

# TALKING MACHINES

## Talking Machines Education Resource

**Theme:** People

**Film Title-** Domestic Life on the Land (Tumbarumba Pioneer Women's Hut)

### **About the Clip:**

**Synopsis:** Join us to hear more about the primitive early domestic life of women and families of Tumbarumba district- earth floors, no living room, limited bedrooms and cooking on an open fire. Hear about the introduction of the telephone (the party line), the radio and electricity and how it all impacted on home life.

**Duration:** 8.50 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; 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**)
- 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**)

# TALKING MACHINES

- 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:

- **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
- **Intercultural Understanding**
  - Investigate culture and cultural identity
  - Explore and compare cultural knowledge, beliefs and practices

# TALKING MACHINES

## **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:**

- How does this film contest the standard image of the pioneer's wife/farmer's wife?
- Brainstorm your image of people working in rural Australia. Discuss your results after watching this film (does this include people from other cultural backgrounds, women, kids etc?).
- Compare and contrast the make do and mend philosophy as demonstrated in the film with today's throw-away society (hand/home-made is now valuable again). How has mass production/cheap consumer goods changed the way we value possessions?
- Environment/place can be an important element of identity. Is this the case with the people in the video? Explain the reasons for your response.

## **Suggested Classroom Activities:**

- Undertake interviews with older community members and discover how life has changed with new technologies- try chatting with grandparents or people in your local retirement village.
- Invite the local CWA (Country Women's Association- see <http://cwaofnsw.org>) to show you how to make something.
- Role play – how would you manage given this scenario? (no electricity, no refrigeration, etc.) Find out when these services became available in your community.
- Visit the local museum- look at the collections and archive and compare to today's domestic scene.
- Imagine you are a small child living in this era. You see the introduction of electricity, radio and telephone. Write a series of diary entries documenting your experience of these new technologies.
- Make a 3D model of a pioneer cottage.

# TALKING MACHINES

## More Information, Contact Details & Arrangements for Visits

The Pioneer Women's Hut is located near Tumbarumba and is open as follows-

- Wednesdays 11.00 am - 4.00pm
- Saturdays and Sundays 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
- Most Public Holidays 10.00am - 4.00 pm

Or at other times by arrangement.

For further information, please contact the Pioneer Women's Hut Tour Coordinator on (02) 6948 2923 or email [tourcoordinator@outlook.com](mailto:tourcoordinator@outlook.com). Alternately, contact the Tumbarumba Visitor Information Centre on 02 6948 3333.

You will find information on the web at:

<http://www.pioneerwomenshut.com/> or <https://mgnsw.org.au/organisations/pioneer-womens-hut/>.