

Activity 5 Background Reading:

<http://www.naidoc.org.au/about>

<http://www.reconciliation.org>

Symbols

The Aboriginal flag and the Torres Strait Islander flag are often seen on National Sorry Day. The Aboriginal flag is horizontally divided into two equal halves of black (top) and red (bottom) with a yellow circle in the centre. The black symbolizes Australia's Aboriginal people and the yellow circle represents the sun. The red represents the earth and people's relationship with the land. It also represents ochre, which is used in Aboriginal ceremonies in Australia. Harold Joseph Thomas designed the flag, which was first flown at Victoria Square in Adelaide on July 12, 1971.

The Torres Strait Islander flag stands for Torres Strait Islanders' unity and identity. It features three horizontal stripes, with green at the top and bottom of the flag and blue in between, divided by thin black lines. A white *dharri* or *deri* (a type of headdress) sits in the centre, with a five-point star underneath it. The color green represents the land. The *dharri* symbolizes all Torres Strait Islanders. The black represents the people and the blue represents the sea. The five-point star symbolizes the island groups. The star is white, which symbolizes peace in this case. Bernard Namok designed the flag

Taken from: <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/national-sorry-day>