

Appendix 2

Talking about colonisation

When discussing colonisation with Upper Key Stage 2 pupils, it is important to approach the topic with sensitivity and clarity.

Begin by explaining the concept in simple terms, such as how it involved people from one country moving to another place and often taking control of the land and its resources. For example, you might say, "Imagine if someone moved into your home without asking and changed everything." Highlight that this often led to significant changes, challenges and harm for the people who originally lived there, such as the Indigenous peoples of North America, Australia, or in Africa.

Use age-appropriate examples and stories to illustrate these points. Ensure to include diverse perspectives, particularly those of Indigenous peoples, by sharing their stories, traditions, and the impact colonisation had on their lives. For instance, you could read a book or show a video that depicts these perspectives in a respectful and engaging way.

Encourage empathy and understanding by discussing the impact on cultures, communities, and individuals. For example, talk about how colonisation led to the loss of land, traditions, and languages for many Indigenous communities. Create an open environment where pupils feel comfortable asking questions and expressing their thoughts, perhaps by having a class discussion or a Q&A session.

Reinforce the importance of respect and the value of different cultures by celebrating Indigenous cultures through art projects, music, and stories. Provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on what fair and respectful interactions between different communities look like, emphasising the importance of kindness and using power for good not ill.