

## 7.

## Using sources

## Local history project activity sheet

In this activity, you will research and investigate the history of the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families in your local area. Teachers may wish to arrange with local elders or Land Council representatives to come into the classroom and talk to students about local Aboriginal communities and the Stolen Generation.

To discover more about your local history, you can use a range of different information sources.

### 1. Getting started

The aim of your research is to find out about what has happened in your area to see how national and state processes impact on local spaces. Do a brief search on the internet for some information on your area and its history. You should explore the early history of your area – when was it discovered/established; who are the important historical figures; who were/are the local Indigenous people?

After finding out the name of the local Indigenous people in your area, use a search engine to see if any information is available online.

### 2. Beginning the research

The next step is to do the research. The internet is a starting place for research, putting you in connection with a range of information on a wide range of issues. However, it is important to remember to look at a range of different resources when researching to ensure that you get information from a range of perspectives and sources.

You could go to any of the following places to find out more about your area:

- school library/local library
- local history societies
- local government archives
- local Aboriginal Land Council, or Aboriginal Community Council
- Aboriginal language centres
- Local Aboriginal co-operations and housing organisations
- Local Indigenous organisations
- local press
- Indigenous newspapers such as Koori Mail, National Indigenous Times, Land Rights News
- church archives
- Link – Up groups

Be creative with what kind of information you get. Often, pictures and music can be just as informative and revealing. As you go along, keep track of what you do and where you go. Keep a log of what material you have read and, if possible, make copies of any images or important bits of information.

### Where to look?

Government archives could help you out with information about your area. For instance, the National Archives have begun an indexing project based on recommendations from the *Bringing them home* report.

The indexing project involves the identification and preservation of Commonwealth records relating to Indigenous people and communities. There is an index to the names of Indigenous people contained in the records. The name index contains:

- names of Indigenous people
- names of non-Indigenous people including relatives, missionaries, police, patrol officers and teachers who were associated with Indigenous people, and
- names of missions and institutions where Indigenous people were placed.

The indexing project covers records held by the National Archives in Canberra and Darwin – primarily concerning Northern Territory Indigenous peoples. The index also contains some entries about Indigenous people from other states. To make an enquiry about a particular person or institution, you can contact the National Archives by email or if you live nearby drop in.

For more information on the resources you can access via National Archives check out:  
[http://www.naa.gov.au/Publications/fact\\_sheets/FS169.html](http://www.naa.gov.au/Publications/fact_sheets/FS169.html).

You can contact National Archives via the details below:

### National Archives

Queen Victoria Terrace Parkes ACT 2600  
 Tel: 02 6212 3600  
 Fax: 02 6212 3999  
 Email: [archives@naa.gov.au](mailto:archives@naa.gov.au)  
 Web: <http://www.naa.gov.au/>

### State archives

State archives are also good sources of information. You can contact your state archives via the contact details below.

#### ACT Government Territory Records Office

Customer Services and Information  
 GPO Box 158  
 Canberra ACT 2601  
 Tel: 02 6207 0194  
 Email: [david.wardle@act.gov.au](mailto:david.wardle@act.gov.au)  
 Web: <http://www.territoryrecords.act.gov.au/>

#### State Records of NSW

PO Box 516  
 Kingswood NSW 2747  
 Tel: 02 9673 1788  
 Fax: 02 9833 4518  
 Email: [srecords@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto:srecords@records.nsw.gov.au)  
 Web: <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>

#### Northern Territory Archives Service

2nd Floor  
 25 Cavenagh Street  
 Darwin NT 0800  
 Tel: (08) 8924 7677.  
 Fax: (08) 8924 7660.  
 Email: [nt.archives@nt.gov.au](mailto:nt.archives@nt.gov.au)  
 Web: <http://www.nt.gov.au/dcis/nta/>

#### Queensland State Archives

435 Compton Road  
 Runcorn  
 QLD 4113  
 Tel: (07) 3131 7777  
 Fax: (07) 3131 7764  
 Email: [info@archives.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@archives.qld.gov.au)  
 Web: <http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/>

#### State Records of South Australia

GPO Box 1072  
 Adelaide SA 5001  
 Tel: (08) 8204 8773  
 Fax: (08) 8204 8777  
 Email: [srsarecordsmanagement@saug.sa.gov.au](mailto:srsarecordsmanagement@saug.sa.gov.au)  
 Web: <http://www.archives.sa.gov.au/>

#### Archives Office of Tasmania

77 Murray Street  
 Hobart Tasmania 7000  
 Tel: 03 6233 7488  
 Fax: 03 6233 7471  
 Email: [archives.tasmania@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:archives.tasmania@education.tas.gov.au)  
 Web: <http://www.archives.tas.gov.au/>

**Public Record Office, Victoria**

Level 2, Casselden Place,  
2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000.  
Tel: (03) 9348 5600  
Fax: (03) 93485656  
Email: [prov.agency.queries@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:prov.agency.queries@dpc.vic.gov.au)  
Web: <http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/>

**State Records Office of Western Australia**

Alexander Library Building  
James Street West Entrance  
Perth Cultural Centre  
Perth WA 6000  
Tel: (08) 9427 3360  
Fax: (08) 9427 3368  
Email: [sro@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:sro@sro.wa.gov.au)  
Web: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/>

### National Library's Oral History Project – *Many Voices: Reflections on experiences of Indigenous child separation*

Since 1998, the National Library of Australia, with funding from the federal government, has been recording narratives about the separation of children from their families. Indigenous community members, those who fostered or adopted children, policy makers, administrators, and others have shared their individual experiences.

*Many Voices: Reflections on experiences of Indigenous child separation*, explores the oral histories of individuals involved in the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. It has recently been released by the National Library of Australia and includes a CD with sound recordings of some of the stories included in the book.

For more information about the National Library's Oral History Project visit: <http://www.nla.gov.au/oh/bth/>

Aboriginal history organisations:

- Koorie Heritage Trust (Southern Australia)
- AIATSIS (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies)
- Indigenous Educational Institutions – (eg. Tramby, Tandanya)

Stolen Generation organisations:

- Link-Ups
- Sorry Day Committee
- Stolen Generation Alliance

## 3. Organising information

After you have made some decisions about your presentation it is time to organise the information you have discovered.

A good way of doing this is breaking it up using the basic questions we all ask in research: when, where, what, why, who and how.

Use the table below to organise your notes.

Questions	Your notes
<p><b>When?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When did colonisation begin?</li> <li>• When was your town/suburb established?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>What happened?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the name of the Indigenous people concerned?</li> <li>• What are the basic facts/stories?</li> <li>• Are there differences of opinion?</li> <li>• If so, what are these?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Who?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who was the first European to arrive in your area?</li> <li>• Who did it affect?</li> <li>• What people were involved?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Why?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why were Indigenous children removed?</li> <li>• Are there differences of opinion?</li> <li>• If so, what are they?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Other information</b></p> <p>(this is where you write in information that may not relate to the questions, but that you still think is important)</p>	

