

TALKING MACHINES

Talking Machines Education Resource

Theme: Animals

Film Title- Dairy & Milking Machines (Tumut)

About the Clip:

Synopsis: Tumut was once home to over 300 dairies supplying product to the local butter factory. The town now has only two dairies. Join us to discover what change has occurred over generations of dairy farmers locally, the impact of the introduction of power, the role of family in the industry and why the industry has dwindled.

Duration: 6.20 minutes

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; empathy, significance

Curriculum Applicability:

- The technological innovations that led to the Industrial Revolution (**ACDSEH017**)
- The nature and significance of the Industrial Revolution and how it affected living and working conditions, including within Australia (**ACOKFH016**)
- The emergence and nature of significant **economic**, social and political ideas in the period, including nationalism (**ACOKFH019**)

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- The experiences of men, women and children during the Industrial Revolution, and their changing way of life. **(ACDSEH081)**
- 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)**

General capabilities:

- **Critical and Creative Thinking**
 - Developing questions about aspects of the past that require historical argument
 - Identify and clarify information and ideas
 - Organise and process information
- **Personal and Social Capability – social awareness:**
 - Appreciate diverse perspectives
- **Ethical Understanding**
 - Recognise ethical concepts
 - Explore rights and responsibilities
 - Consider points of view

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Context/ Background Information:

Milking machines revolutionised dairy farming. The replacement of hand milking by mechanical means was a very slow process which began in the mid-19th century and was not fully completed in Australia until about the 1970s. With hand milking the labour was provided by the farmer's family and herd sizes remained small.

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:

- Environment/place can be an important element of identity. Is this the case with the people in the film? Explain the reasons for your response.
- In your local community has the type of farm animal changed? What reminders of farm animals are still in and around your town; and what types of industry pertaining to animals still remain in your town? Why? (change/ continuity)
- Is there a hidden story here about changes to the small family run dairy? What is hidden/not shown? (how the family dairy gave way to the commercial dairy, legislative changes)

Suggested Classroom Activities:

- Make a class visit to the Tumut Museum.
- Take a town walk in Tumut – look at the old butter factory (now tourist info), railway station, discuss issues of reusing industrial buildings.
- Have a class debate on dairy industry issues, e.g. price of milk.

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More Information, Contact Details & Arrangements for Visits

The Tumut & District Historical Society Museum Centre is located at 63 Capper Street in Tumut, and is open every Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 1pm to 4pm or at other times by appointment.

For further information, please contact the Museum on (02) 6947 9899

You can also find information on the web at:

<https://mgsw.org.au/organisations/tumut-district-historical-society-museum/> or

<http://www.visittumut.com.au/wandering/museums.aspx>.