

10.

Global comparison

Activity sheet

Why are comparisons important?

Making comparisons between things can often help develop our understanding of them. We become aware of differences and similarities between things we might normally take for granted by seeing them in isolation. For example, by comparing histories we can see what differences and similarities exist, how these differences come about (what factors and conditions are operating) and what the dominant trends are.

Part A – Drawing comparisons

Recommended pre-reading: *Australia – A national overview* resource sheet

1. Read the section on Australia and one or two other countries that have a history of colonisation (Canada, New Zealand, or South Africa).
2. Fill in the following chart below, highlighting key experiences of colonisation and the impact on Indigenous peoples. (Use extra paper for more than one comparison)

Key questions	Australia	Other
1. What was the immediate impact of settlement on the Indigenous people of this region?		
2. Was trade an important part of early colonisation? If so, describe the impact of trade in this region.		
3. List some impacts of expansion of the colony on Indigenous people. Did 'frontier wars' or any other form of conflict occur?		
4. Were Indigenous children separated from their families and communities in this country?		

Key questions	Australia	Other
5. Describe any resistance to colonial governments from Indigenous people. What type of conflict was there, if any?		
6. Describe some of the efforts made by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people (including government) to live together harmoniously.		

Part B – Differences and similarities

- Using the information above and also drawing on any other general points you have noticed write down three differences and similarities between experiences of colonisation in two of the above countries. Your examples can be quite specific or general.

	Differences	Similarities
1.		
2.		
3.		

2. Think about your response to the following questions for class discussion.

- What differences did you notice between what happened in different countries?
- Can you explain how these differences came about? What factors contributed to these differences?
- What are the similarities?
- What new information have you learned about the removal of Indigenous children from their families?
- Discuss some reasons for European nations to set up colonies throughout the world. What were the main reasons for Britain to set up a penal colony in Australia?
- Were the reasons similar or different to those in New Zealand, South Africa or Canada?

Part C – Writing an exposition

Expositions may be written:

- to persuade readers to agree with a writer's particular point of view or thesis
- to compare and/or contrast topics and develop a case that will persuade the reader that the writer's premise is correct
- to analyse the topic, presenting all points of view and stating the logical conclusion or expecting that the reader will form a logical conclusion based on the information provided by the writer.

Expositions may be in the form of essays, letters, policies, critical reviews, advertisements.

Write an exposition on issues relating to the treatment of Indigenous children in the countries discussed above. Choose one of the questions and follow the steps below.

Option one	Option two
<p><i>'Six o'clock, out of bed, wash ... Talk like whites, behave like whites, pray like whites. Be white.'</i></p> <p>(extract from <i>Six O'Clock ... Outa Bed</i>, by James Miller, 1994)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent were the aims of the assimilation policies (in Australia) to make Indigenous people 'white'? • Where there similarities in the way assimilation policies of different countries valued 'white' at the expense of Indigenous cultures? • Were there any practices evident that explicitly targeted the destruction of Indigenous culture and identity? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the economic and political effects of imperialism for Indigenous communities? • How widespread were these effects for the individual, family and community? • Were there other effects – such as psychological, health, emotional or cultural? <p>(Explain with reference to Australia's experience and the experience of colonisation in Canada, New Zealand or South Africa.)</p>

1. Think about the question in light of what you have already learnt about the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

2. Is the question asking you to:

- Present a persuasive argument?
- Compare or contrast positions or arguments?
- Analyse all points of view, making a final argument for one of those views?

3. Write a thesis (a statement of the basic position you will take). This should be stated in the beginning of your exposition (introduction) and restated at the end (conclusion).

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4. Using the table below, write down three points that support your thesis and three points which support the argument against your thesis. These will form the basis of your argument and the body of your exposition.

Exposition – Presenting both sides of the argument	
Your thesis:	
Arguments to support your thesis: 1. 2. 3.	Supporting evidence:
Arguments against your thesis: 1. 2. 3.	Supporting evidence:
Conclusion or summary:	

With these points, you can start writing your response to the question. Remember that you are trying to persuade your reader.