

# Working Towards Reconciliation



By Heather Androsoff

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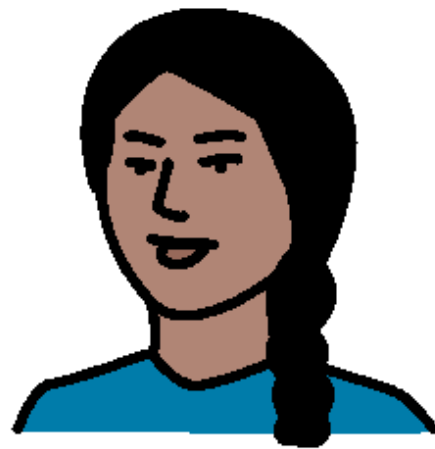
 [HeathersBookCo@gmail.com](mailto:HeathersBookCo@gmail.com)



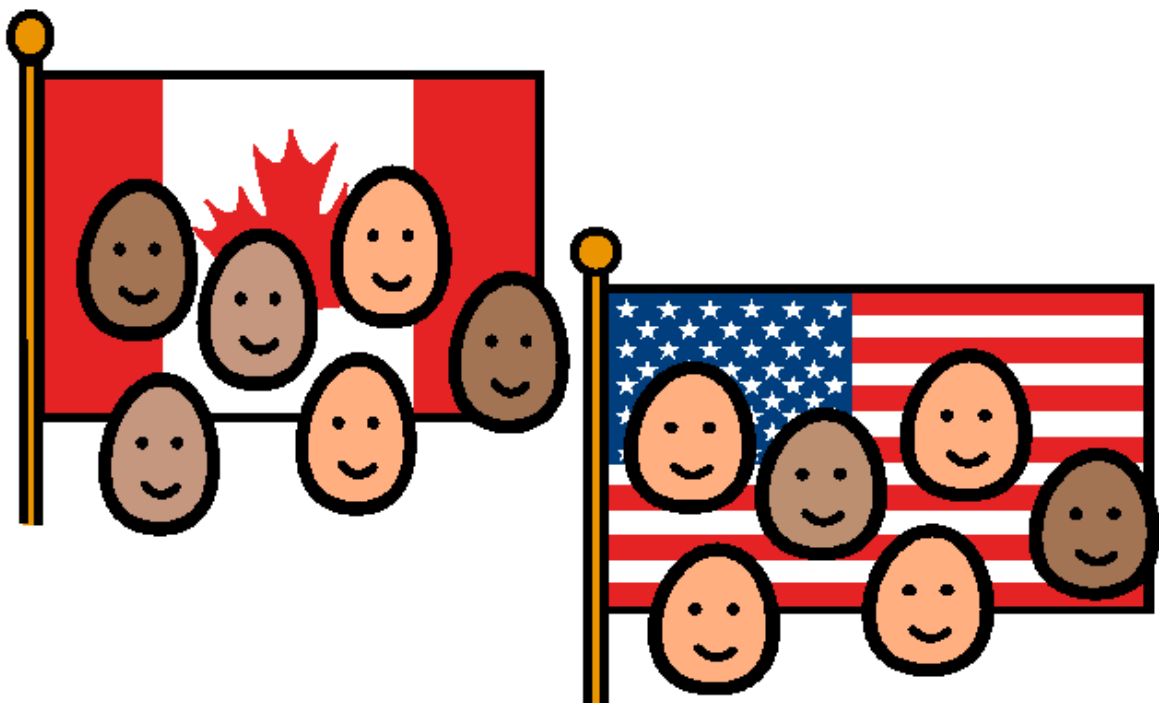
I would like to acknowledge and thank my colleague and friend, Marjean Brown (Nisga'a), who I consulted throughout the creation of this social story and who continues to support and encourage me on my learning journey.

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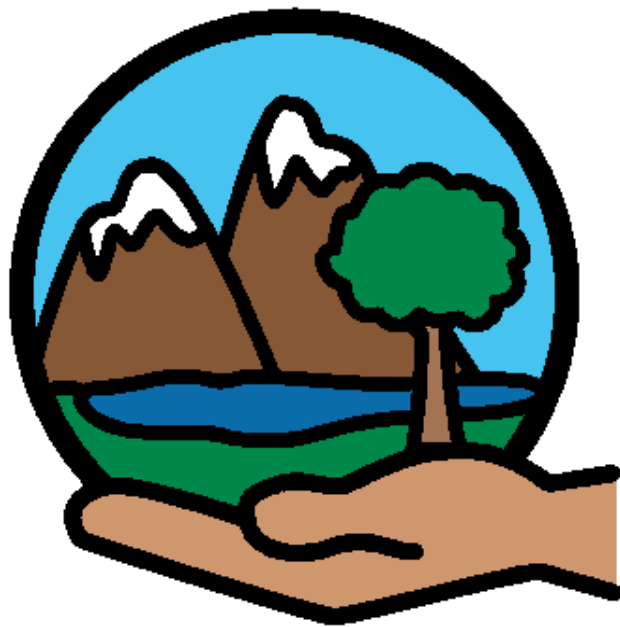
First Nations, Métis, and Inuit citizens are the First Peoples of Canada.



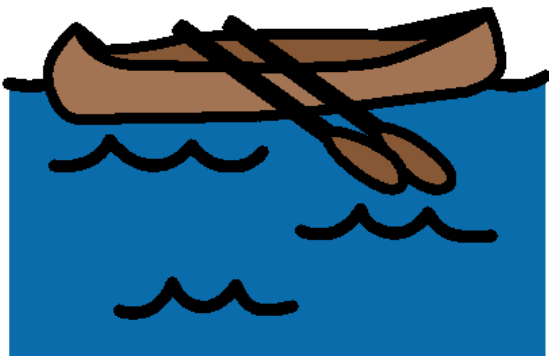
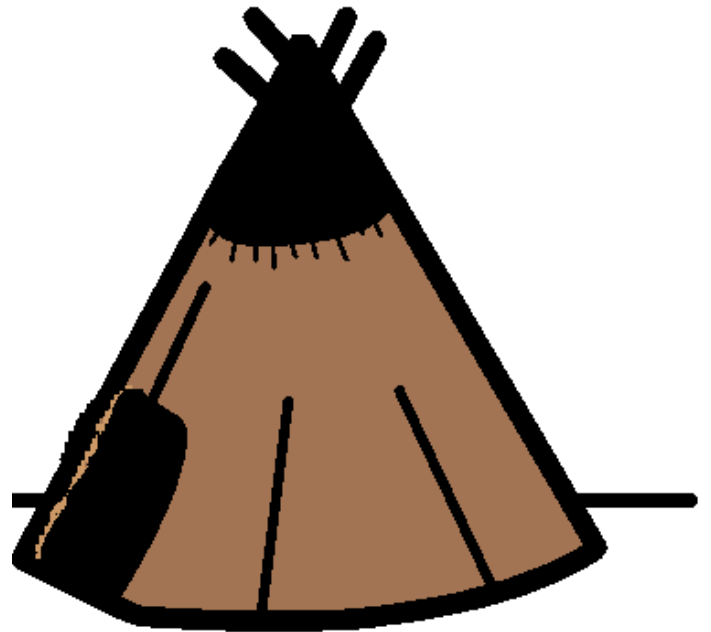
They have lived on the land we call Canada and the United States for many generations, long before **settlers** came to live here.



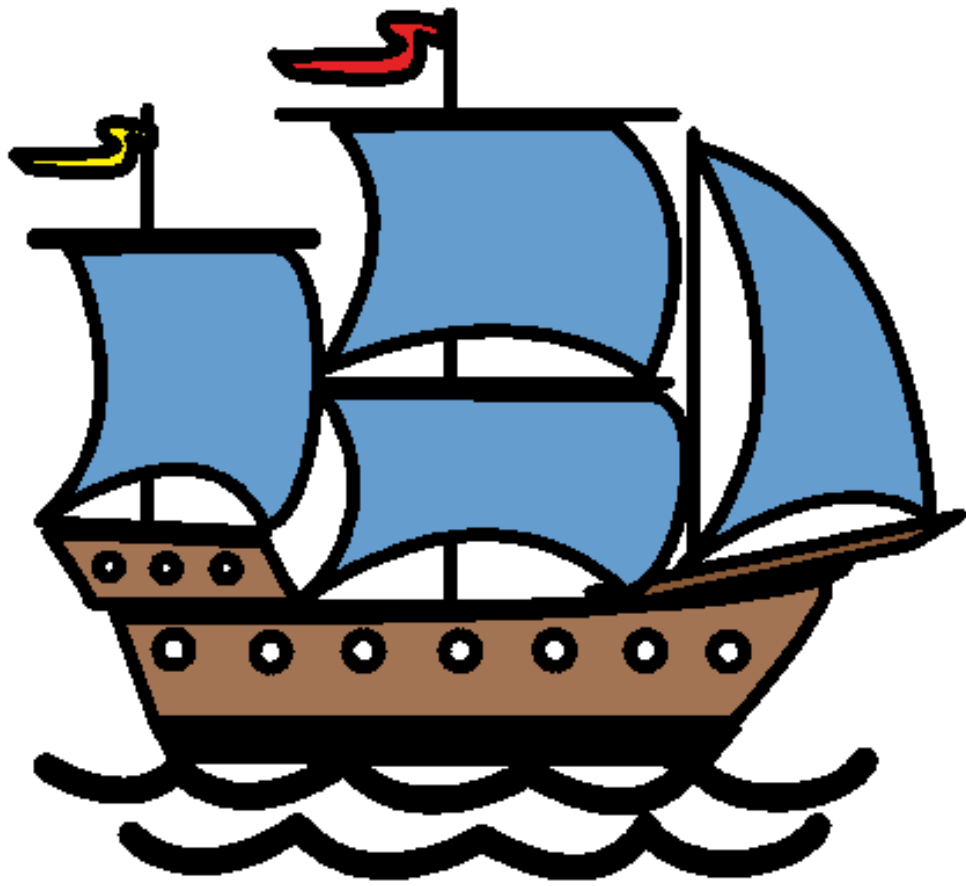
Many **Indigenous** nations believe people need to have strong connections to the land and respectful relationships with all living things.



