Teacher Resource

Snowy Hydro Anniversary

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. When did construction start on the Snowy Mountains Scheme?
    a. 1949
    b. 1979
    c. 2017
2. It took 25 years to build the Snowy Mountains Scheme. True or false?
3. What is hydroelectricity?
4. Who helped construct the Snowy Mountains Scheme?
5. Describe the conditions for the people working on the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

Activity: See, Think and Wonder

After watching the BTN Snowy Hydro Anniversary story, students will respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- What was SURPRISING about this story?
- What QUESTIONS do you have about this story?

Activity: Class Discussion

Students will discuss the BTN Snowy Hydro Anniversary story in pairs and then share their thoughts with the class.

- What is the Snowy Mountains Scheme?
- Why was it built?
- Who was involved in the construction?
- What impact has the scheme had on Australia?

Do your students have any other questions they have about the story? Discuss as a class.

EPISODE 29
18th October 2022

KEY LEARNING
Students will explore the history of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Students will investigate the cycle of water.

CURRICULUM
HASS – Year 5
The reasons people migrated to Australia and the experiences and contributions of a particular migrant group within a colony.

HASS – Year 5-6
Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary sources and secondary sources.

HASS – Year 6
Stories of groups of people who migrated to Australia since Federation (including from ONE country of the Asia region) and reasons they migrated.

The contribution of individuals and groups to the development of Australian society since Federation.

HASS – Year 7
Apply a methodology to locate and collect relevant information and data from a range of primary sources and secondary sources.

Geography – Year 7
Classification of environmental resources and the forms that water takes as a resource.

The way that flows of water connects places as it moves through the environment and the way this affects places.

Activity: Act like an historian

Provide your students with the opportunity to act as historians. Students will investigate in more depth some questions they have about the Snowy Mountains Scheme and the people that worked on the project. Students can take notes as they watch the BTN Snowy Hydro Anniversary story or download the transcript after watching the story to guide them through the activity. Students will use the following as a guide or students can write their own inquiry question.

- Write a summary on the Snowy Mountains Scheme, which answers the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?
- Create a timeline highlighting key events in the development of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Include a title, date, and description for each event.
- What role did migrants play in the Snowy Mountains Scheme? Include the following words in your summary: World War II, migrants and multicultural Australia.
- What impact did the Snowy Mountains Scheme have on the environment, people, and the economy?

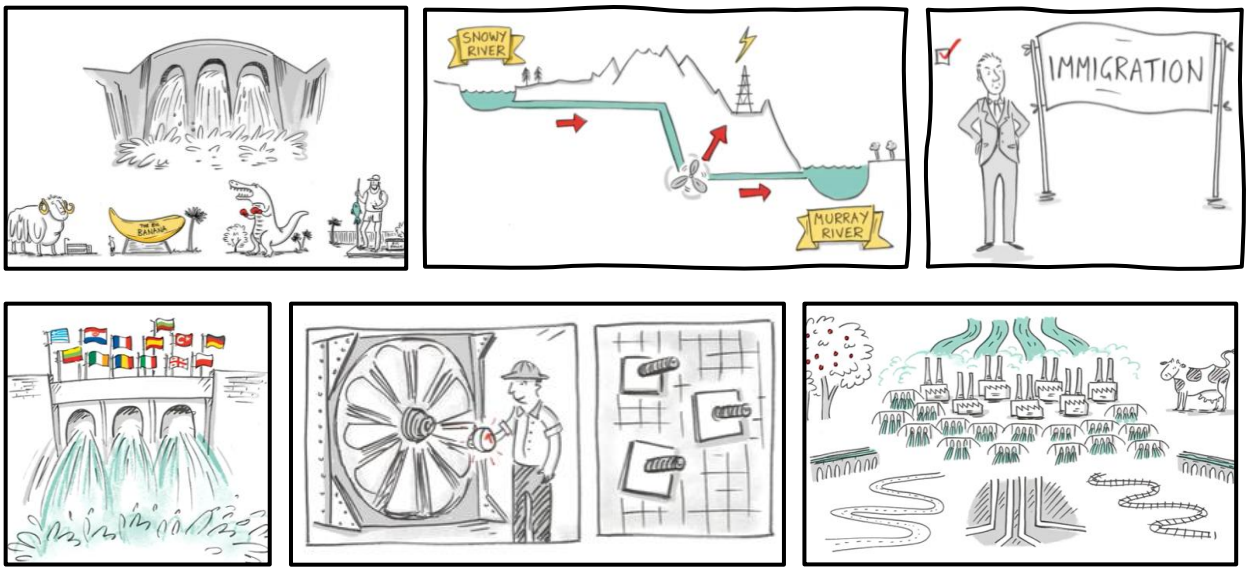
Activity: Animation

As a class watch this National Museum Australia live-sketch animation to learn more about the history of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme, as told by historian David Hunt.

national museum australia

Defining Moments

Snowy Mountains Hydro – Live-sketch Animation



Images taken from the NMA's Live-sketch animation

Students will write and illustrate a comic which tells the story of the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

Activity: The journey of water

Students will arrange the following processes (condensation, runoff, precipitation and evaporation) on the image below and add arrows to create a diagram demonstrating the cycle of water. Students will then investigate each step of the cycle in more detail explaining the biological and chemical mechanisms behind it.

