



EPISODE 6: 1958: MICHAELIS

Unit focus: History

Year level: Years 3–6

EPISODE CLIP: THE CHRISTENING

ACTIVITY 8: PAYING A PENNY

Subthemes: Culture: Currency

The boys next door who bullied Michaelis repay him a penny for his lost ice block.

Discover

- As a class, discuss the value of the penny in 1958 and the value of one cent today. Look at what can be purchased in the 1950s, and what is the cost of the equivalent commodity today. Make a comparative list of essential commodities that would be purchased each week by a family, such as bread, milk, butter, cheese, meat, Vegemite, jam and soap.

Reflect

- Ask students to find a promotional flyer from a local supermarket advertising this week's grocery specials. These promotions are usually placed in their letterboxes, or they can find them online.
- Use the brochures and online websites as a guide to lay out a catalogue. Ask students to design a catalogue for 1958 using images and prices that would be available at that time.
- Alternatively, they could create a price list for the milk bar that Michaelis visits.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet H6.8: Yesteryear and now

EPISODE 8: 1938: COLUM

Unit focus: History

Year level: Years 3–6

EPISODE CLIP: *THE SHADOW*

ACTIVITY 6: CURRENCY

Subthemes: Currency

Colum and Thommo are calculating the amount of money they need to save Thommo's family from eviction. The currency during this time is pounds, shillings and pence. The value of each denomination was based on imperial measure, which was a unit of 12.



- Due to counterfeit concerns in the late 1920s, a new series of notes and coins were issued in 1932. This new series was dubbed the 'Ash series' after John Ash the Australian note printer.

Discover

- In this clip, Colum deals with coins rather than notes. Ask students to research what coins were used in the 1930s. Students can research the denominations of currency during this era and illustrate them on a chart.

Reflect

- Ask students to work with a partner to find diagrams, or photos, of the coins used in the 1930s. On an A3-sized poster, students compare the coins used in 1930 against the coins used today. Coins of today can be traced or rubbed with a pencil with paper over the top of them. Encourage students to investigate what types of emblems or illustrations were used on the old coins and compare them to the emblems used today.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet H8.6: Coins of all ages

ACTIVITY 3: WARTIME CURRENCY

Subthemes: Australians at war; Currency

The Museum of Australian Currency Notes website includes information on currency in Australia from 1901 to the present. View the website with your class and discuss the changes in design and artwork of the notes. Examine carefully the different timelines on the website, taking particular note of developments during the First World War. Discuss the characteristics and special features of coins and notes and consider why old coins and notes are so collectable today.

Museum of Australian Currency Notes, http://www.rba.gov.au/Museum/Timeline/1901_1920.html
(Select 'Displays' for designs of Australian notes.)

Discover

- Ask students to look closely at the designs and artwork on notes between 1901 and 1920. The pictures are downloadable from the Museum of Australian Currency Notes website. Have students choose one note and or a coin create a factual mind map outlining the important characteristics and special features of the note. Students should focus on the following:
 - 1 Why were emblems used?
 - 2 Why were serial numbers used?
 - 3 What types of markings were used to make the notes distinctly Australian?
 - 4 Why do the notes depict important people or events?
 - 5 How collectable is the note today?

Reflect

- Students should design their own note for the 1910–1919 era, depicting something or someone significant from the time.

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- Student Activity Sheet H10.3: Design a banknote



EPISODE 11: 1908: EVELYN

Unit focus: History

Year level: Years 3–6

ACTIVITY 6: CURRENCY

Subthemes: Currency

Loose change doesn't buy much these days, and it seems to be the same for Evelyn and her companions. Loose change couldn't buy them the fireworks they wanted from Mr Wong's Emporium.

Discover

- Coins and notes from the early 1900s were different to the coins and notes of today, and so was the amount families needed to spend on everyday items like milk and bread.
- Research the currency of the 1900s using the following websites:
 - 1 Museum of Australian Currency Notes, <http://www.rba.gov.au/Museum/Displays>
 - 2 Printing, 'A New Currency: 1900–1910', <http://printingcolor.blogspot.com/2009/09/new-currency-1900-1920.html>
- The reference book, *Australian decimal currency: an introduction for teachers* by the Australian Decimal Currency Board (1965) has some interesting information.