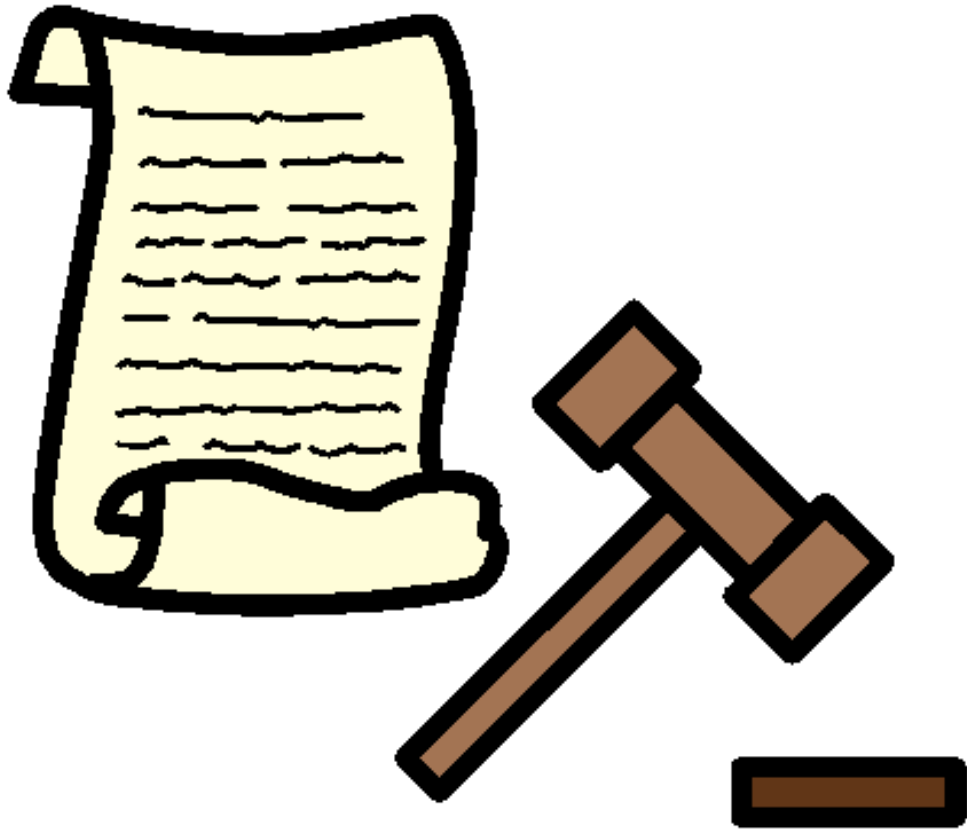
Family, home,  
community, **culture**,  
and language are  
important to  
Indigenous people.



When **European** settlers arrived, Indigenous people greeted them and helped them live on the land.

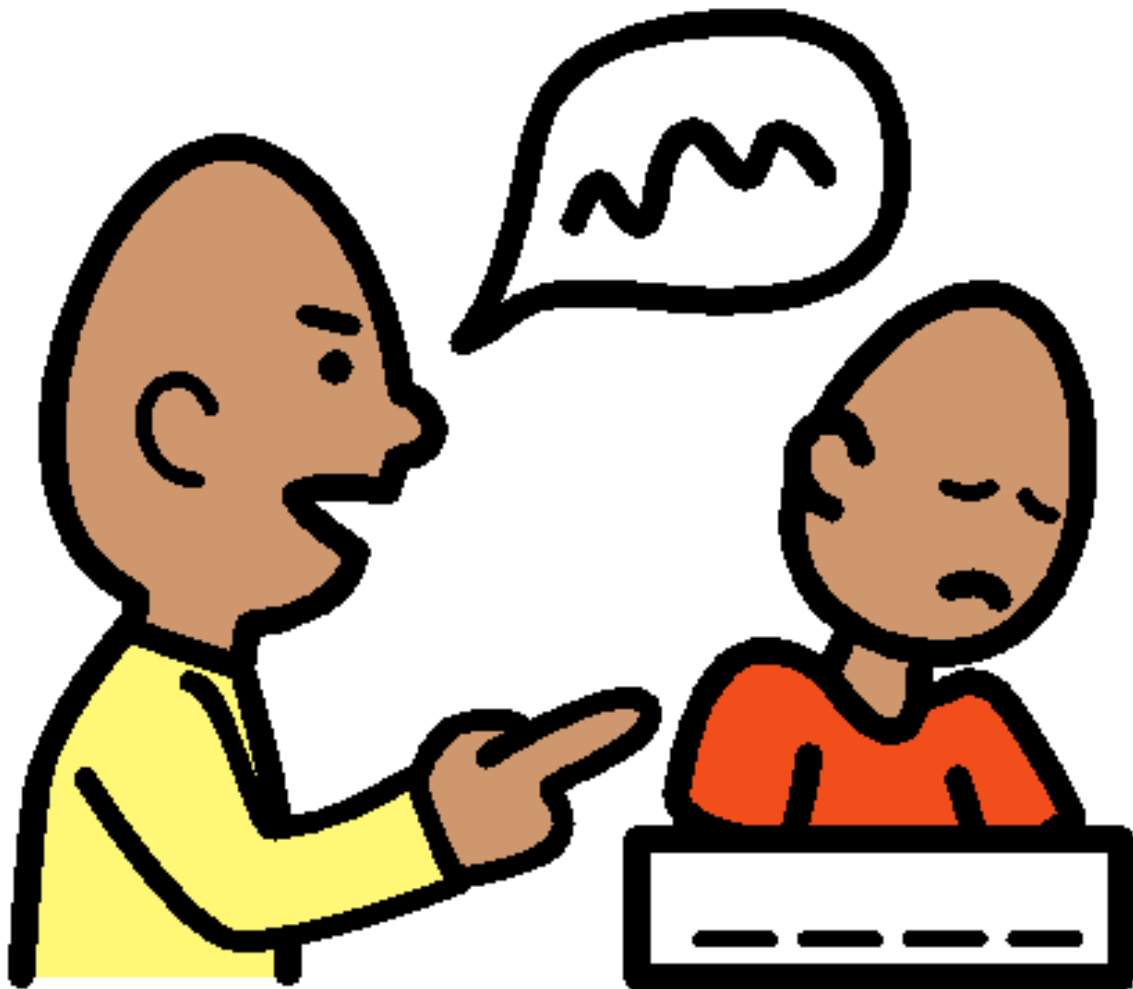


But after awhile the European settlers took their land away and took control of their lives.

