

TALKING MACHINES

Talking Machines Education Resource

Theme: Animals

Film Title- Sheep Shearing Machines (Lockhart)

About the Clip:

Synopsis: Jack worked in the shearing industry for 45 to 50 years in the Lockhart area and was witness to change within the industry- the move to owning your own gear and the introduction of slings to protect shearers' backs. Overwhelmingly though, the industry's technologies have remained constant over the past 100 years and Jack's video testimony supports this notion.

Duration: 4.51 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)
- 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**)
- uses relevant evidence from sources to support historical narratives, explanations and analyses of the modern world and Australia (**HT5-6 NSW SYLLABUS**)
- Living and working conditions in Australia around the turn of the twentieth century (that is 1900) (**ACDSEH090**)

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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
- **Ethical**
 - Recognise ethical concepts
 - Explore rights and responsibilities
 - Consider points of view

Context/ Background Information:

Shearing machines replaced hand shears for shearing sheep in the late 19th century. It used to take about 2 years of training and experience on the job to become a good hand shearer but with a shearing machine almost anyone could learn to be a skilled shearer in a few days. The most popular type of shearing machine in Australia and New Zealand was the shaft-driven set up in shearing sheds and involved the shaft belt-driven from a steam or internal combustion engine. The shaft was mounted on roller bearings set in wall brackets and ran at 600 to 700 rpm.

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.

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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 were the landmark developments in technology for shearing? (Uniapon, harness, mechanised shearing, etc)
- What is the relationship between the shearing industry and the trade union movement?
- What made Australian farmers so creative in their response to the challenges in their local environment?
- Brainstorm the role of families in farming – and how has this changed/continued?
- Why was the involvement of the New Zealand Shearers in the Australia industry important? (Wide Comb Dispute)

Suggested Classroom Activities:

- Research & develop a glossary- include terms such as overhead gear, wide comb, crutching. What was a depot shed?
- Take a site visit to the local museum or shearing shed.
- Invite a local shearer to speak in your class or watch a shearing demonstration.
- Write a letter from Jack to a relative explaining how shearing has changed over the course of his employment.
- Role play being a salesman for a mechanised shearing outfit.

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More Information, Contact Details & Arrangements for Visits

The Greens Gonyah Museum is located at 45 Urana St in Lockhart and is open seven days a week between 9.30am & 4pm or at other times by appointment.

Contact with the Museum can be made by phoning (02) 6920 5674 or by emailing mail@lockhart.nsw.gov.au.

More information on the Greens Gonyah Museum can be obtained at:
<http://visitlockhartshire.com.au/attractions/greens-gonyah-museum.aspx> or
<https://www.facebook.com/LockhartsGreensGonyahMuseum>