

NAME:

Year 6 – Stolen Generations

Complete the Y chart below, describing what you think life would have looked like, felt like and sounded like for Indigenous Australians during the Stolen Generations. Think about what it would be like to be separated from your own family.

The Y chart is divided into three sections:

- SOUNDS LIKE** (Yellow section, top): Accompanied by an ear icon and a speaker icon.
- LOOKS LIKE** (Light Blue section, bottom-left): Accompanied by an eye icon.
- FEELS LIKE** (Light Grey section, bottom-right): Accompanied by a brain icon.

Teacher Guide – Year 6 – Stolen Generations

1. What was the responsibility of the Chief Protector or the Protection Board? (page 8)
How did they infringe on the rights of Indigenous Australians?

The Chief Protector or Protection Board had the power to control almost every aspect of the lives of Indigenous Australians. In some States, the Chief Protector was made the legal guardian of all Indigenous Australian children and he could assume custody if he believed it was in the child's interest to do so. They infringed on the rights of Indigenous Australians by regulating their movement on and off reserves and regulating their right to marry and gain employment. The Chief Protector or Protection Board forcibly removed many Indigenous Australian children from their families.

2. Read the lyrics or listen to the song 'Took the Children Away' by Archie Roach
<https://genius.com/Archie-roach-took-the-children-away-lyrics>

- a. What do you think is meant by the line, "Like the promises they did not keep and how they fenced us in like sheep"?

"Like the promises they did not keep" refers to the promises made by government authorities who removed the children from their families. They had promised to give them a good life and educate them, among other things. None of these things were done and most of the Stolen Generation children endured great hardships. "How they fenced us in like sheep" refers to the fact that many Indigenous Australians were forced to live on reserves or missions.

- b. What do you think is meant by the line, "Cause we were acting white yet feeling black"?

This line is referring to the fact that when Indigenous Australian children were removed from their families they were to be assimilated into 'white' culture. Therefore, many Indigenous Australian children were 'acting white' yet on the inside they still had a yearning for their traditional heritage and culture.

- c. What are some of the images that come to mind when hearing this song or reading the lyrics?

Student responses will vary.