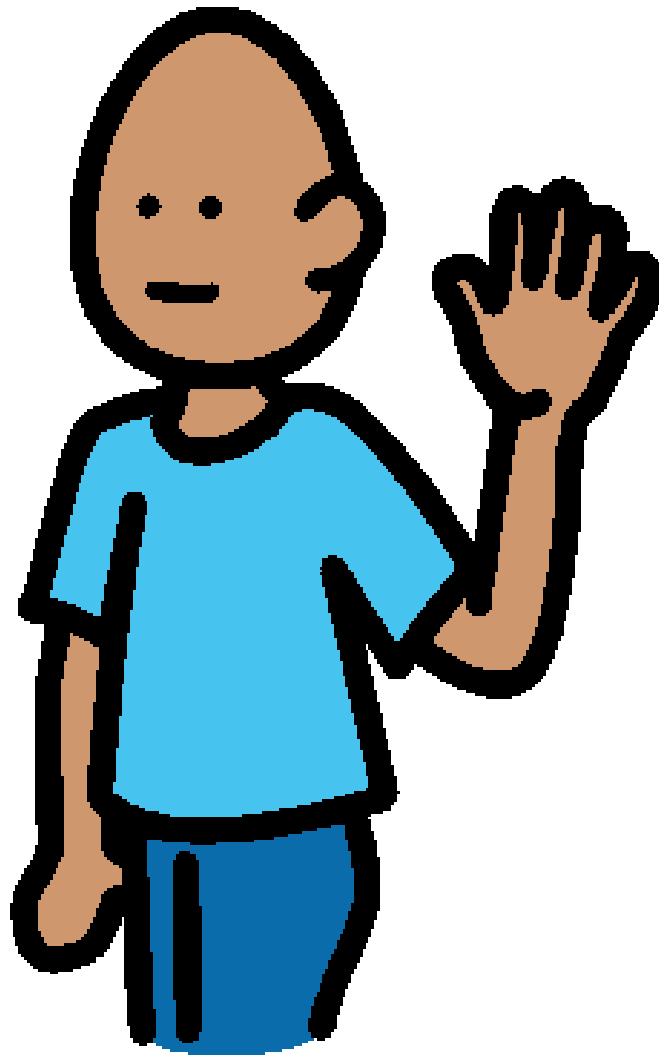




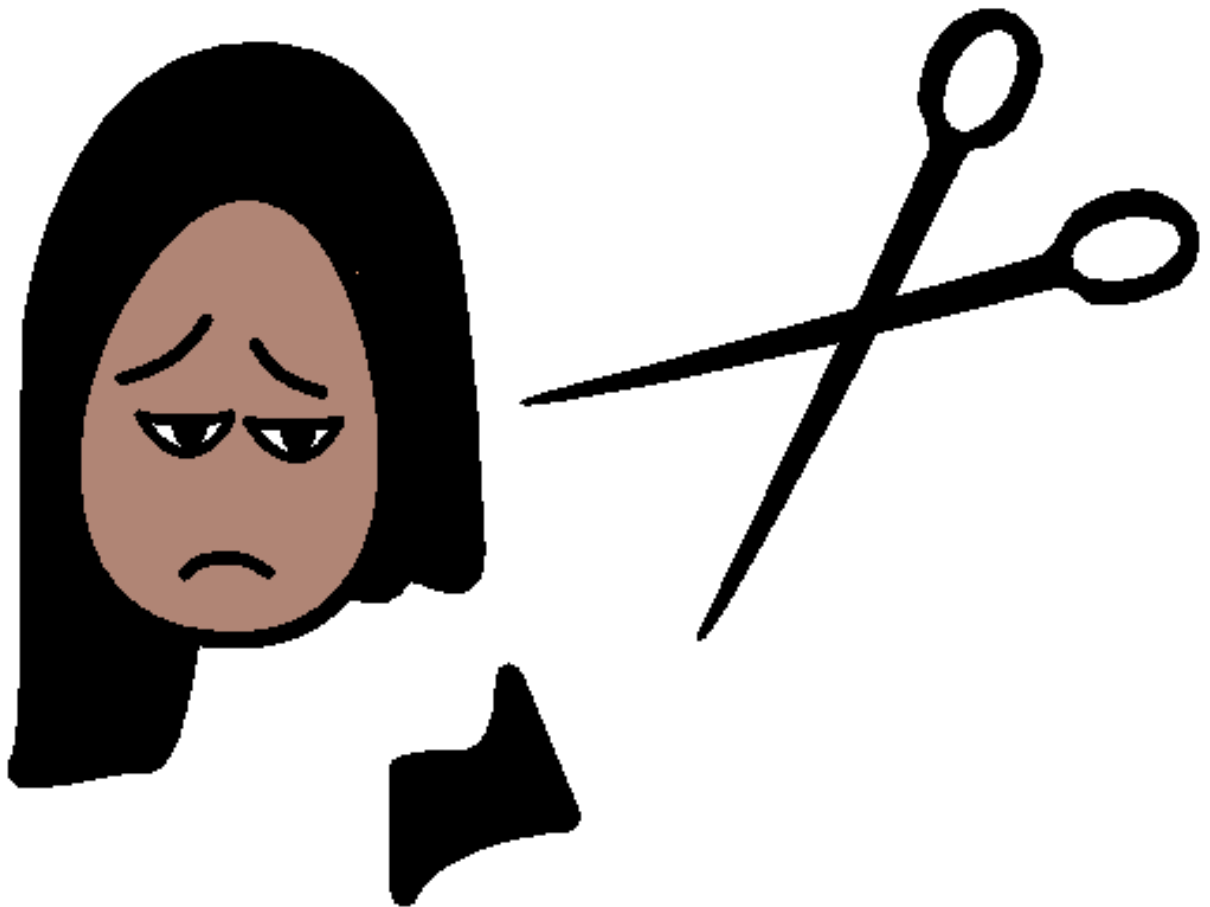
European settlers  
called Indigenous  
people “Indians.”



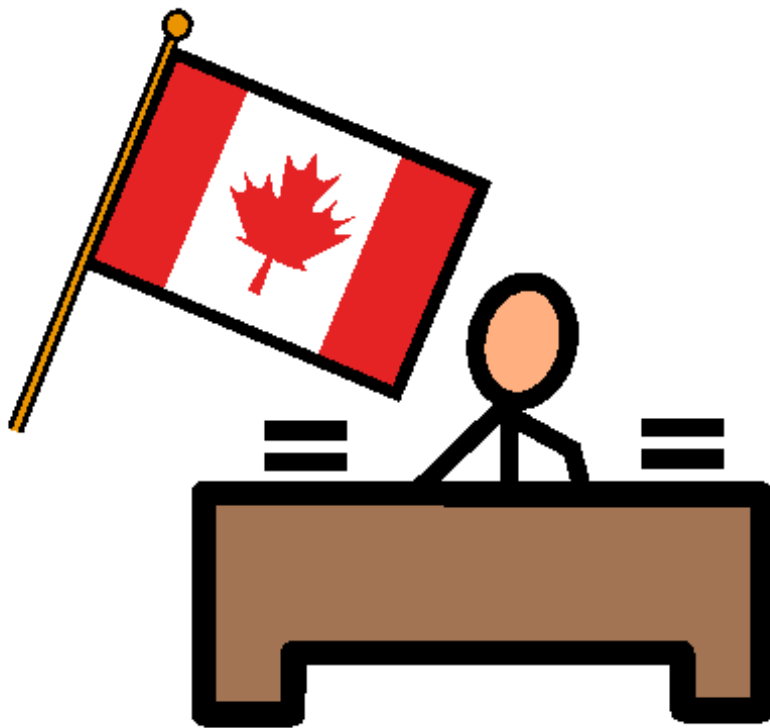
They believed  
Indigenous people  
were **inferior**.



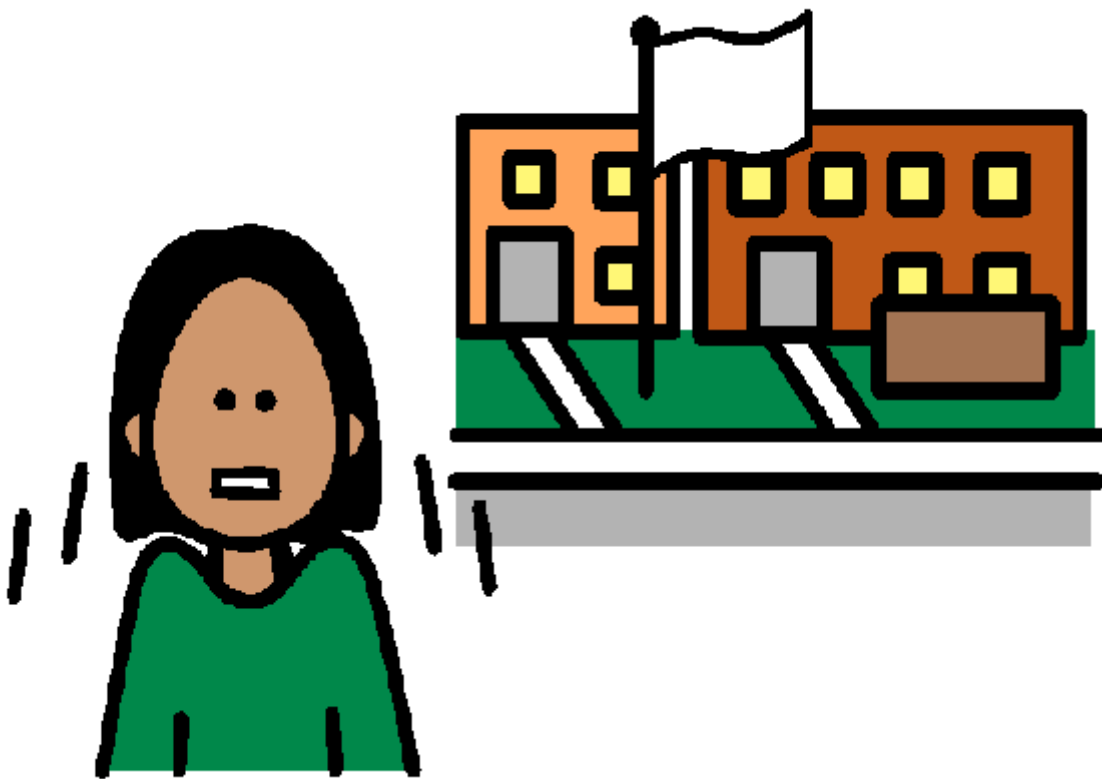
They began to think of ways to **assimilate** Indigenous people.



