



HOLDEN & ME

Tales from a Working Life

Lesson 2: Responding to Oral Histories
Middle School



Australian Research Council

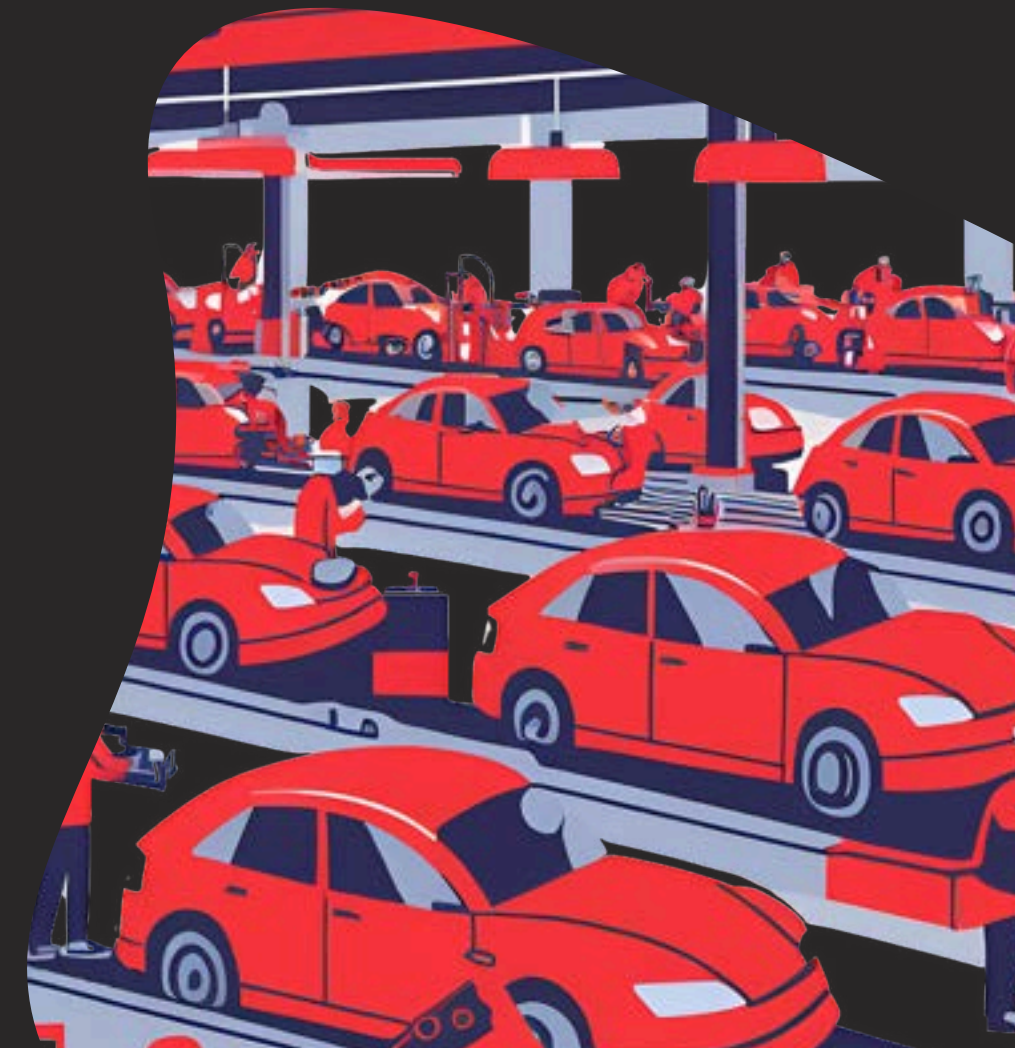


In this lesson, we will...

Learn about what oral histories are and why they are used by historians.

Listen, think, and understand the oral histories of real people.

Reflect on what the stories can tell us and how we can connect to the story.



At the end of this lesson, I will be able to...



Explain what an oral history is and why historians use them.



Listen to an oral history and explain what the person is tell me.



Make connections between the story and myself.



Important Words

Argument

Oral history

Community

Perspective

Experience

Primary source

Historian

Secondary source

Holden

Significant

Identity

Social



Brainstorm:
What do you know about...