Reflect

- Ask students to bring current Australian coins of each denomination to class. Photocopy or download pictures of coins from the early 1900s. Students can compare the coins they use today to the coins of the 1900s by using the table in Student Activity Sheet H11.6. They can trace or rub over the coins they have brought into class, as well as cutting and pasting the pictures of the old coins.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet H11.6: Comparing coins

ACTIVITY 7: THE PRICE OF BREAD

Subthemes: Currency; Food

Discover

- What did a loaf of bread cost back then? In pairs, students research the cost of everyday essential items like bread and milk in the early 1900s, and compare it to the cost of the same items today. Ask students to conduct an online search and utilise reference books in the library.
- Students can develop a cost-comparison chart by listing the items they have researched and converting the pre-decimal amounts into decimal currency. They can use the list on the template provided in Student Activity Sheet H11.7 and add other items if they wish. On the chart, include images of actual advertisements for these commodities.



Download

- Student Activity Sheet H11.7: Comparing prices



Name: _____

Student Activity Sheet: H6.8
Activity 8: Paying a penny

Episode 6: 1958: Michaelis
Clip: The christening

Yesteryear and now

The boys next door who bullied Michaelis repay him a penny for his lost ice block.

- 1 Look at what can be bought in the 1950s and what the cost of an equivalent item is today. Make a comparative list of essential commodities that would be purchased each week by a family, such as bread, milk, butter, cheese, meat, Vegemite, jam and soap.

Commodity	1958	2010

- 2 Design a catalogue for 1958 using images and prices from that era. Find a promotional flyer from a local supermarket advertising this week's grocery specials. These brochures are placed in the letter box, or you can find them on the internet. Use the brochure as a guide for the layout of your 1958 catalogue.
- 3 Produce a price list and illustrate what would be sold at the milk bar that Michaelis visits in this episode. This article from *The Age* online is a good source of information about how household shopping lists have changed over time:

The Age, 'How CPI shopping list has changed',
<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/how-cpi-shopping-list-has-changed/2008/04/23/1208743040371.html>



Name: _____

Student Activity Sheet H8.6
Activity 6: Currency

Episode 8: 1938: Colum
Clip: *The Shadow*

Coins of all ages

- 1 Collect Australian decimal coins of each denomination: 1 cent, 2 cent, 5 cent, 10 cent, 20 cent and 50 cent coins. Trace or rub over the coin by placing it under the paper on the sections in the table below. Ensure you do both sides.
- 2 Cut and paste pictures of coins from the 1930s (provided by your teacher) on the sections in the table below.
- 3 Now compare the similarities and differences of each coin.

Today: 1 cent	1930: 1 halfpenny
Today: 2 cents	1930: threepence
Today: 5 cents	1930: sixpence
Today: 10 cents	1930: 1 shilling
Today: 20 cents	1930 florin
Today: 50 cents	What was equivalent to 50 cents in 1938?

Design a banknote

- 1 Research the Australian notes available to the public between 1901 and 1920. The pictures are downloadable from the Reserve Bank of Australia at <http://www.rba.gov.au>
- 2 Choose one note between 1901 and 1920 and create a factual mind map outlining the important characteristics and special features on the note. Use the following focus questions as a guide:
 - a Why were emblems used on notes?
 - b Why were serial numbers used on notes?
 - c What types of markings are used to make the notes distinctly Australian?
 - d Why do notes depict important people or events?
 - e How collectable is the note you have chosen?

Here is an example.



Who is in the picture?

This is the serial number.

What are these special markings?

This is important information.

- 3 Design your own note of that era, depicting something or someone significant of the time.



Name: _____

Student Activity Sheet H11.6
Activity 6: Currency

Episode 11: 1908: Evelyn
Clip: Mr Wong's Emporium

Comparing coins

- 1 Collect a coin of each current denomination and trace or draw over it by placing it under the paper in the table below. Ensure you do both sides.
- 2 Cut and paste pictures of coins from the early 1900s, provided by your teacher, into the table below.
- 3 Now compare the coins.

Coins of 2009	Coins of the early 1900s	Similarities	Differences



Name: _____

Student Activity Sheet H11.7
Activity 7: The price of bread

Episode 11: 1908: Evelyn
Clip: Mr Wong's Emporium

Comparing prices

Check the cost of the items below by researching online or at your school or local library.

Item	Cost in 1900	Cost in 2009
Loaf of bread		
Carton or bottle of milk		
Chocolate bar		
Bag of flour		
Packet of sugar		