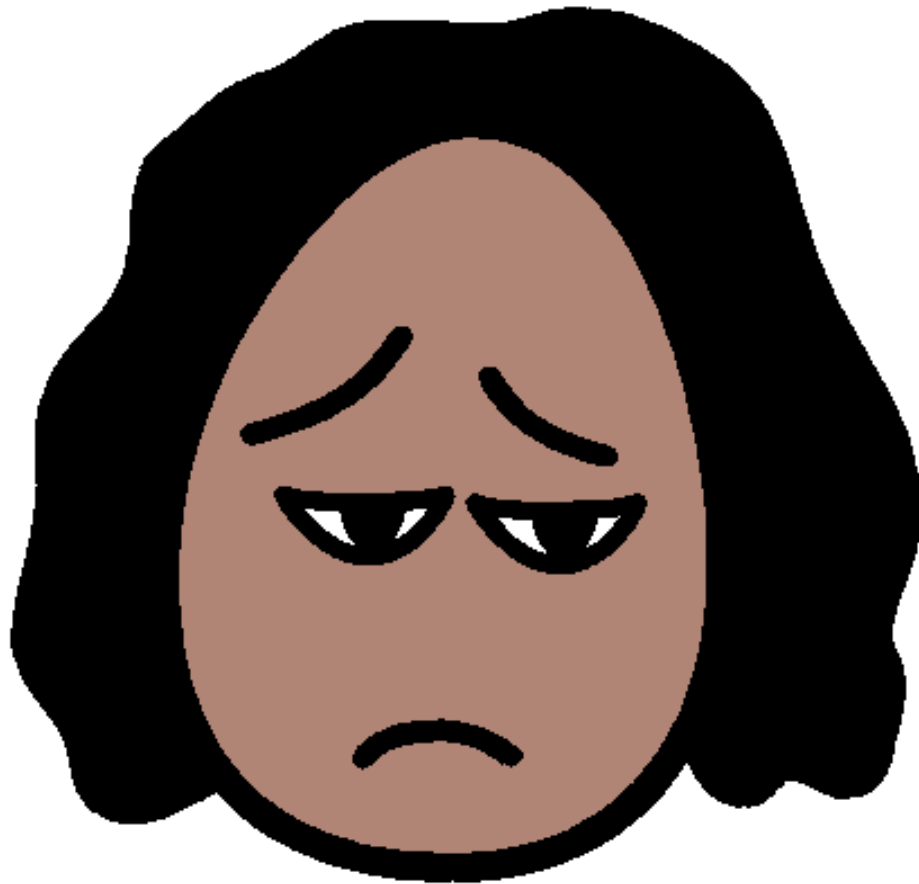
Canada's new leaders  
decided schools should  
be places where  
Indigenous children  
learned how to  
become less Indian.



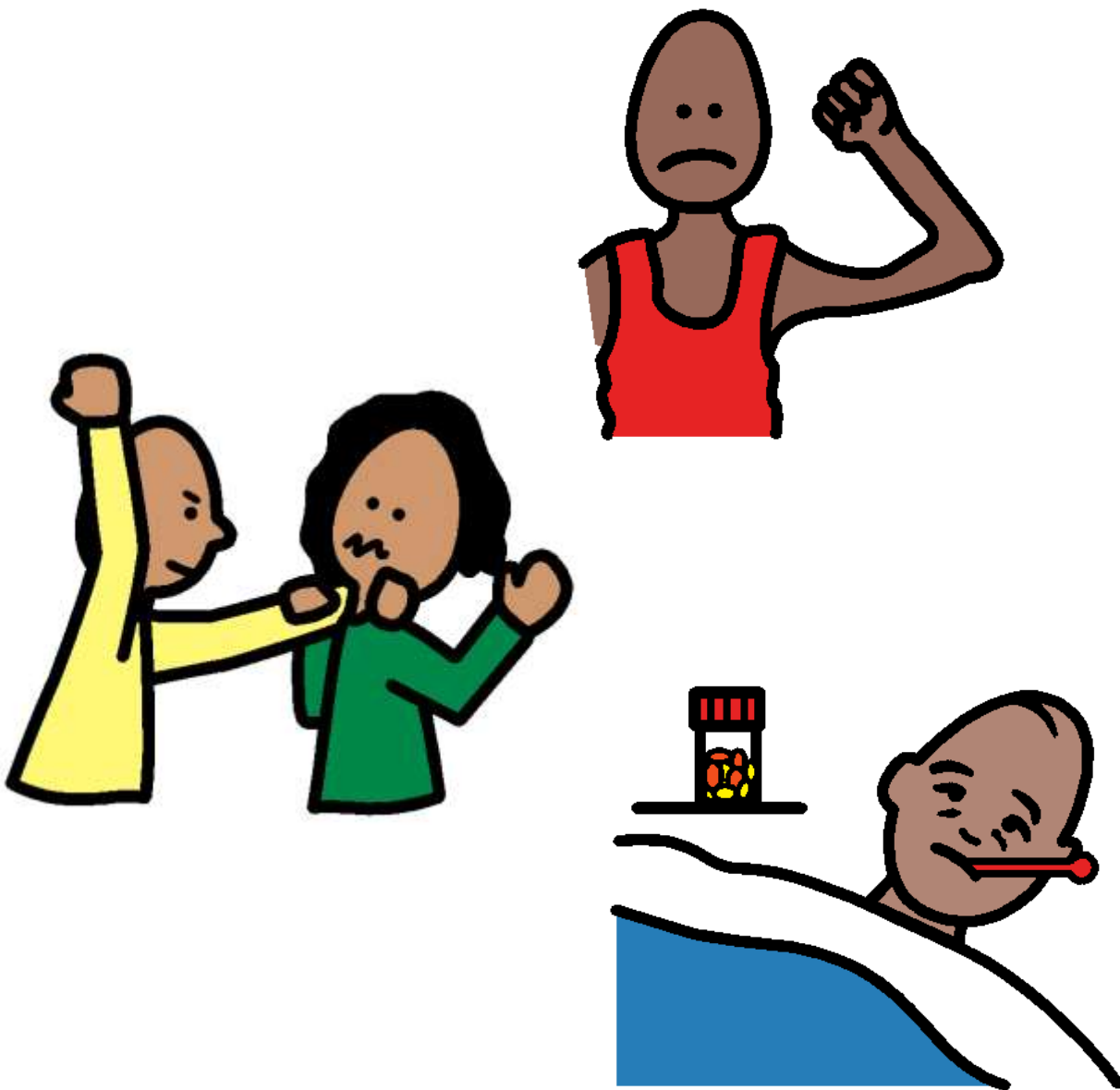
Indigenous children  
were taken away  
from their families  
and sent to  
**residential school.**



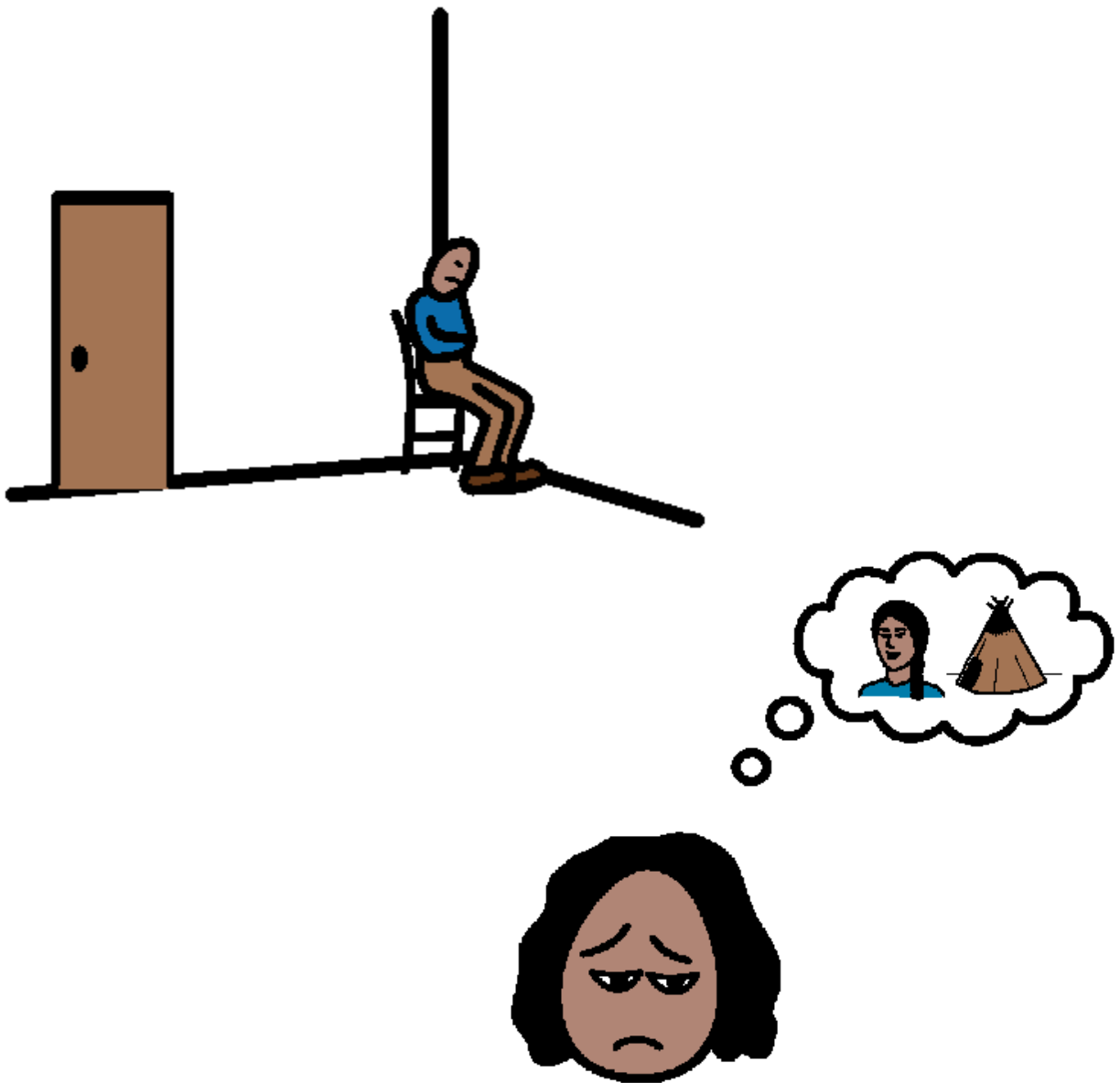
Indigenous children  
weren't treated well  
at residential school.