Condensation

Runoff

Precipitation

Evaporation

Further investigation

Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one of the questions below. Encourage students to collect and record information from a wide variety of sources and present the information they find in an interesting way.

- What is the hydrologic cycle?
- What role does the sun play in the hydrological cycle?
- What is hydroelectricity?
- What is the aim of the Snowy Mountains Scheme? Use a map to show the location of the Snowy Mountains Scheme and irrigation areas. Highlight the following on your map: Murray River, Murrumbidgee River, states and territories that benefit from the scheme. Include a legend on your map.
- How many power stations, dams, kilometres of tunnels and kilometres of aqueducts are in the Snowy Mountains Scheme? Show the engineering features of the Snowy Mountains Scheme on a map.

Activity: Collect primary and secondary sources

In this activity, students will explore how historical sources can help tell the story of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Students will use this collection explorer to 'collect' a range of items and categorise them into primary and secondary sources. Students will reflect on each item by responding to a range of questions. Individually or in pairs, students will use the following as a guide as they create their own collection of sources:

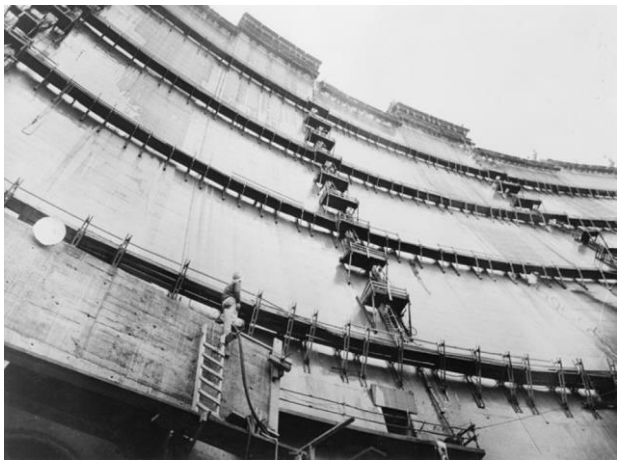
- 'Collect' 3 items to create a Snowy Mountains Scheme memory box. Use the internet to find your items, including equipment, objects, works of art, photographs, maps, letters, diaries, or souvenirs.
- Include an illustration/photo and a description of each object. Why did you include each object in your memory box? Are there any stories related to the object?
- Categorise the objects into two columns, is it a primary source or secondary source?

Look at this 3D image of a 1950s hard hat from the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme. How do primary sources help us understand what it was like for workers on the Snowy Mountains Scheme?

Activity: Visual literacy

In this activity students will examine, analyse and query a range of images which show the Snowy Mountains Scheme during its construction. Students will choose one of the photographs below (alternatively, students can find an image themselves to analyse). Students will then respond to the following:

- Write a short paragraph describing what you see in this photograph.
- When and where was the photo taken?
- What do you think is happening?
- Write a caption for each image using your own words.
- What question/s would you like to ask about the photo? Choose one of your questions to investigate in more detail.



Constructing Tumut Pond Dam, 1960 – National Archives of Australia

Workers pose before going on shift in the Tooma-Tumut tunnel – National Archives of Australia

Activity – Choose a project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

Quiz
Create a true or false quiz to test your classmate's knowledge about the cycle of water.

Summary
Write a summary of the story. What is the story about? Explain in your own words the history of the Snowy Mountains scheme.

Did You Know?
Research the history of the Snowy Mountains Scheme and create a *Did You Know* fact sheet to show what you have learnt.

Postcard writing
Imagine you are a worker on the Snowy Hydro scheme. Write a postcard to a family member explaining your experiences. Include photos, drawings, or maps to decorate your postcard.

Useful Websites

- Snowy Mountains Scheme – BTN
- The Snowy Mountains Scheme – ABC Education
- Snowy Stories – MUSEUM
- Snowy Mountains Hydro – National Museum Australia
- Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme – National Archives Australia
- Water into power: Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme (digital classroom) – National Museum Australia
- The Snowy Scheme water cycle (fact sheet) – Snowy Hydro
- Student showcase: Snowy Hydro Who's Who (digital classroom) – National Museum Australia