



Teacher Resource

History of TV

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. What year was the first mechanical television system invented?
2. Who invented the mechanical television system?
3. What year was the first television broadcast in Australia?
4. Behind the News started in...
 - a. 1968
 - b. 1978
 - c. 1988
5. What was a major event in television history? Give one example.

Activity: What do you see and learn?

After watching the BTN History of TV 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

Discuss the BTN History of TV story as a class. Ask students what they know about TV. Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- What do you know about the history of television? Make a list.
- Do you watch television? If so, why do you watch it?
- What's your favourite TV show? Why do you like it?
- Have your TV viewing habits changed over time?
- What impact has television had on society?
- What do you think the future of TV is? Give reasons for your answer.
- Working in pairs, come up with 5 fun facts about TV.

Further investigation

What is the most viewed television program of all time – in Australia and the world?

EPISODE 1

3rd February 2026

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the history of television and investigate how it has impacted society and culture.

CURRICULUM

Media Arts – Years 5 & 6

Plan, produce and present media artworks for specific audiences and purposes using responsible media practice.

Explain how the elements of media arts and story principles communicate meaning by comparing media artworks from different social, cultural and historical contexts, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander media artworks.

Media Arts – Years 7 & 8

Plan, structure and design media artworks that engage audiences.

Identify specific features and purposes of media artworks from contemporary and past times to explore viewpoints and enrich their media arts making, starting with Australian media artworks including of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander media artworks.

Activity: Television History Research

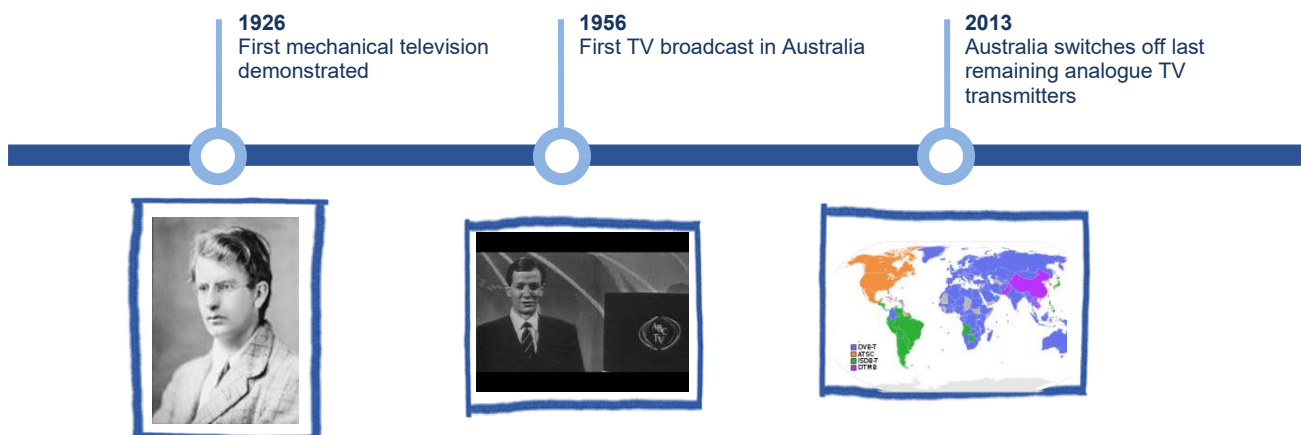
Discuss the information raised in the BTN History of TV story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below

Research

- Who invented the television? Write a biography about the inventor.
- What significant world events have been broadcast on TV? Choose one to explore in more detail.
- How did television change the way people got news and information?
- How is the internet changing the way we watch TV?
- What impact has TV had on Australian society? Think about how we engage with global events and culture.
- Make a prediction about how our television viewing habits will change in the future.

Activity: Timeline of main events

Students will create a timeline to sequence the history of television including the introduction of television in Australia and the switch from analogue to digital TV transmitters.



Students will work in small groups and work through the following questions to build on their understanding of the history of the television (including the invention of the television, when the television was introduced to Australia, how television has changed the world and how technology has changed the television). Students will find and collect images, photographs, illustrations and video as part of their research.

- When was the mechanical television first demonstrated? What image was shown?
- When was television introduced to Australia?
- When was the ABC's first television broadcast?
- What was the first Australian TV show?
- When was colour television invented?
- When did digital television start?

Useful Websites

- [World TV Day](#) – BTN
- [Invention: Early Experiments](#) – BBC