HOLDEN



Holden's History

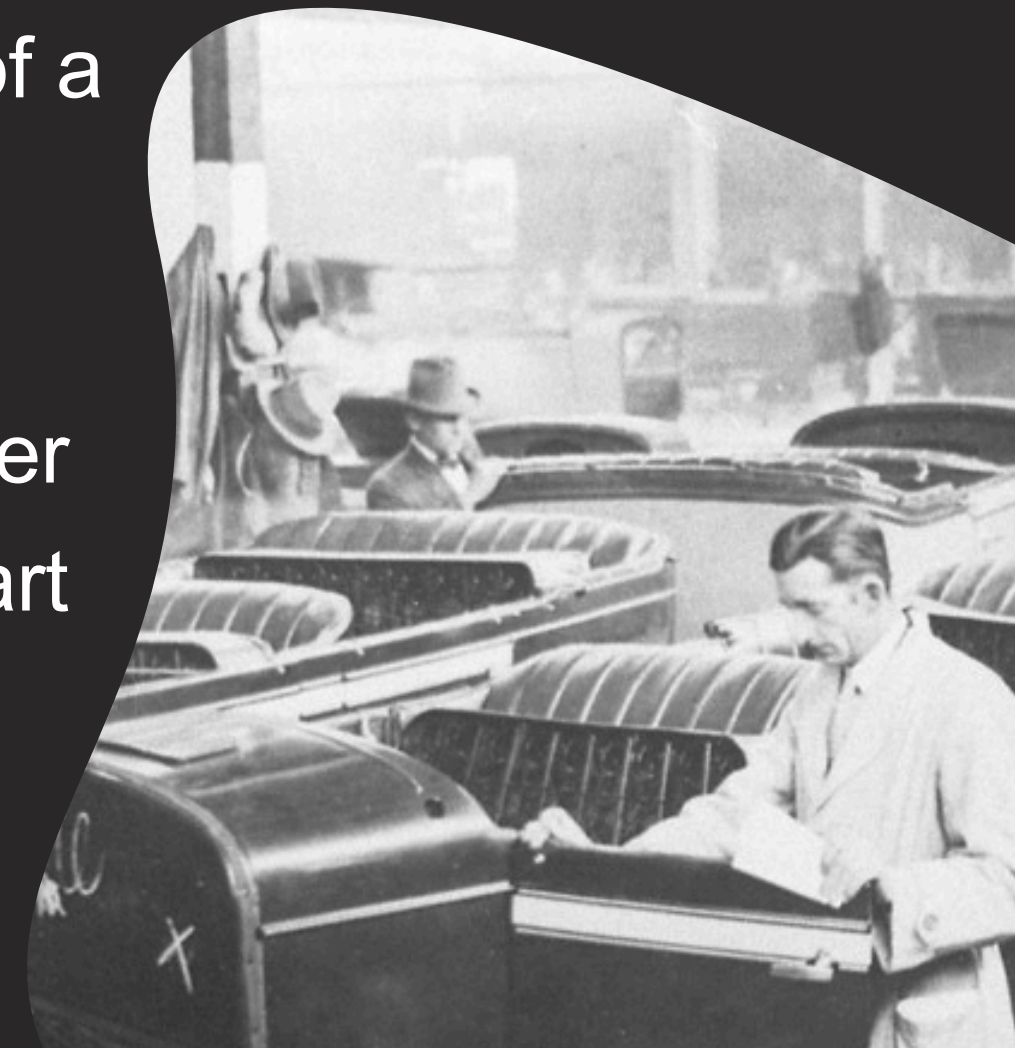


Holden and South Australia

At its peak Holden employed over 24,000 workers across five states. Holden employees were diverse: working men and women, migrants, young and old, skilled and unskilled, professional, short and longterm.

In 1962, Holden opened a new factory in Elizabeth. This was an important location as the new suburb attracted new migrants with the promise of a modern home and a job.

The 2017 closure of the Elizabeth plant marked the end of an era. After 55 years, Elizabeth lost its main source of employment and a large part of the community's identity.



Historical Sources

Watch this video to understand what a source is, the types of sources that exist, and how historians use sources to understand what might have happened in the past.





What is an oral history?

An oral history is a **primary source** of information spoken by a person about their **experience** of an event.

Remember: Some people prefer to think of oral histories as a separate category of historical sources.

Oral histories are usually recorded sound but can often include video and/or written elements too.





How do historians use oral histories?

Oral histories can be used to **answer questions** about the past.

Historians use oral histories to help them build an **argument** of what happened in the past.

They use oral histories to understand the **perspectives** of different people that were involved.



Holden Oral Histories

Joan & David Matthews



Joan started working at Woodville Holden when she was 15-years old in the typing pool. She met David while he was working in electrical maintenance. They have been married for more than 60 years.

Lynette Tainsh



Lynette has fond memories of attending Holden Christmas parties long before she became an electrical fitter like her father. She was only the second female apprentice at Elizabeth and later became a supervisor

George Vassallo



George migrated with his parents from Egypt after World War II. He did an apprenticeship at Woodville, and later relocated to Elizabeth. His father also worked at Holden. George worked hard to create a specialist tool and was recognised for his work.

Keith Hamilton



Keith started at Elizabeth as a 19-year-old. He held a variety of roles from forklift driver to warehouse team leader. Some of his happiest memories are of lunchtime games of indoor bowls, darts and table tennis, and soccer and cricket games against other factories.

Hear, Think, Me, We



Hear

- Who were the **people** they talked about?
- Were there any places or **locations** they mention?
- Does the person mention a **date**, **year**, or **decade**?
- Do they mention any special **objects**?
- Did they participate in any special **events** or **projects**?



Think

- Can you think of any **emotions** the person might be **feeling** when they tell their story? Do they use any emotive words?
- What might the person have **left out** of their story?
- What **extra questions** do you have about their story or what they didn't talk about?



Me

- Can you think of any times you might have **felt similar** to the person in the story?
- What do you think **you might have done** if you were the person in the story?



We

- Do any of their experiences **remind you** of something in your life or the life of someone close to you?
- How do you think the **community** might have reacted to Holden closing down?

Time to share!



Final Question



**Share a question you would ask
the person from your oral history
recording with the class or a
partner.**

After this lesson, I can...



Explain what an oral history is and why historians use them.



Listen to an oral history and explain what the person is telling me.



Make connections between the story and myself.

