

# Activity Vibe

Activity Vibe is a monthly activity sheet available on line at [vibe.com.au](http://vibe.com.au) for use in classrooms, homework centres and at home.

Issue 90

Years 3-4

Pick up a copy of this month's *Deadly Vibe* magazine, the special protest issue, and complete the following activities.

## ★ READING

Music is a great way to voice your opinion. There's something about powerful lyrics combined with a strong beat that draws you in and stirs your emotions. Over the years, protest songs such as Yothu Yindi's Treaty have helped bring many important Aboriginal issues into mainstream Australian awareness. We take a look at some of the best known Aboriginal protest songs, and find out what they're all about.

# The beat goes on...

There's some great protest songs out there that highlight important Indigenous issues of the past and present. Midnight Oil's Beds are Burning, Bob Marley's Get Up, Stand Up, Paul Kelly's From Little Things, Big Things Grow and the Warumpi Band's Black Fella, White Fella are just a few examples of truly inspiring songs that have made people sit up and take notice. Why not learn the words, or maybe even write a protest song of your own?

## TREATY – YOTHU YINDI

In response to 1988's Barunga Statement, which called for the Australian Government to recognise the rights of Indigenous land owners, the then prime minister Bob Hawke made a vow that the Australian Government would enter into a treaty with Indigenous Australians by 1990.

In protest at the failure of the Australian Government to honour its promise, the song Treaty was created.

Yothu Yindi, in collaboration with Paul Kelly and Midnight Oil, wrote the song to generate awareness of the issue and to encourage the government to keep its promise.

The song climbed the Australian charts, eventually becoming a number one hit – as did the record on which it was released, Tribal Voice.

Treaty is sung mainly in Gumatj, a language of north-eastern Arnhem Land - the first Australian hit song to feature an Indigenous Australian language.

Yothu Yindi also gained international exposure, bringing the plight of Indigenous Australians onto the world stage.

## TOOK THE CHILDREN AWAY – ARCHIE ROACH

This song tells of the pain and suffering inflicted upon Australia's Stolen Generations – the countless number of Indigenous

children who were removed from their families and sent to institutions or adopted into non-Indigenous families as a result of the government's assimilation policies.

Archie Roach himself was a stolen child, taken when he was only three years old. The song *Took the Children Away* won Archie two ARIA awards and a human rights award. It was the first time a human rights award had been presented to a songwriter.

Roach's album *Charcoal Lane*, which featured the song, also made it onto the US *Rolling Stone's* top-50 albums list for 1992.



## ★ COMPREHENSION

★ Which band sings the song 'Treaty'? \_\_\_\_\_

★ Unscramble the letters to show the name of the performer below.



CAEHIR HAORC

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★ What song does the pictured performer sing?

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★ Answer true (T) or false (F) about the following statement.

Music is a great way to voice your opinion. \_\_\_\_\_

★ Use a word from the story to fill in the blank in the sentence.

Over the years, protest songs such as Yothu Yindi's *Treaty* have helped bring many \_\_\_\_\_ Aboriginal issues into mainstream Australian awareness.

## ★ COMMAS

A comma (,) indicates a slight break in the sentence and is used to separate words in a list, to separate numbers, to indicate separate parts of a sentence and to separate adjectives in a sentence. Commas are also used when we have two or more adjectives describing a noun or two or more adverbs.

★ Put commas where they are needed. The first one has been done for you. Check your work against the text.

Midnight Oil's *Beds are Burning*, Bob Marley's *Get Up, Stand Up*, Paul Kelly's *From Little Things Big Things Grow* and the Warumpi Band's *Black Fella*, *White Fella* are just a few examples of truly inspiring songs that have made people sit up and take notice.

In protest at the failure of the Australian Government to honour its promise the song *Treaty* was created.

Archie Roach himself was a stolen child taken away when he was only three years old.

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## PLURAL NOUNS

Nouns can be singular or plural. Singular means one; plural means more than one.

Eg: one song  
two songs

★ Write the plurals of these nouns.

issue \_\_\_\_\_

word \_\_\_\_\_

year \_\_\_\_\_

album \_\_\_\_\_

list \_\_\_\_\_



## SINGULAR NOUNS

★ Write the singular forms of these plural nouns.

Australians \_\_\_\_\_

promises \_\_\_\_\_

languages \_\_\_\_\_

families \_\_\_\_\_

children \_\_\_\_\_

stories \_\_\_\_\_



## WRITING

★ Break into small groups and choose an issue to write a protest song about. Make a list of all the ways this particular issue affects you, and what can be done to resolve the issue.

Choose a style of music - it may be a rap, a ballad, a rock and roll song or heavy metal - and get song-writing!

Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

How does this issue affect Indigenous Australians?

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 **WRITING** CONTINUED

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What are some ways this issue can be rectified?

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Song words:

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 **SPEAKING & LISTENING**

★ Read or perform the song to the class individually or as a group.