

Name: _____

Date: _____

What Is NAIDOC Week?

NAIDOC Week celebrates and honours Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures. The week occurs annually in July, usually including the second Friday. This day was historically celebrated as 'National Aboriginal Day'. NAIDOC Week provides an opportunity for all Australian people to recognise the history and achievements of our First Nations peoples.

The acronym 'NAIDOC' originally stood for the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. In the past, this committee was responsible for organising events during NAIDOC Week. These days, NAIDOC has become the name of the week itself. The new name for the organising committee is the National NAIDOC Committee (NNC). The NNC makes important decisions about NAIDOC Week, such as choosing the annual theme, the focus city and the various competition and award winners.

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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across many fields of endeavour. The National NAIDOC Poster Competition is also held in the lead up to NAIDOC Week.

There are many ways you can celebrate NAIDOC Week in your community or at your school. You might like to:

- research the traditional owners of the land upon which you live
- write a biography of a notable First Nations Australian
- create a poster or artwork about this year's theme
- invite a local Elder to speak to your class about their culture
- visit a local historical site to learn about its significance.

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Comprehension Questions

1. What is celebrated and honoured during NAIDOC Week?

2. What are some of the roles performed by the National NAIDOC Committee?

3. What is the purpose of the National NAIDOC Awards?

4. Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| a) NAIDOC Week occurs annually in August. | True / False |
| b) NAIDOC Week is a celebration only for First Nations people. | True / False |
| c) Every year, the NNC selects a theme for NAIDOC Week. | True / False |
| d) An awards ceremony takes place during NAIDOC Week. | True / False |
| e) Schools are unable to celebrate NAIDOC Week. | True / False |

5. List three ways that you might celebrate NAIDOC Week that are NOT listed in the comprehension text.

Answers

1. What is celebrated and honoured during NAIDOC Week?

NAIDOC Week celebrates and honours Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures.

2. What are some of the roles performed by the National NAIDOC Committee?

The National NAIDOC Committee makes important decisions about NAIDOC Week, such as choosing the annual theme, the focus city and the various competition and award winners.

3. 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.

4. Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

- | | |
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| a) NAIDOC Week occurs annually in August. | False |
| b) NAIDOC Week is a celebration only for First Nations people. | False |
| c) Every year, the NNC selects a theme for NAIDOC Week. | True |
| d) An awards ceremony takes place during NAIDOC Week. | True |
| e) Schools are unable to celebrate NAIDOC Week. | False |

5. List three ways that you might celebrate NAIDOC Week that are NOT listed in the comprehension text.

Answers will vary but could include: learning about First Nations history and culture, learning some First Nations vocabulary, attending a community event.