

TALKING MACHINES

Talking Machines Education Resource

Theme: People

Film Title- Millet Farming & Broom Making (Tumut)

About the Clip:

Synopsis: From sowing the seed in the paddock through to harvest and ultimately the broom making industry in Tumut, this film tracks the impact of local industry on economic development and community life. You'll discover hazards of the harvesting and manufacturing process and how nothing from harvest was wasted- with seed kept for re-planting next year.

Duration: 14.31 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)

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**)

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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)**
- **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

Context/ Background Information:

The broom millet industry was very important to the history of Tumut. This film demonstrates farm and manufacturing machinery and related stories. Some of the machinery is still in operation today and all directly contributed to the Millet Industry in Tumut.

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.

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Discussion Pointers:

- 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.
- Why do you think millet brooms are still being made and sold today, and assembled the same way as in the 50s (machinery remained the same, raw product is the same)?
- Using this and other sources, find out what has changed in the industry? (imported millet/machinery parts, etc).
- How important are local industries to the social life of the town?

Suggested Classroom Activities:

- Go to the Tumut Museum.
- Go to the millet factory and see how brooms were made first hand.
- Research old papers via Trove or your local library to see impact of local industry on the town's social life.

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://mgnsw.org.au/organisations/tumut-district-historical-society-museum/> or

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