



EPISODE 6: 1958: MICHAELIS

Unit focus: English

Year level: Years 3–6

EPISODE CLIP: THE CHRISTENING

ACTIVITY 7: FATHERS AND SONS

Subthemes: Currency; Customs and traditions; Relationships

Discover

- Ask students to describe the relationship between Michaelis and his father and discuss their responses. Ask them to use evidence from the clip to support their observations, for example, Baba kissing and hugging Michaelis, and the kind way he speaks to his son. Ask students to then examine the relationship between the McCormack boys and their father. Discuss these responses.
- Screen the segment that shows the McCormack boys giving Michaelis the penny and watch carefully the portrayal of their father in this scene. He doesn't speak, but his body language conveys many emotions. Draw the students' attention to the way camera angles and shots are used to enhance the meaning of this scene. Discuss the reasons why the filmmaker has portrayed the McCormack family in this way. Use the following questions as prompts:
 - 1 How does this scene make the audience now feel about the relationship between Michaelis and his father?
 - 2 Why does the filmmaker want the audience to have sympathy for the McCormack boys?
 - 3 What does this scene add to the story?

Reflect

- Ask the students to reflect on the scene and complete these statements on the activity sheet.
 - 1 The filmmaker portrays the Greek family as ... because ...
 - 2 The filmmaker portrays the McCormack family as ... because ...

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E6.4: Fathers and sons from two families

ACTIVITY 8: TRADITIONS AND BELIEFS

Subthemes: Beliefs; Celebrations; Currency

Discover

- At baby Sophia's christening, Michaelis's father asks him, 'Do you feel Greek now?' Ask the class what they think was meant by this question. Do students think Michaelis feels Greek now? Why or why not?



- Have students list and discuss some of the Greek customs relating to the christening that are shown in the clip. Some suggestions could include throwing coins and Greek dancing.
- Introduce the term 'christening' to the class and clarify what it means. Have students identify and discuss other cultural practices for welcoming a baby into the family, the community, or the world. Use examples such as a naming ceremony or first birthday party. Have students ask their families for information about any ceremonies that might have been held for them as babies and to share these with the class.
- Discuss the importance of food in celebrations and have students write about a special occasion in their own family and what food they would enjoy at this occasion. Read the book *Let's Eat!* by Ana Zamorano, illustrated by Julie Vivas, to find out about the importance of sharing a meal together in a Spanish family.

Reflect

- Ask the students to design a special naming ceremony for someone or something important to them. This could be a pet, a person or a special toy. Students should include a speech, saying why this person or object is special and what they would wish for its future. Create a menu of food and drinks to celebrate the occasion.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E6.5: Celebrating special occasions

EPISODE 8: 1938: COLUM

Unit focus: English

Year level: Years 3–6

EPISODE CLIP: THE SHADOW

ACTIVITY 6: MONEY FOR JAM

Subthemes: Currency; Language and scripting; Relationships

Discover

- Discuss what the audience learns about the currency used in 1938 through watching this clip. Ask students to note all the information they can about money, and what messages the clip conveys about it. Look closely for clues in the dialogue and action. Have students name the coins and the slang used for money, for example, what does 'a couple of bob' mean? Ask students to find out what a bob is worth today.
- Invite students to interview older people, for example grandparents, to see what they can find out about money before decimal currency. Have students research pre-decimal money to find out why the names 'shilling', 'bob', 'sixpence' and so on were used.

Reflect

- Encourage students to find examples of old currency to bring to class and compare with today's coins. Have students research the comparative value of the old currency and today's money.



They should list the prices of everyday items (for example, milk, a newspaper, lollies, a loaf of bread) today and in 1938.

- Ask students to create two newspaper advertisements for a basic commodity. The first advertisement should be designed to be published in 1938 and the second design should be for a newspaper publication today.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E8.6: A couple of bob

EPISODE 12: 1898: ROWLEY

Unit focus: English

Year level : Years 3–6

EPISODE CLIP: FOUNDING THE ALP

ACTIVITY 6: THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY (ALP)

Subtheme: Culture; Currency; Politics

Discover

- Ask students to reflect on what they found out about the formation of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) from viewing the clip. They should respond to the following questions:
 - 1 What historical information was presented?
 - 2 How did the filmmaker present this information to the audience?
- Ask students to reflect on what they saw and heard in the clip, particularly the way the characters interact, and discuss pertinent issues.

