The Object is the story





34th ACAL Conference 2011 *Literacy* on the map

Liz Suda Humanities Education Melbourne Museum

Museum Victoria programming approach



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Reading the message

What is an exhibition?

- intellectual concept
- primary source material
- text
- graphic elements
- design

Oral histories
Documents
Objects
Artworks
Photographs
Film/Video
Archaeological processes



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Melbourne Story in Seven chapters

- Introduction- Dynamic Map
- 1835-1850 Meeting Place
- 1850-1880 Gold Town
- 1880-1900 Marvellous Melbourne
- 1900-1920 Melbourne & the Nation
- 1920-1945 Electric City
- 1945-1980 Suburban City
- 1980- today Changing City



Objects that tell a story about a particular period of History

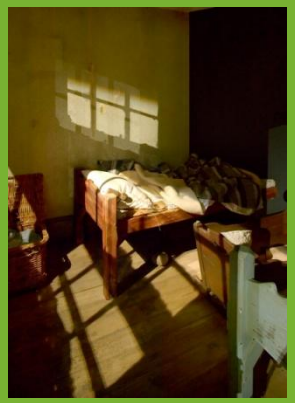












Visceral experience in Little Lonsdale St House

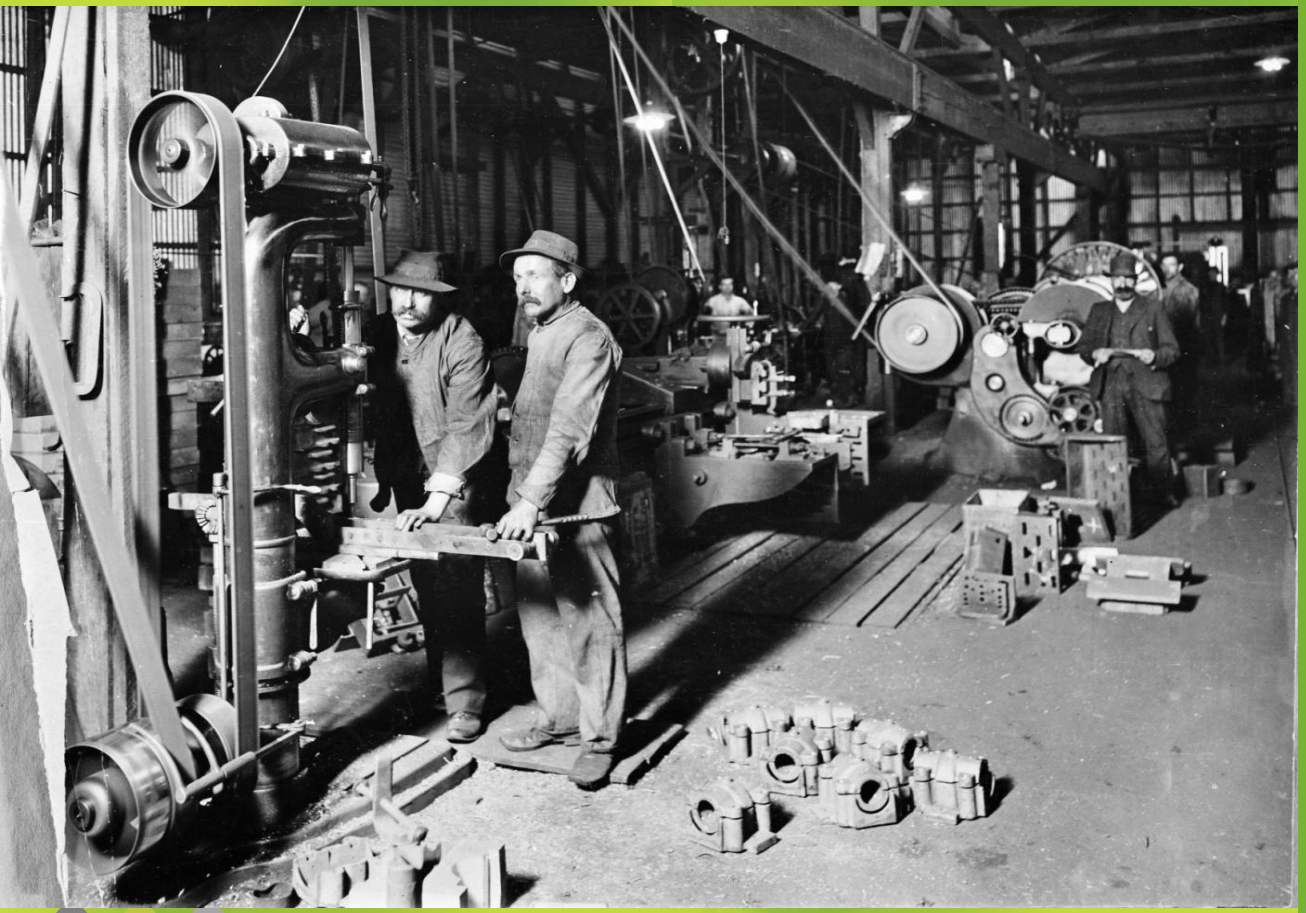
Who lived here?

