- There are some great lesson ideas in the Upper Primary Teachers’ Book of the Scholastic Reconciliation Kit, linked to the books Walking for Reconciliation and Took the Children.

- Listen to the songs and stories in Reconciliation: Songs of the Heart, Sounds of the Rock. There are teaching activities in the Study Guide and in the Scholastic Reconciliation Upper Primary Teacher Resource Book.

- Watch the moving reconciliation story Bridge over Myall Creek, an episode of ABC’s Australian Story. Discuss how the characters’ search for the truth and acknowledgement of the injustice of the past situation, led to reconciliation for many.

- Create a timeline of Reconciliation events in Australian history:
○ The National Apology to the Stolen Generations
○ The handing over of Gurindji land
○ The Bridge Walks
○ The 1967 Referendum

- Read a story or show a film that tells a story of the Stolen Generations:
  ○ *Rabbit Proof Fence*
  ○ *Tell Me Why* – Robyn Templeton & Sarah Jackson
  ○ *Lowitja* – Lowitja O’Donoghue
  ○ *The Burnt Stick* - Anthony Hill
  ○ *Koomal* – Cedric Jacobs
  ○ *Idjihil* – Helen Bell
  ○ *The Diary of Mary Talence Sydney 1937* (My Story series) – Anita Heiss

- Check out the PALS (*Partnership, Acceptance, Learning, Sharing*) website: [http://pals.dia.wa.gov.au](http://pals.dia.wa.gov.au) and create a PALS Reconciliation Project in your school or do one in collaboration with another school and the Aboriginal community.

- Research people, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, who are or were activists in the Reconciliation movement.

- Students brainstorm how they can promote Reconciliation in the school, class and community.

- Make a Reconciliation banner.

- Invite a local Aboriginal Elder to come and discuss Reconciliation with the students.

- Collect newspaper, magazines and other articles related to Reconciliation and display.

- Student’s write down what Reconciliation means to them.
  ○ a story
  ○ a poem
  ○ an acrostic
  ○ a song

- Make an *Acknowledgement to Country* at every school assembly and ensure that a *Welcome to Country* is undertaken at all major school functions and ceremonies.

- Create a Reconciliation garden in your school, with plants that connect to your local area.

- Make an art collage ‘Bridge of Reconciliation’.

- Invite a person from your local Reconciliation Group to come and talk to your students.

- Make a ‘Reconciliation’ art piece using graffiti art.

- Mark significant days throughout the year with a liturgy, mass or other
ceremony. See calendar of dates from CEO website.

- **Attend Reconciliation events in your town or community**

- **Hold a Reconciliation event at your school**
  - Invite people from the local Aboriginal community
  - Invite an Aboriginal band to play or play recorded music by Aboriginal people or songs with a Reconciliation theme
  - Invite other students to write prayers on coloured card and tie on rope around the school as prayer flags
  - Create a school reconciliation banner
  - Weave wrist bands using colours that symbolise the things required for reconciliation to take place
  - Invite students to write their ideas for & about reconciliation on Graffitit Boards
  - Paint a reconciliation mural somewhere in your school

- **Play the Bridge to Reconciliation board game**

- **Students make their own Bridge to Reconciliation board game, creating questions & answers about Aboriginal and Islander people, culture and history.**

- **Last but definitely not least . . . it is important to relate to the sacrament of Reconciliation as students will be more familiar with this concept. It is no accident that it is the same word:**
  - Reflect on what has happened to create a difficult relationship
  - Apologise
  - Vow that it will not happen again

**Resources:**

- **Katta Djinnoong Gallery WA Museum**

- **Aboriginal Reconciliation** in Issues in Society, vol 234  


- **Cunnungham,J. Lowitja. Scholastic, Lindfield, NSW. 2002**

- **Yarra Healing** [www.yarrahealing.melb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.yarrahealing.melb.catholic.edu.au)

- **Bridge over Myall Creek.** Australian Story. ABC TV, 2001. 30min.  
  [www.abc.net.au/programsales/s1122420.htm - 28](http://www.abc.net.au/programsales/s1122420.htm - 28)

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

- **Hill, A. The Burnt Stick.** Penguin/Viking, 1994

• *Scholastic Reconciliation Program*. Scholastic, Lindfield, NSW, 2002


• Carnegie, J. *Reconciliation: it starts with me*. Passionfruit Education, VIC, 2000