Reflect

- As a class, discuss what point of view (POV) the clip presents regarding the actions of the ALP to support workers' rights.
- Ask students to pretend they are either a worker or an employer in 1898. Have them design and create a half-page flyer that advocates for or against workers' rights. They should use text and images to explain their POV. The episode stills could be useful for this activity.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E12.6: A point of view



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.

Download

- 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 E6.4
Activity 7: Fathers and sons

Episode 6: 1958: Michaelis
Clip: The christening

Fathers and sons from two families

1 Describe the relationship between Michaelis and his father.

2 Examine the relationship between the McCormack boys and their father.

3 What does the filmmaker want the audience to think about the McCormack family?

4 Copy and complete the following statements:

a The filmmaker portrays the Greek family as ... because ...

b The filmmaker portrays the McCormack family as ... because ...



Name: _____

Student Activity Sheet E6.5
Activity 8: Traditions and beliefs

Episode 6: 1958: Michaelis
Clip: The christening

Celebrating special occasions

- 1 List the Greek customs in the clip that relate to the christening.

- 2 Identify other cultural practices for welcoming a baby into a family, the community, or the world.

- 3 Write about a special occasion in your own family and what food you might enjoy at this occasion.

- 4 Design a naming ceremony for someone or something special to you (this could be a pet, a person or a special toy). Write a speech saying why this person or object is important to you and what you want for its future. Create a menu of food and drinks to celebrate the occasion.



Name: _____

Student Activity Sheet E8.6
Activity 6: Money for jam

Episode 8: 1938: Colum
Clip: The Shadow

A couple of bob

- 1 Find out as much information you can about pre-decimal money and the names of coins and notes. Identify any slang terms, for example, 'a couple of bob' which means 'a few shillings'.

Imperial currency	Slang terms	Decimal value
halfpenny		
penny		
shilling		
guinea		
pound		
sovereign		

- 2 Equate the value of everyday items in 1938 to the price of these commodities today.

Commodity	1938 prices	Today's prices
bread		
butter		
newspapers		
lollies		
milk		
Soap		

- 3 Create two newspaper advertisements for the same basic commodity. The first advertisement should be designed to be published in 1938 and the second design should be for a newspaper publication today.

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Name: _____

Student Activity Sheet E12.6
Activity 6: The Australian Labor Party (ALP)

Episode 12: 1898: Rowley
Clip: Founding the ALP

A point of view

1 After watching the clip 'Founding the ALP', respond to the following questions:

a What historical information was presented?

b How did the filmmaker present this information to the audience?

2 What point of view was presented to the audience about the formation of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) and workers' rights?

3 Pretend that you are either a worker or an employer in 1898. Design and create a half-page flyer that advocates for or against workers' rights. You should use text and images to explain your point of view.



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

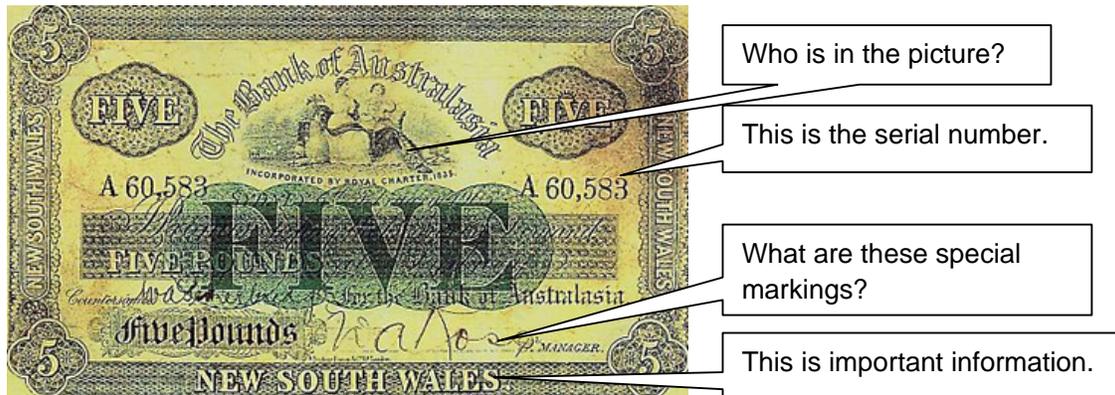
- 1 Collect Australian decimal coins of each denomination: 1 cent, 2 cent, 5 cent, 10 cent, 20 cent and 50 cent coins. Trace or rub over the coin by placing it under the paper on the sections in the table below. Ensure you do both sides.
- 2 Cut and paste pictures of coins from the 1930s (provided by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



- 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		