

What is NAIDOC Week?

The acronym 'NAIDOC' stands for the National 'Aborigines' and Islanders' Day Observance Committee. The committee works to raise awareness of the unique histories, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are regarded as the oldest surviving culture in the world. NAIDOC Week provides an opportunity for all Australian people, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to celebrate and honour this culture. Every year, the National NAIDOC Committee selects a theme for NAIDOC Week.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a deep and lasting connection to the land, sea and sky. It is believed that they are one with the natural environment; therefore, one cannot be separated from the other. Because of this spiritual bond, the land, sea and sky are sacred places for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Rivers, beaches, mountains, forests and caves (just to name a few) are places of special significance and are used as a meeting place for traditional cultural gatherings.

Every year during NAIDOC Week, an awards ceremony is held in one of Australia's cities. The National NAIDOC Awards are an opportunity to celebrate the significant contributions of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander peoples across many fields of endeavour.



What is NAIDOC Week? Questions

1) What is the main focus of the NAIDOC Committee?

2) Research what this year's NAIDOC Week theme is and which city it will be celebrated in.

3) In your own words, explain why the land, sea and sky are so sacred to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

4) What is the purpose of the National NAIDOC Awards?

5) Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

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| a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are very new cultures. | True / False |
| b) NAIDOC Week is a celebration only for Indigenous Australians. | True / False |
| c) Every year, the NAIDOC Committee selects a theme for NAIDOC Week. | True / False |
| d) The land, sea and sky is sacred to Indigenous Australians. | True / False |

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Answers

1) What is the main focus of the NAIDOC Committee?

The NAIDOC committee works to raise awareness of the unique histories, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

2) Research what this year's NAIDOC Week theme is and which city it will be celebrated in.

Answers will vary from year to year.

3) In your own words, explain why the land, sea and sky are so sacred to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples believe they are one with the natural environment; therefore, one cannot be separated from the other. Because of this spiritual bond, the land, sea and sky are sacred places for them.

4) What is the purpose of the National NAIDOC Awards?

The National NAIDOC Awards are an opportunity to celebrate the significant contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across many fields of endeavour.

5) Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are very new cultures. | False |
| b) NAIDOC Week is a celebration only for Indigenous Australians. | False |
| c) Every year, the NAIDOC Committee selects a theme for NAIDOC Week. | True |
| d) The land, sea and sky is sacred to Indigenous Australians. | True |