What did they eat?

What is their story?

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Making a Quid –
Working Life in Melbourne's past



Students observe and interact with material objects that reflect working life in Melbourne since colonisation.

Students work in teams to uncover the story behind objects found in worker's bags from key time periods of the exhibition.

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Cold Case Detectives

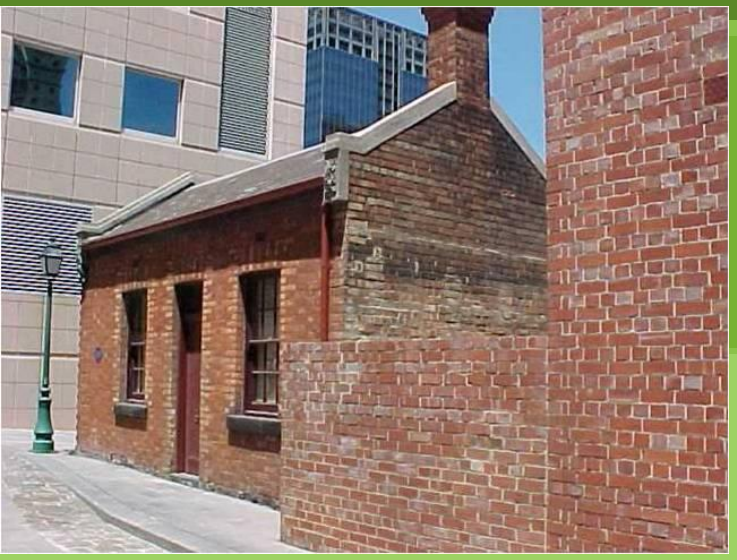


Students explore time periods in the exhibition by investigating the lives - and possible deaths - of missing person's from various periods of Melbourne's past.

They build a profile of the person and a possible scenario for their disappearance, by examining objects belonging to that person .

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Load of Old Rubbish



Little Lon recreates a laneway and two workers cottages from the time and includes finds made during archaeological digs in the area. Students are stimulated to work out that puzzle.

What is this object ?
What's it made from?
What was it used for ?
What does it tell us about how people lived in the past?



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Aboriginal Culture: Our Shared History

Program focuses on the diverse language and clan groups of Victoria with a hands on exploration of objects, artefacts and artworks that reflect the rich cultural heritage of Aboriginal people today.



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Conceptual Framework
What’s the story?

What are they?
What are they made from?
What were they used for?
What do these objects tell us about the people who used them?

What’s your story?
What objects would you use to tell your story?



Enquiry Learning Web based learning Interdisciplinary learning

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Touring exhibitions

A Day in Pompei

12 Signature Objects reflecting the themes of the exhibition







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Object Analysis
Community of Enquiry



One ‘real’ object per table

- What is the object?
- What do you notice about the shape or design?
- What is the object made of?
- Who do you think might have used it?
- What social class?







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Roman social hierarchy





Nobleman or woman



Child

Who were the people that used these objects?



Merchant



Freedman



Gladiator





Slaves

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On Line Resources

Small Object Big Story

http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/sobs/

Making History

http://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/websites/making-history/

Collections On-line

http://museumvictoria.com.au/collections/

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