

# TALKING MACHINES

## Talking Machines Education Resource

**Theme:** Water

**Film Title-** Comet Windmill (Temora)

### About the Clip:

#### Synopsis:

Windmills offered a cheap and environmentally sound method of raising water for stock, household/ gardening use and was also one of the earliest forms of flatpack construction! Comet Windmills were a popular brand made in Rockhampton, Queensland and at Dulwich Hill in Sydney from 1918. This film overviews how the windmill worked and what it was used for on a farm. Comet Windmills are still being made today, but are not so commonly used in the Riverina as a result of the introduction of a more reliable power form - electricity.

Duration: 5.37 mins

### Study Module:

**Curriculum Focus:** History – NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum

**Year:** 9 (Stage 5)

**Strand:** Historical knowledge and understanding; Historical inquiry and skills

### Theme:

- Depth Study 1: Making a Better World? – The Industrial Revolution (1750 – 1914)
- Depth Study 2: Australia and Asia – Making a Nation

### Key Concepts:

- Evidence; continuity and change; cause and effect; perspectives; significance

### Curriculum Applicability:

- The nature and significance of the Industrial Revolution and how it affected living and working conditions, including within Australia (**ACOKFH016**)
- The experiences of men, women and children during the Industrial Revolution, and their changing way of life (**ACDSEH081**)
- The short and long-term impacts of the Industrial Revolution, including global changes in landscapes, transport and communication (**ACDSEH082**)

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- Living and working conditions in Australia around the turn of the twentieth century (that is 1900) **(ACDSEH090)**

## Historical Skills:

- **Chronology, terms and concepts**
  - Use chronological sequencing to demonstrate the relationship between events and developments in different periods and places **(ACHHS164)**
- **Analysis and use of sources**
  - Identify the origin, purpose and context of primary and secondary sources **(ACHHS169)**
  - Evaluate the reliability and usefulness of primary and secondary sources **(ACHHS171)**
- **Perspectives and interpretations**
  - Identify and analyse the perspectives of people from the past **(ACHHS172)**
  - Identify and analyse different historical interpretations (including their own) **(ACHHS173)**
- **Explanation and communication**
  - Develop texts, particularly descriptions and discussions that use evidence from a range of sources that are referenced **(ACHHS174)**

## General capabilities:

- **Personal and Social Capability – Social Awareness:**
  - Appreciate diverse perspectives
- **Intercultural Understanding**
  - Investigate culture and cultural identity
  - Explore and compare cultural knowledge, beliefs and practices

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## Context/ Background Information:

Talking Machines: reviving Riverina rural technology collections with video testimonies, captures the histories and stories of generations of Australian men and women who farmed the Riverina, through the rusted metal frames and once sharp blades of dormant farm machinery they used.

The project creates a series of thematic trails across the Riverina and key objects have been selected to support the development of these themes which in turn speak to Australia's role in the industrial revolution- this is the focus of an educational resource. Australia's role in the industrial revolution and the impact of the revolution is little documented in Australian education resources- these films provide an access point for teachers on examples of the impact of the revolution upon rural Australian society. It should be noted that the full impact in Australian society occurred after the curriculum notes on the European based experience- thus date relating to the manufacture and use of some equipment may not align with those published in the curriculum.

## Discussion Pointers:

- Discuss how the windmill benefited farming practice in Temora and/or your local area? What replaced the windmill? Where does your water come from today?
- Some scientists argue that Australia needs to abandon its reliance on the European style of agriculture. Is this sustainable?
- Lack of water is the most challenging problem to overcome, discuss this in the light of what you've seen on the film.
- Consider the use of windmills for energy in today's society; what benefit could a return to traditional farming have upon the environment?

## Suggested Classroom Activities:

- Have a class debate on water conservation issues.
- Take a site visit to look at the windmill.
- Investigate the use of alternate energies to power rural pumps of today. Have a class discussion on the advantages/ disadvantages of wind over solar and vice versa.

## More Information, Contact Details & Arrangements for Visits

The Temora Rural Museum Centre is located at 29 Goldfields Way in Temora and is open daily from 9.30am to 5pm.

For further information, please contact the Museum on (02) 6977 1086 or email - [ruralmuseum@temora.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruralmuseum@temora.nsw.gov.au) .

You can also find information on the web at: <http://www.temoraruralmuseum.com/index.php> .