

TALKING MACHINES

Talking Machines Education Resource

Theme: Water

Film Title- Dam Sinking with a Plough & Linke Noack Scoop (Coolamon)

About the Clip:

Synopsis: The building of ample water storage was a first consideration of the settler. Before the post-World War II use of large bulldozers, the construction of stock dams was undertaken with horse drawn dam sinking ploughs and scoops and generally involved a significant manual component as well. This dam building equipment demonstrates how areas of Australia could historically, be taken up for grazing or cultivation despite having no natural permanent water supply.

Duration: 7.33 mins

Study Module:

Curriculum Focus: History – NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum

Year: 9 and 10 (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
- Depth Study 3: World War I (1914-1919)

Key Concepts:

- Evidence; continuity and change; cause and effect; perspectives; empathy; 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**)
- Living and working conditions in Australia around the turn of the twentieth century (that is 1900) (**ACDSEH090**)

TALKING MACHINES

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:

- **Critical and Creative Thinking**
 - Developing questions about aspects of the past that require historical argument
- **Personal and Social Capability – social awareness:**
 - Appreciate diverse perspectives

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-

TALKING MACHINES

thus date relating to the manufacture and use of some equipment may not align with those published in the curriculum.

Discussion Pointers:

- Why did the farmers sink dams in the first place? What did having dams on properties allow farmers to do on their properties?
- Other than land clearing the construction of large dams had the greatest visual impact on rural landscapes. Find other examples of how we've changed the landscape to suit our purposes and to save water (water retention, move back to piping).
- Lack of water is the most challenging problem to overcome, discuss this in the light of what you've seen.
- Some scientists argue that Australia needs to abandon its reliance on the European style of agriculture which requires access to reliable water supplies.... Is this sustainable?

Suggested Classroom Activities:

- Undertake a site visit to modern equipment used for dam building – how does the scale compare with what you saw on the film?
- Have students interview their grandparents/ older community members about dam sinking and changes to water collection.

More Information, Contact Details & Arrangements for Visits

The Up-to-Date Store is located on Cowabbie St in Coolamon and is open Tuesday – Friday 10 am - 4 pm, Saturday 10am- 1pm and Sundays 11am- 2pm or at other times by arrangement.

For more information contact: Coolamon Shire Council on (02) 6930 1800.

You can also find information on the web at <http://www.coolamonshire.com.au/f.ashx/The-Up-to-Date-Store.pdf>.