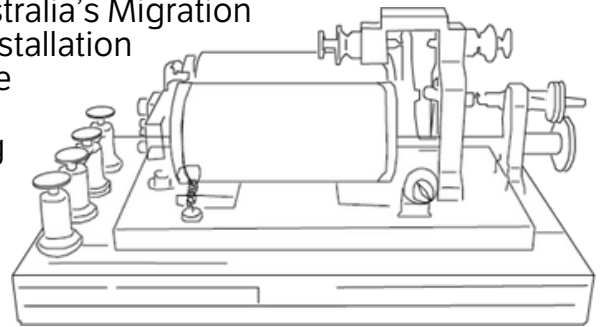


KID CURATOR & THE TELEGRAPH RELAY

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 points 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 Telegraph Relay

South Australia watched Victoria reap the benefit of a powerful new form of technology before jumping on the idea. Telegrams, the e-mail of the day, needed a range of equipment such as lines and relays in order to function. Several pieces of this equipment are now looked after by South Australia's Migration Museum. This video delves into the story of the installation of the telegraph in South Australia. It considers the perspectives of a First Nations person, sharing a story of song lines, and of a tradesperson working on the installation of the telegraph.



Curriculum Map

Year 4

Geography – the importance of environments, including natural vegetation and water sources, to people and animals in Australia and on another continent (AC9HS4K05)
Design and Technology – examine design and technologies occupations and factors including sustainability that impact on the design of products, services and environments to meet community needs (AC9TDE4K01)
Science – consider how people use scientific explanations to meet a need or solve a problem (AC9S4H02)

Year 5

Geography – the influence of people, including First Nations Australians and people in other countries, on the characteristics of a place (AC9HS5K04)
Design and Technology – explain how people in design and technologies occupations consider competing factors including sustainability in the design of products, services and environments (AC9TDE6K01)
Science – investigate how scientific knowledge is used by individuals and communities to identify problems, consider responses and make decisions (AC9S5H02)

Year 6

Design and Technology – explain how people in design and technologies occupations consider competing factors including sustainability in the design of products, services and environments (AC9TDE6K01)
Science – investigate the transfer and transformation of energy in electrical circuits, including the role of circuit components, insulators and conductors (AC9S6U03)
investigate how scientific knowledge is used by individuals and communities to identify problems, consider responses and make decisions (AC9S6H02)

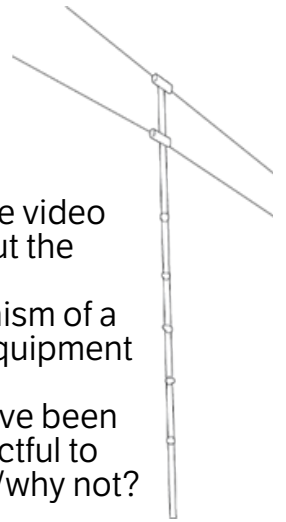
Focus Questions

Before watching:

1. What methods/technology did people used in the past to communicate over distance?
2. Do you know what a telegraph is? What does it need to work?
3. Have you heard of “songlines” before? What do you know about them?

After watching:

1. Why did the characters in the video have different opinions about the telegraph lines?
2. Can you explain the mechanism of a telegraph after seeing the equipment that was used?
3. Could the telegraph lines have been built in a way that was respectful to First Nations peoples? Why/why not?



Class Activity

Mapping History – Active research task

Research South Australia’s telegraph lines and reflect on the effect of this technology on First Nations peoples.

First, use these resources to familiarise yourself with South Australia’s telegraph lines.

- <https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/C+264>
- <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-148376254/view?searchTerm=telegraph+south+australia#search/telegraph%20south%20australia>

Next, use this map to help you find one of the First Nations’ Countries affected.

- <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia>

Research that Country further:

- Can you find some words in their language?
- Can you find a place of significance to them?
- Can you find out about anyone from this Country?

Write a written reflection on the experience of that First Nations’ Country.

Take time to share your work.



Where to Next?

Look further into the science of communication technology using resources such as this one:

<https://tryengineering.org/teacher/electric-messages-then-and-now/>