They suffered from  
hunger, illness,  
and **abuse**.



They were away  
from their families  
for a long time.

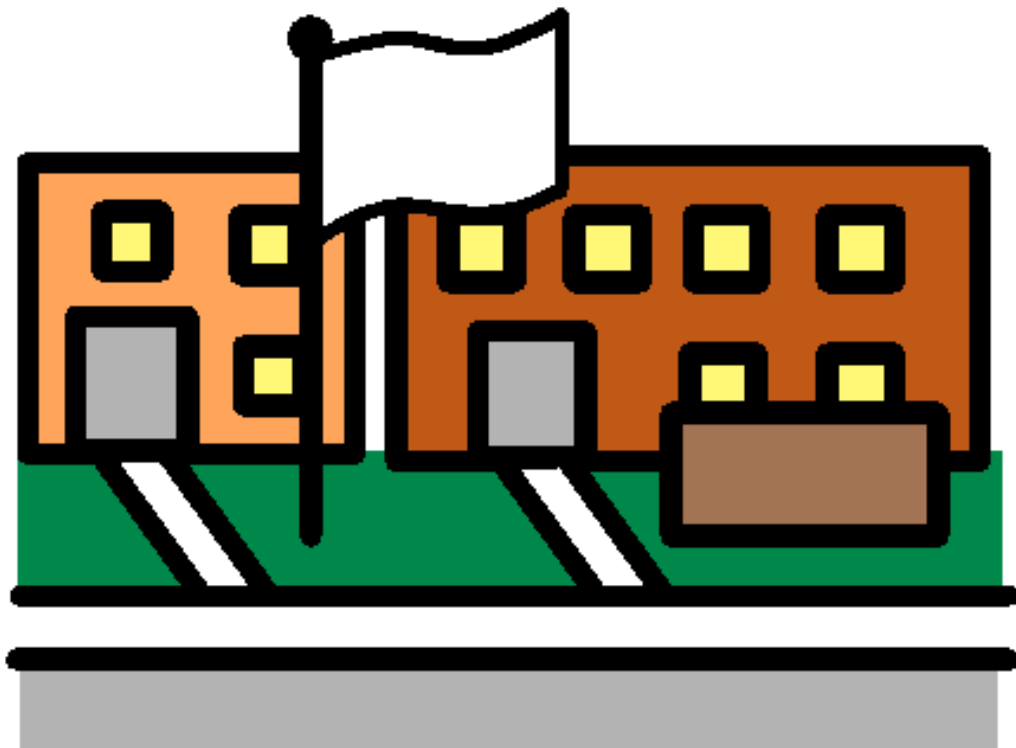




They weren't  
allowed to speak their  
language or follow  
their cultural **traditions**.



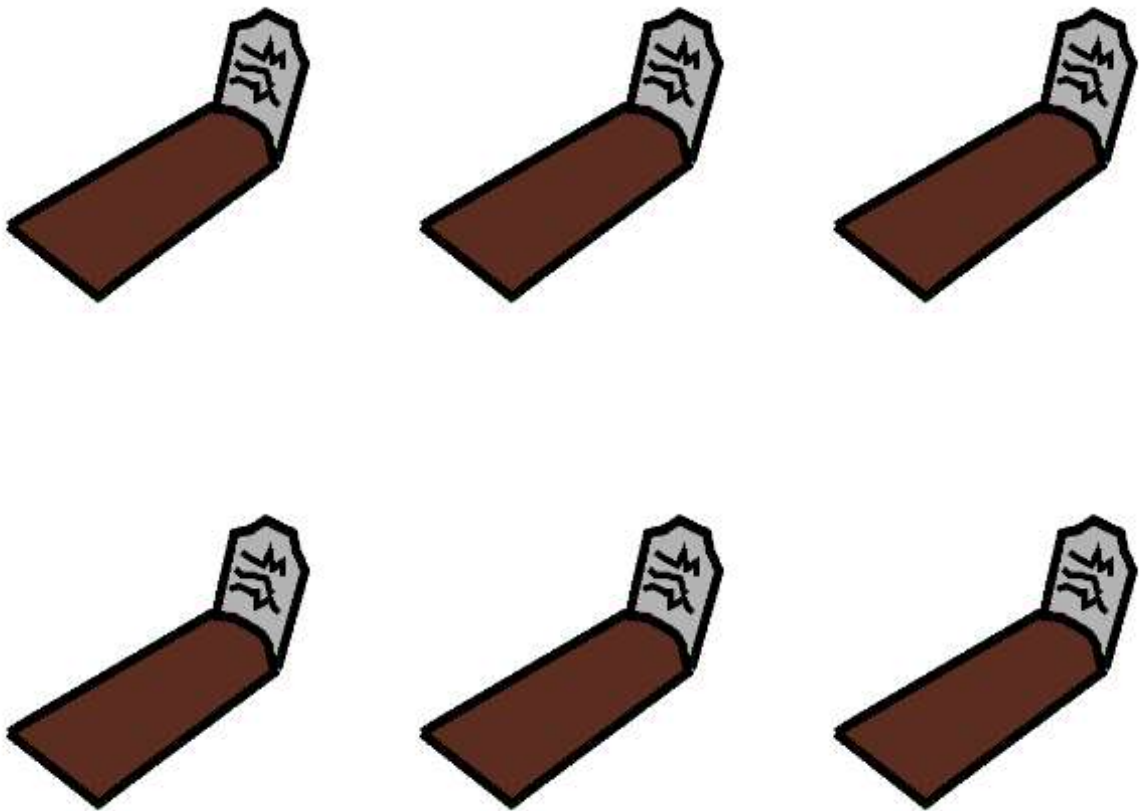
Residential schools in Canada were open for 165 years. The last residential school in Canada closed in 1996.



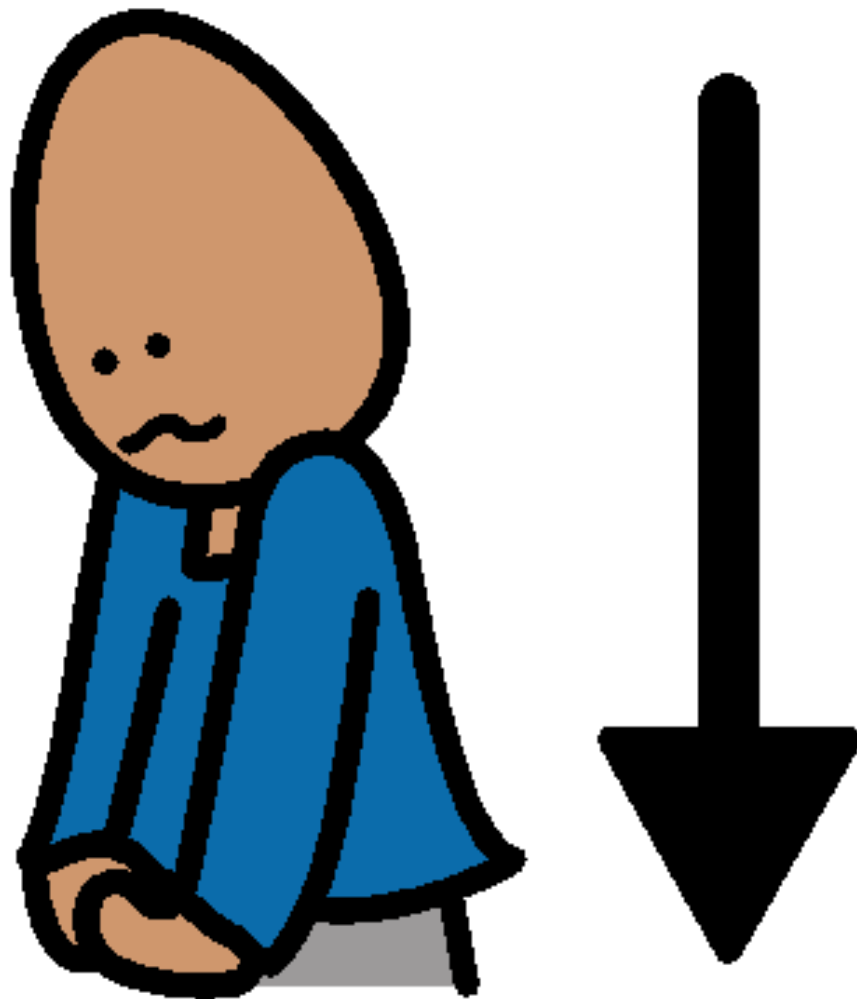
Residential schools  
have had a lasting  
**impact** on Indigenous  
people in Canada.



