



Teacher Resource

# Public Domain

## Focus Questions

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

1. Who created the classic 'Steamboat Willie'?
2. What is copyright?
3. Name one item that someone can create, which they automatically own the copyright to?
4. Copyright is a part of an area of law called what...?
5. What is the name of the place where work goes when copyright expires?
  - a. The public realm
  - b. The public domain
  - c. The public sphere
6. What is the general rule of thumb for the copyright protection of an artistic/literary work, such as a book?
7. In what circumstance could a copyrighted work be allowed to be used?
8. True or false? The Walt Disney company has lobbied the US Government to extend the length of time a work can be copyrighted for, from 56 to 95 years.

## Activities

- Write a speech to explain how long you think an artistic/literary work should be copyrighted for and why? Share your speech with the class.
- Research the rules around copyright. Write a report about what can happen if a person is found to have breached copyright laws (copyright infringement).
- Research a famous copyright infringement case. Explain in 500 words:
  - What was the case about?
  - Who was involved?
  - What was the outcome?
  - Why was this case significant?

### EPISODE 6

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### KEY LEARNING

Students will discover what copyright and intellectual property are. They will investigate what happens when copyright expires and enters the public domain.

### CURRICULUM

[Media Arts - Years 7 and 8 \(v8.4\)](#)

[Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages - Years 7 to 10 \(v8.4\)](#)

[Media Arts - Years 7 and 8 \(v9.0\)](#)

[Design and Technologies - Years 7 and 8 \(v9.0\)](#)