

Activity 11 – The Sixties Scoop: Cause and Consequence

The Sixties Scoop refers to the large-scale removal (“scooping”) of Indigenous children from their homes, communities, and families, and their subsequent adoption by predominantly non-Indigenous, middle-class families across the United States and Canada in the 1960s until the 1980s. This experience left many

Intergenerational Survivors:

People who have been affected by the cross-generational dysfunction created by the experience of attending Residential School or by the Sixties Scoop, including people who have been abused by Survivors or victims of Survivors and, more generally, people who live in dysfunctional communities that are rooted in the fracturing of family and community caused by the generations of children who were separated from their families.

adoptees with a lost sense of cultural identity, and left many families and communities bereft as their children were stolen. The physical and emotional separation from birth families continues to affect adult adoptees and those left behind in Indigenous communities to this day.

Read **Sixties Scoop** on The Canadian Encyclopedia and investigate how the Sixties Scoop affected Indigenous children and their families. Take notes on the following questions as you do your research:

- How many children were taken?
- How many families were affected?
- Who was involved? Where did children go?
- What led to the Sixties Scoop system?
- How did the closure of Residential Schools relate to the Sixties Scoop?
- How did the Sixties Scoop continue the policy of assimilation?

Create a Prezi, give a class presentation, write a short film script, or write a news story about the consequences of the Sixties Scoop. Ensure that your chosen medium addresses both the short- and long-term consequences, and addresses one or more of the following questions:

- How do you think the Sixties Scoop contributed to the social issues faced by Indigenous peoples today?
- How can childhood trauma affect the next generation?
- What kinds of challenges can childhood trauma lead to in adulthood?
- How have the disruptive policies of child removal contributed to the continued overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the foster care system?