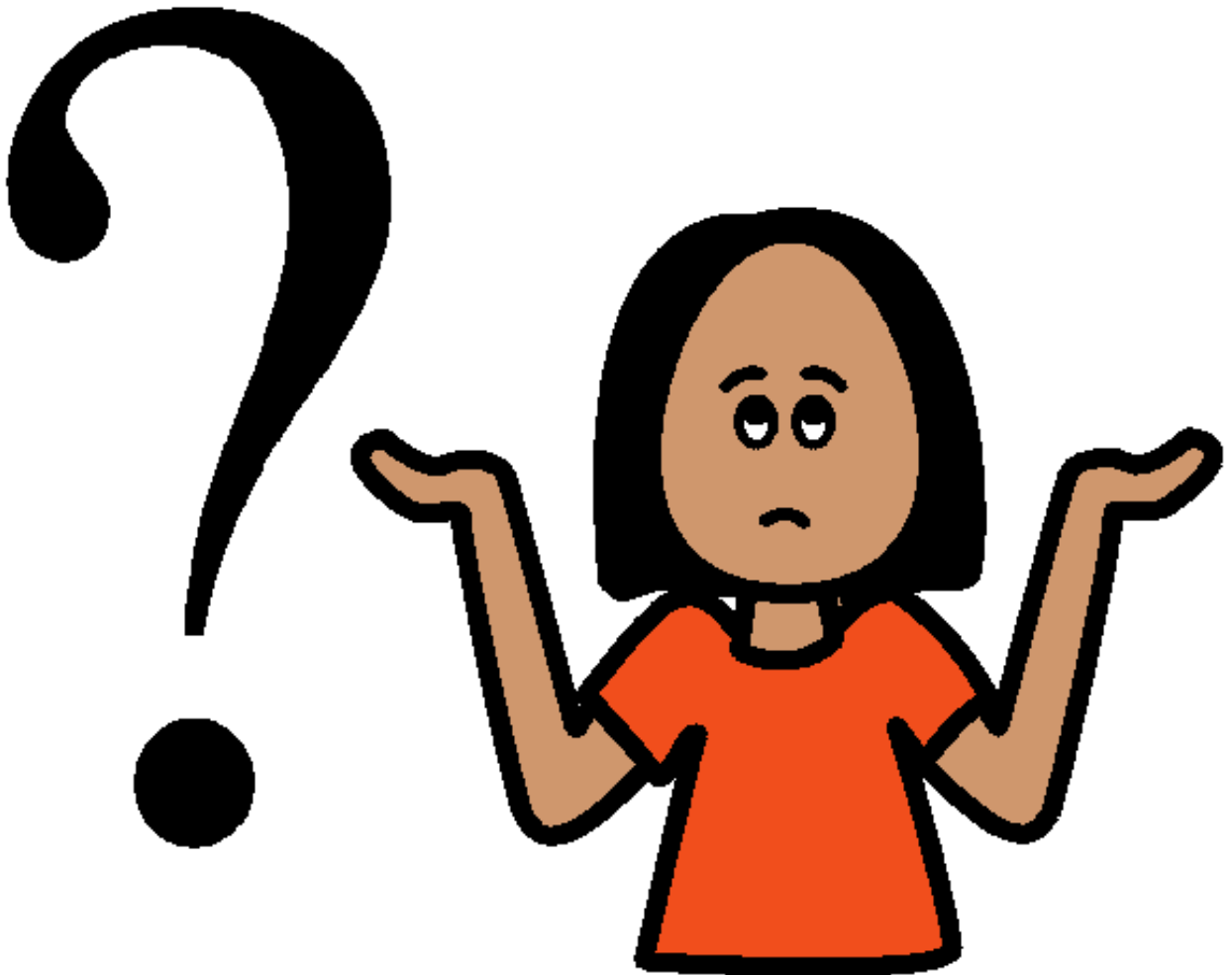
Many Indigenous children died at residential school.



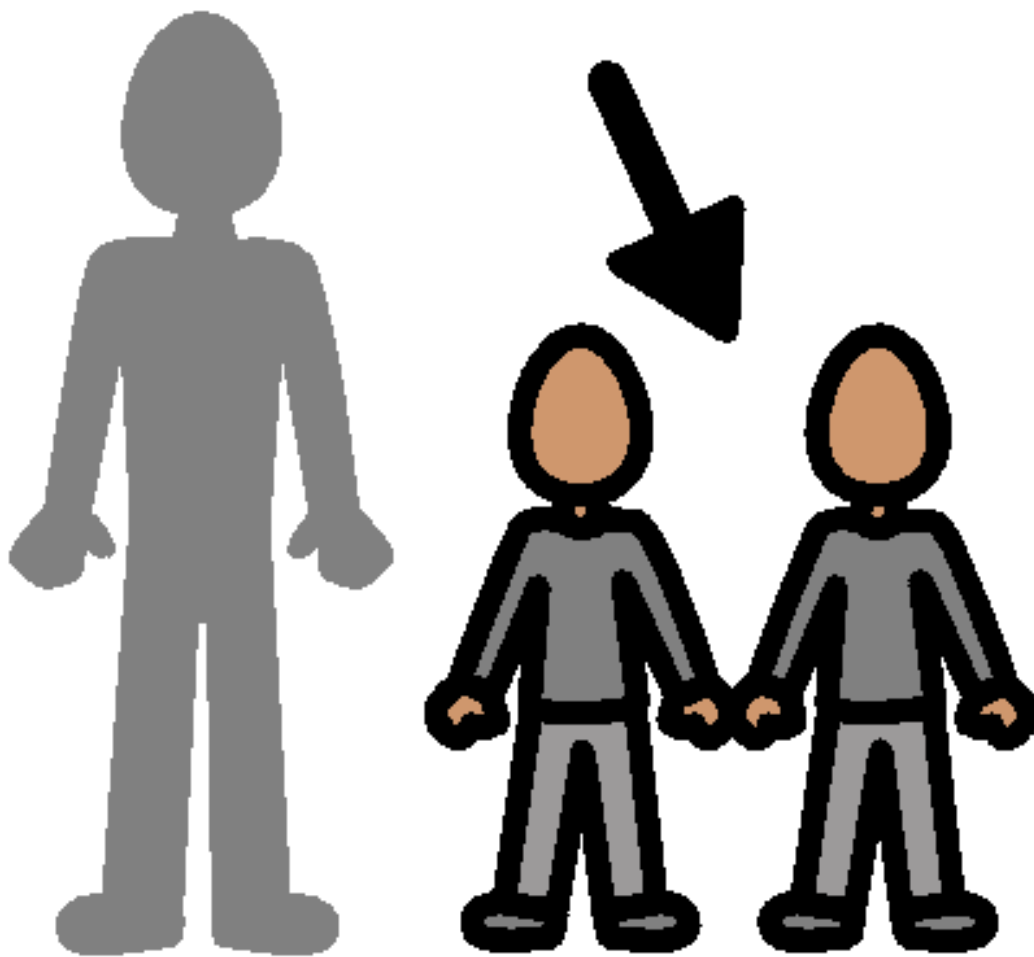
**Survivors** of  
residential school  
were never the same.



They lost their **identity**.



Children of residential school survivors have also been impacted by this **trauma**.

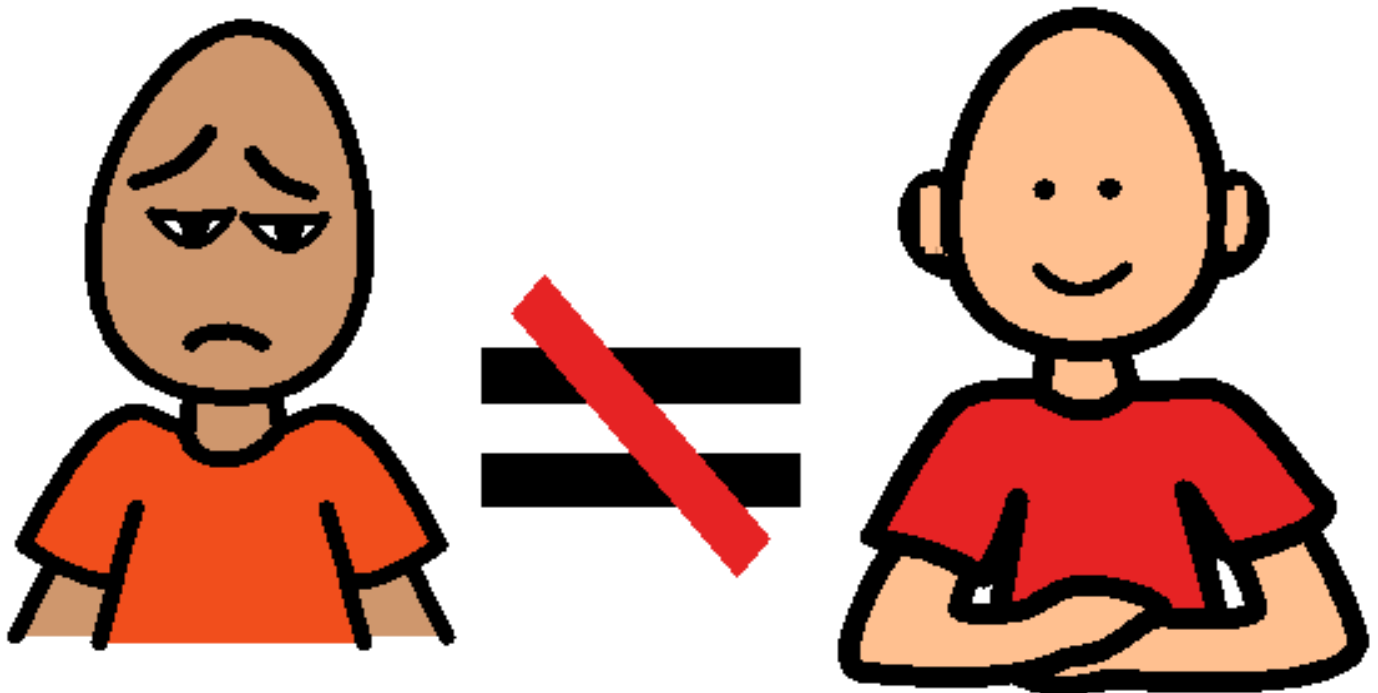


Today, some  
Indigenous people  
and their families are  
affected by **poverty**,  
**addiction**, violence,  
unemployment, abuse,  
and **depression**  
because of what  
happened.





