

KID CURATOR & THE TEA SET

This video is part of a series, created as a collaboration between Michael Mills and the History Trust of South Australia. The Kid Curator series explores local South Australian history through historical objects. The videos provide a curatorial description of the object and period in history blended with narrative-based re-enactments. Each video focuses on an object from the History Trust of South Australia's State History Collection and provides differing point of view on the history of the object in question. View the video and use the dedicated education resource for a cross curricular exploration of the history of South Australia.

The Tea Set

This video showcases a tea set sold in “The China Gift Store”, the shopfront now known as “Miss Gladys Sym Choon”. The store is named after Gladys Sym Choon who ran the store. The China Gift Store was one of several stores owned and run by the Sym Choon family. South Australia's Migration Museum now looks after several items from the original store stock. This video considers the perspectives of Gladys Sym Choon and of a customer visiting her shop.



Curriculum Map

Year 4

Civics and Citizenship – diversity of cultural, religious and/or social groups to which they and others in the community belong, and their importance to identity (AC9HS4K09)

HPE – describe how valuing diversity influences wellbeing and identify actions that promote inclusion in their communities (AC9HP4P05)

Year 5

Economics and business – types of resources, including natural, human and capital, and how they satisfy needs and wants (AC9HS5K08)

Civics and Citizenship – how citizens (members of communities) with shared beliefs and values work together to achieve a civic goal (AC9HS5K07)

HPE – describe and implement strategies to value diversity in their communities (AC9HP6P05)

Year 6

Economics and business – influences on consumer choices and strategies that can be used to help make informed personal consumer and financial choices (AC9HS6K08)

Geography – Australia's interconnections with other countries and how these change people and places (AC9HS6K05)

HPE – describe and implement strategies to value diversity in their communities (AC9HP6P05)

Focus Questions

Before watching:

1. Is there a 'typical' Australian? If so, how would you describe this person? If not, why not?
2. When you shop do you like to shop for unusual, hard to get items or more local, Australian items? Why?
3. Do people act differently when they're at work and at home? Why?

After watching:

1. Did Gladys portray herself differently in her workplace to in her home? Why/why not?
2. The China Gift Store is now called Miss Gladys Sym Choon. What is the significance of this name?
3. Do you think it bothered Gladys that people didn't often "see" her for who she was?

Class Activities

Tea art

Using the resource sheet provided, fill the Sym Choon classic tea pot with illustrations about you and your family. Think about your family and your heritage when making your design. Take time to share your artwork as a class.

Migration and heritage

Gladys was born and raised in Australia by parents who immigrated from Guangdong province in southern China to South Australia in the 1890s. Explore themes of migration in the following activity.

As a class watch and discuss the Migration Museum's video on South Australian Migration.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFvNEwI5_bs

Next work in pairs or individually to trace the family heritage and date of immigration of any person you choose, using tools such as the Maritime Museum's research guide.

<https://maritime.history.sa.gov.au/research-types/research-guide-tracing-your-ancestors-voyage-to-south-australia/>

Put together what you have learned into a short presentation to share with the class.

Where to Next?

Explore themes of diversity, community and racism further using this or other similar resources

<https://racismnoway.com.au/teaching-resources/anti-racism-activities/lesson-ideas/i-am-you-are-we-are/>



