

TALKING MACHINES

Talking Machines Education Resource Template

Theme: People

Film Title- Australian Womens Land Army (Batlow)

About the Clip:

Synopsis: The apple industry has undergone enormous change since early last century- from the way the apples have been picked and processed to transport. During WWII, apples were harvested by the Women's Land Army.

Join three Batlow Land Army participants to learn of their experiences on the land and their contribution the nation and to the apple industry during the Second World War.

Duration: 7.03 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
- Year 10 Depth Study 1: World War II (1939 – 1945)

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 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)**

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- The short and long-term impacts of the Industrial Revolution, including global changes in landscapes, transport and communication **(ACDSEH082)**
- Living and working conditions in Australia around the turn of the twentieth century (that is 1900) **(ACDSEH090)**
- The impact of World War II, with a particular emphasis on the Australian home front, including the changing roles of women and use of wartime government controls (conscription, manpower controls, rationing and censorship) **(ACDSEH109)**
- Continuity and change in beliefs and values that have influenced the Australian way of life **(ACDSEH149)**

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

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- **Ethical Understanding**
 - Recognise ethical concepts
 - Explore rights and responsibilities
 - Consider points of view
- **Intercultural Understanding**
 - Investigate culture and cultural identity
 - Explore and compare cultural knowledge, beliefs and practices

Context/ Background Information:

The Australian Women's Land Army was formed to assist with rising labour shortages in the farming sector. From December 1941, when Japan entered the war, the nation's need to build up its armed forces was placed above the needs of other industries. Agricultural labour was steadily diverted to the armed services and war industry.

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:

- What foods are processed in your town and how has this changed over time? Who picked and processed the crop and how is this done now? (commercialisation, family farms, etc)
- What was the Land Army? Why was it formed and/or necessary? Where did the land army operate in your area? What does this film tell you about changing roles of women in regional areas? Why do you think this info should be preserved?
- What impact did the Land Army girls have upon the rural and regional areas they were posted to?

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Suggested Classroom Activities:

- Take a site visit to Batlow Museum, the former land army hostel or apple industry sites/festivals.
- Present a visual display for your local library of the Land Army in your area or an area nearby.
- Research local involvement in The Land Army. Interview anyone with local connections to the Land Army or host them as a guest speaker in class.
- Do research online – interviews, transcripts, then do a role play of someone writing a letter to their mother, beginning, “Just arrived on the farm as part of the Land Army....”

More Information, Contact Details & Arrangements for Visits

The Batlow Museum is located at 12 Tumbarumba Road in Batlow and is open every Sunday from midday to 2pm and at other times by appointment. Contact with the Museum can be made by phoning the Secretary on (02) 6949 2515 or by emailing the Batlow Historical Society- batlowhistorical@yahoo.com.au .

More information on the Batlow Museum can be obtained at <https://mqnsw.org.au/organisations/batlow-museum/> or <https://www.facebook.com/BatlowHistoricalSociety> .