Indigenous people  
continue to experience  
**racism** in Canada.



We're starting to learn  
more about how  
Indigenous people  
have suffered  
since **colonization**.



More and more  
Indigenous people are  
finding the courage  
to share their  
stories with others.



**Reconciliation** starts  
with learning about  
Canada's history  
to understand  
what happened.



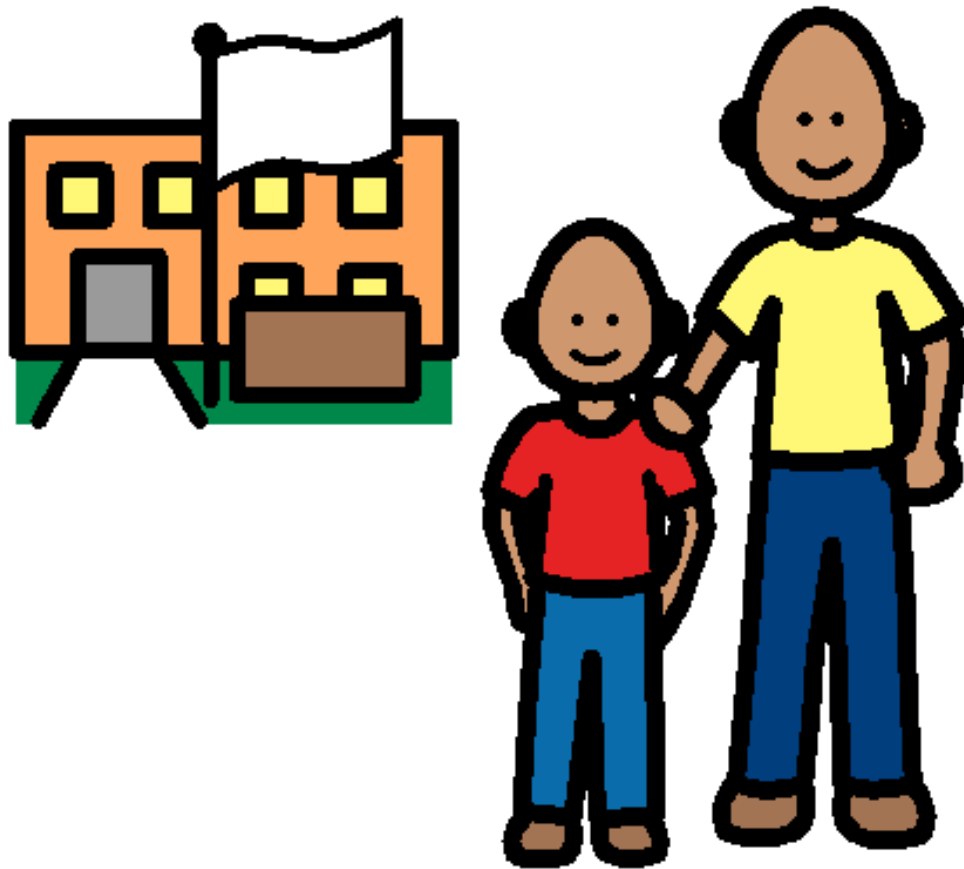
Reconciliation requires  
work and action.



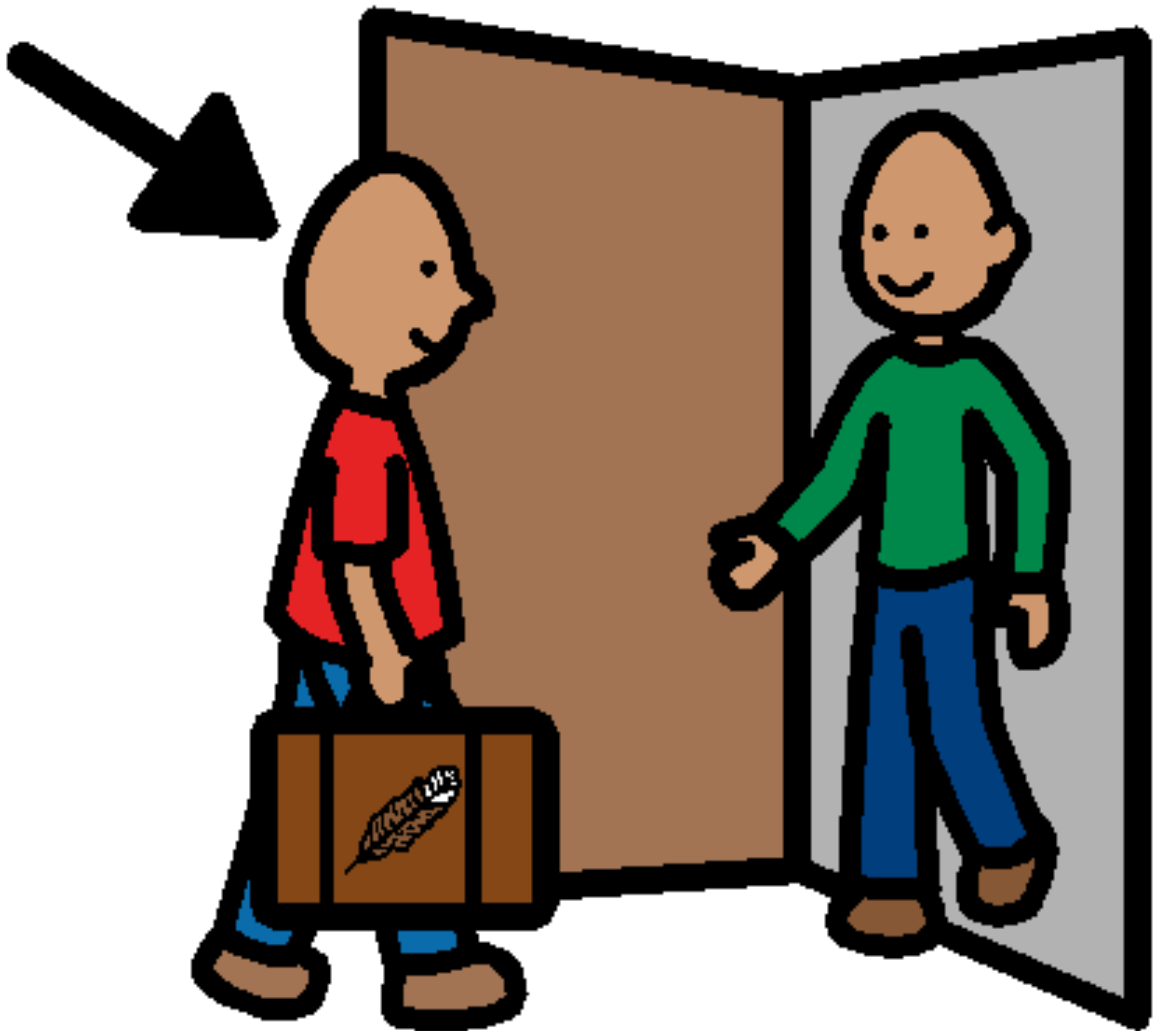
We need to improve relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous citizens in Canada.



We need to  
acknowledge and  
support Indigenous  
people in  
Canada today.

