



Our proud history

# Write a postcard home

Introduction to History fact sheet - [Click here](#)

## Overview

This activity draws on your imagination. Teleport yourself back to the early construction of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Thousands of migrants came to work and live in the Snowy Mountains, conditions were tough, friendships made and a new multicultural Australia had emerged. Many of the men came first before bringing their wives and children with them, filled with optimism for a new life of hope and opportunity, leaving behind a war-torn Europe.

How would you explain your Snowy Scheme experiences in a postcard to home? Think about your job, living conditions, how you feel, your observations of the countryside and animals, what you miss and what you have found.

## Further investigation

Listen to interviews with past Snowy migrants who lived and worked on the Snowy Scheme and marvel at their stories as they built a nation.

[Click here](#) - individual workers, 10 workers video

### FACT 1

Workers lived in regional townships and more than 100 temporary camps. Life could be harsh, especially during the early years, when hundreds of workers spent freezing winters in canvas tents, with only basic amenities and provisions. These humble dwellings were not suited to the snow-bound, alpine conditions and fires were considered too much of a safety risk.

### FACT 2

When construction was completed, workers dispersed across Australia. These 'new Australians', with their energy and enterprise, would change Australia's social and cultural skyline forever.

### FACT 3

Over 100,000 people from more than 30 countries worked on the Scheme between 1949 and 1974. More than 65% of these workers were migrants. Many came from war-torn Europe through the Australian Government's immigration scheme. Former enemies on the battlefield united and used 'people power' to build the mighty Snowy Scheme.

### FACT 4

Work in the tunnels was dirty, wet, noisy, smelly and dangerous. Ninety-eight per cent of the Scheme was built underground. There was a lot of tunnelling, often through solid granite rock.

## Write a postcard

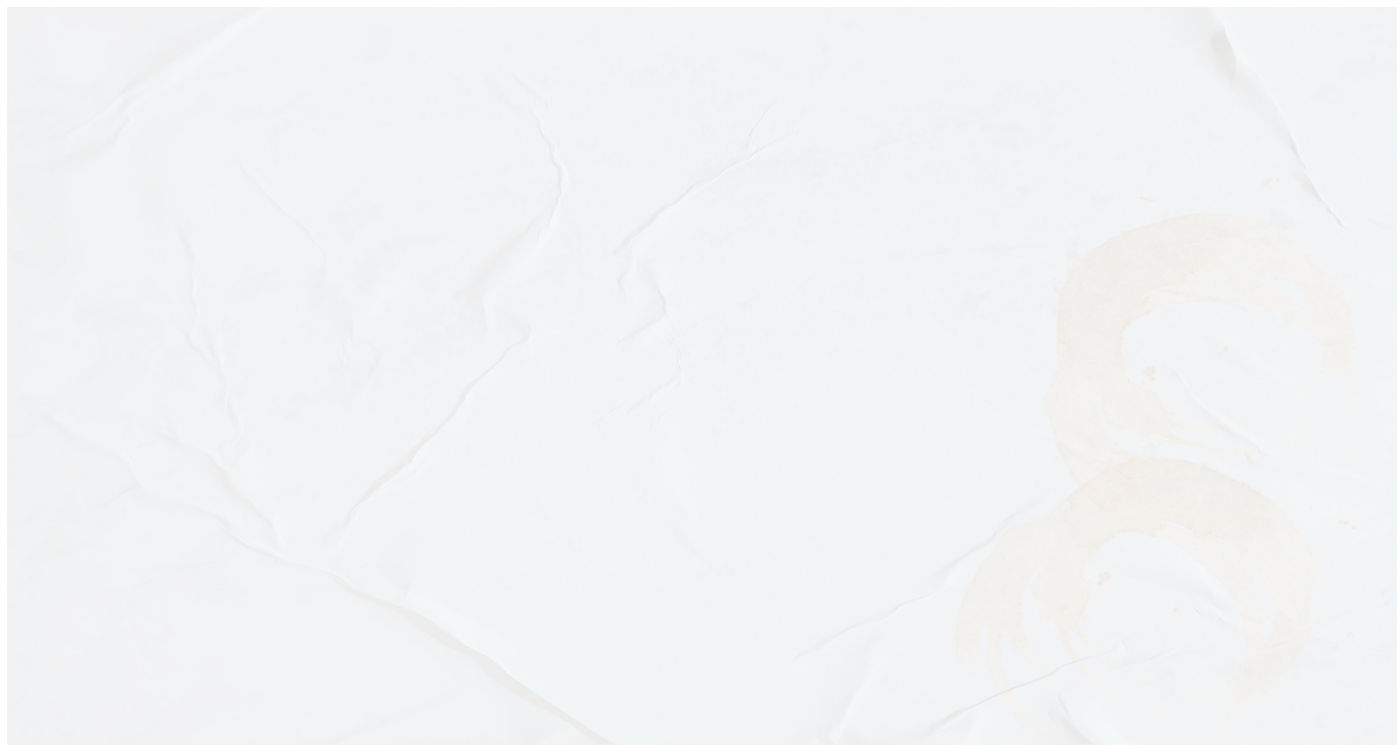
Imagine you are a migrant working on the Scheme. Using the information on this sheet and your individual research, write a postcard to a family member explaining your experiences. On the front of the postcard template, decorate it to include a title, photographs, drawings and/or maps. Cut and fold along the lines as shown. **Be as creative as you like!**

[Click here](#) to view our image gallery suggestions

Cut here



Front of postcard - decorate



Fold here

Back of postcard - write

