

Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day occurs on September 30th. It was founded in 2013 to raise awareness about Canada's Indigenous residential school system. The purpose of this day is to acknowledge and remember the devastating impact that residential schools had on Indigenous culture and heritage.



Residential schools were government-sponsored religious schools. The purpose of these schools was to assimilate Indigenous children into European culture and way of life. In residential schools, children were not allowed to speak their native language, see their families, and often, were physically and emotionally abused.

The significance of the orange shirt is based on a story of a young girl named Phyllis Webstad. Phyllis was gifted an orange shirt for her first day at a residential school. Upon arriving at school, her new orange shirt was taken away from her and she was never allowed to wear it again. The colour orange became a reminder of her negative experiences at the school.

Orange Shirt Day honours children and families impacted by residential schools. Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity to continue learning about Indigenous culture and history. By recognizing this day, people are demonstrating their commitment to empowering children and working towards truth and reconciliation.

2 Word Work – Orange Shirt Day

The two words given below are used in the “Orange Shirt Day” text. Research their definitions and answer the questions below.



Word: Assimilate

Definition:

How the word is used in the text?

Use the word in a new sentence.

Word: Honour

Definition:

How the word is used in the text?

Use the word in a new sentence.