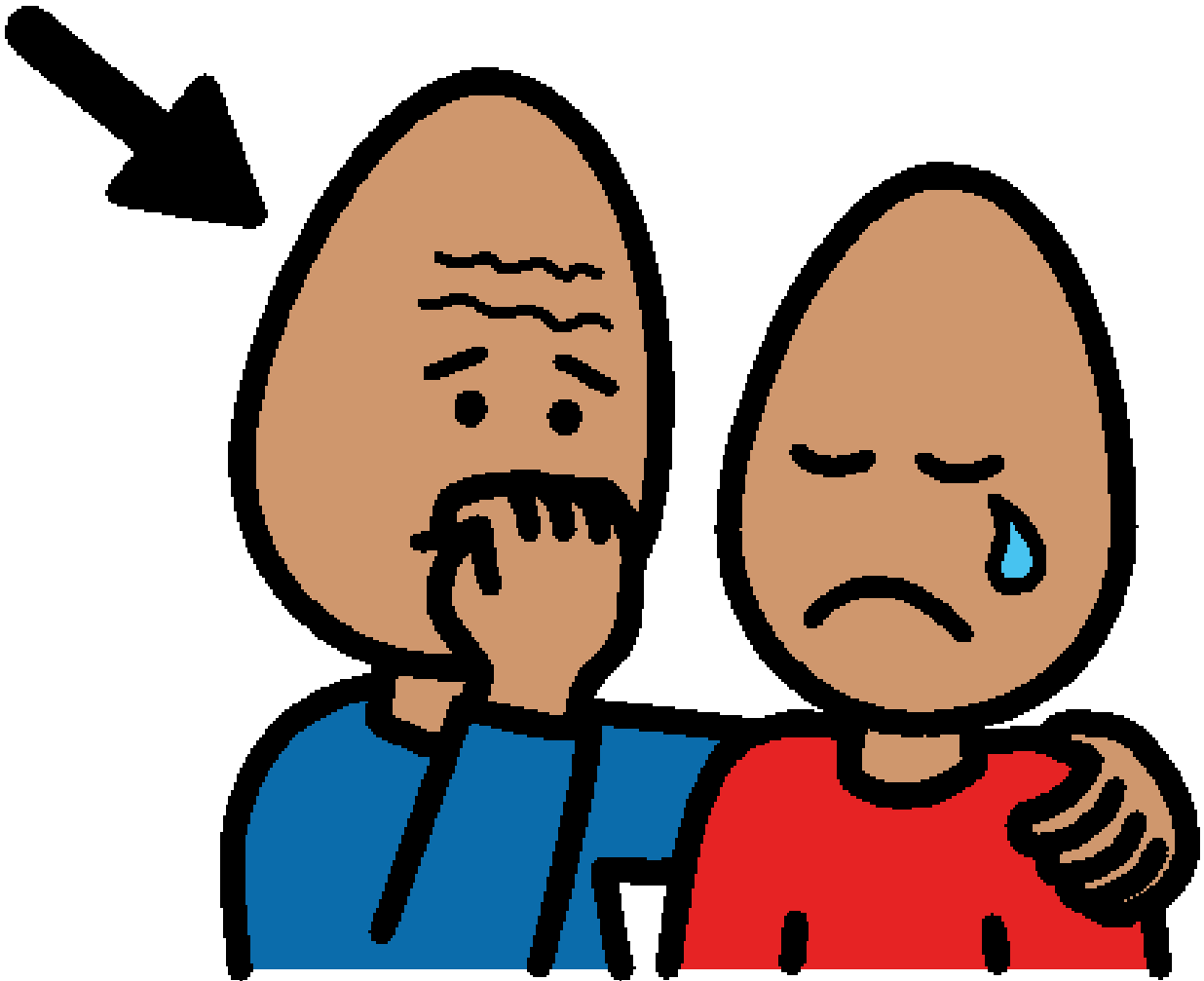


We need to listen to their stories and learn from their wisdom.

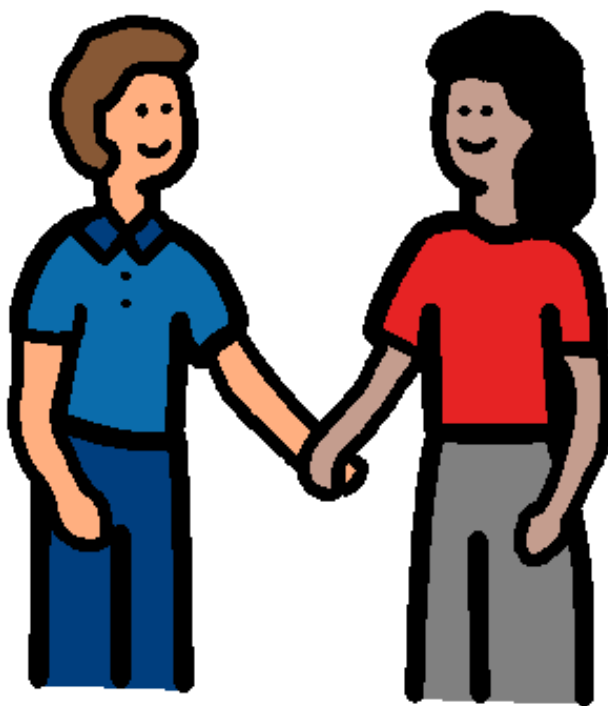




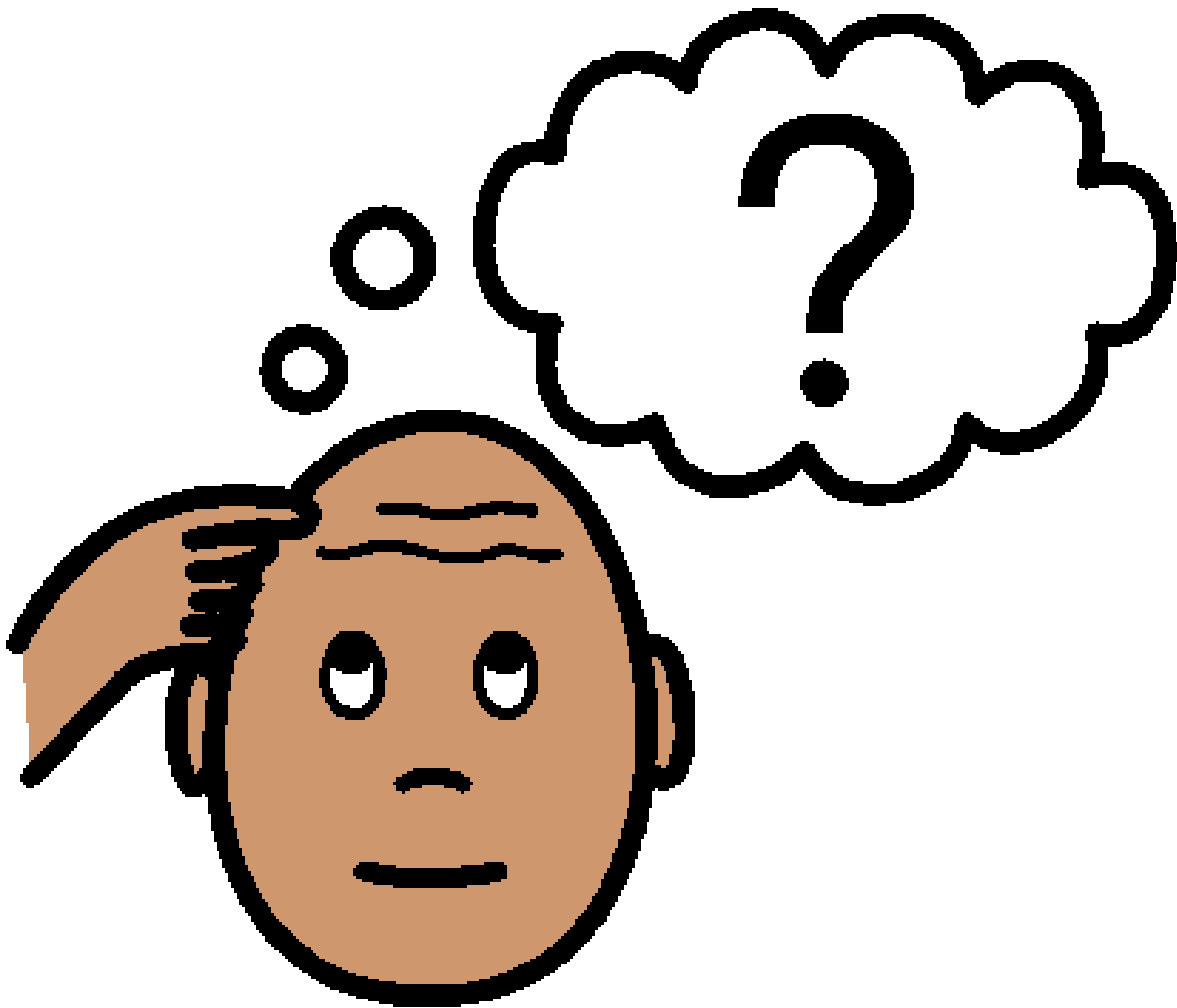
Reconciliation will take time. Indigenous people need to heal.



Indigenous people need **allies** to support them by taking some responsibility for making changes that work towards reconciliation.



How can you be an ally for Indigenous people today?



# Glossary:

**abuse:** repeatedly treating someone with cruelty or violence and causing them harm

**addiction:** relying on a substance or activity

**allies:** those who work with others for a common purpose

**assimilate:** to make people, ideas, and cultures the same as a certain societal group

**colonization:** when settlers take over political control of the land they arrived on

**culture:** ideas, customs, and behaviours of a group of people

**depression:** a state of mind whereby a person may feel low self-esteem, lack of energy, interrupted appetite and difficulty with sleep

**European:** a person that is from Europe

**identity:** the characteristics that make a person who they are

**impact:** to be affected by something

**Indigenous:** first peoples

**inferior:** to be considered lower in rank, status, or importance

**poverty:** being very poor

**racism:** treating people differently because of their race

**reconciliation:** understanding the truth of what happened, helping victims to heal, and creating better relationships moving forward

**residential school:** Indigenous children were sent to these government-run schools in Canada in an attempt to assimilate them

**settler:** a person who moved from their homeland to live somewhere else

**survivors:** those who are still alive after a difficult life event

**trauma:** a difficult, stressful, emotional experience

**traditions:** customs and beliefs that are passed on from generation to generation

# Check out these digital stories by Social Stories 4 Kids:

**Being Considerate Of Others**



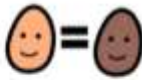
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**I Can Be Safe At School**



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**We Are All Equal**



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**I Can Be Flexible**



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**All Kids Belong**



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**I Am Special**



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**Being Honest At School**



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**Appropriate Touching At School**



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**I Can Use My Words At School**



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**Dressing For The Weather**



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**Recess Time At School**



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**Words Are Powerful**



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**It's Okay To Make Mistakes**



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**Managing Germs At School**



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**I Am Grateful**



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**Being Happy Feels Good**



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**I Am Confident**



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**When I Feel Anxious**



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**Spitting Is Not Okay!**



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**Taking Care Of Planet Earth**



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**Thank You, Helpers!**



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**When It's My Birthday!**



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**Diversity At School**



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