

Our proud history

Introduction to history

Stage 3 - Overview

In this lesson, explore our proud history and take a closer look at the people power that built the Snowy Scheme. Dive into the migrant Snowy story and hear from some of our past workers. Learn how this vast workforce of over 100,000 men and women from 30 different countries lived and worked together while building the Scheme and Australia's future, post-WWII. Extend this topic with other activities across English, digital technology and research skills.

Learning area	Content descriptions
 HASS Case study - Snowy Hydro	Knowledge and understanding Year 6 - Australia in the past and present and its connections with a diverse world
 <u>ACHASSK136</u>	Stories of groups of people who migrated to Australia since Federation (including from ONE country of the Asia region) and reasons they migrated
 <u>ACHASSK137</u>	The contribution of individuals and groups to the development of Australian society since Federation
 English	Language, literature and literacy Teaching and learning programs should balance and integrate all three strands. Together, the strands focus on developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating

The subject of sustainability is a foundation for all learning areas and key concepts - [sustainability](#)
- cross-curriculum priority (ACARA)

Resources

Fact sheet - History
Website - Gallery
Website - Gallery videos (celebrating 70 years of the Snowy Scheme)
Fact sheet - Snowy Hydro
Activity sheet - Migrant Snowy story dot-to-dot
Activity sheet - Ideas capture sheet

Lesson ideas and activities

Introduction

The Snowy Scheme provides a perfect case study in which to view Australia from its past through to the present and connections with a diverse world. Introduce the idea that diverse groups have contributed to shaping Australia and that the construction of the Scheme is one example of effecting change and the growth of our nation.

Lesson

- Provide your students with the History fact sheet (either online or printed) and take your students through the information
- Start with the text box 'Snowy Mountains Scheme launch'. Ask the students to carefully look at the photo and note the date. Ask the class, 'Can anyone tell me how long ago this was? Does anyone know what world event had just finished?' This helps place the Scheme into the context of the era
- Go to 'The beginning' text box. Work through the facts and pause on 25 years to build. Place this into the context of today. Imagine your house or other structure taking 25 years to build.
- Go to The first power text box - examine the importance of Guthega Power Station as the first in the Scheme to produce power - visit www.snowyhydro.com.au
- Turn over the page and learn more about the people who built the Snowy Mountains Scheme
- Video Celebrating 70 years of the Snowy Scheme before viewing the video, focus students by challenging them to listen for an answer to the following question. Who does Sir William Hudson refer to when he says, "When I say 'we' ?"
- Provide one Migrant Snowy Story activity sheet for each student
- Students complete the tent activity. Ask them to draw themselves as a migrant worker next to their tent. They can also draw a background to fill in the sheet. Be as imaginative as you like
- Website galleries. Ask students to examine the archival photos in the gallery and choose one that interests them the most. Class discussion, record any class questions on the board for later research
- Activity sheet - ideas capture sheet. Use this worksheet to capture the students' ideas and thoughts. Ask them to write about a day in the life of a worker, either in the first person, or as a recount

Extension ideas

HASS

- **Youtube video** - 10 stories from former workers and their families for more inspiration
- Role play life, living and working on the Snowy Scheme. Have students break into small groups and use the photo gallery as a stimuli. Ask them to create a conversation between group members that might have actually occurred, such as;

Snow blocking the tent doorway, their Landrover sliding off the road or getting stuck in the mud, tunnelling records they achieved that day, missing their families overseas, or receiving a letter from a loved one and recounting its contents
- Multiculturalism was officially introduced in 1973. Examine the influence the Snowy Scheme had on the multicultural Australia of today

English

Additional learning resources for purchase

- Listen to music with lyrics of the Snowy Mountains Scheme - 'The Settlers'
- A recommended book for stage 3 - 'Snowy' by Siobhan McHugh, about an 11-year-old girl named Eva Fisher, who moved to the township of Cabramurra. This book is written from Eva's perspective as we learn about the Snowy Scheme through her diary dated 1958 and 1959

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