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Welcome to our second newsletter for 2007. During Term 1 we added seventeen new topics. Listed below are the summaries for each topic.

We trust you will find these topics useful.

New Topics

Reference

Foreign Language Newspapers

This topic provides an excellent resource for foreign language students, or just for immigrant students who want to read newspapers in their first language. Currently the collection has individual sections on newspapers from France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Russia, Spain and Vietnam. The first section contains sites to world newspapers, so any nationality which is omitted from the country sections should be available there.

Religions:

Old Testament: Biography

Students will find information on anyone of significance in the Old Testament in this topic. If they cannot find their person of interest listed in any of the main sections, they will be able to locate information in the general section on biography which contains several sites with A_Z lists and other forms of comprehensive coverage. The opening section is not biographical in nature, but gives a broad overview of the Old Testament. Similarly the section on maps covers the entire period. The biographical sections deal with the patriarchs, warriors, judges, royalty, women and the major and minor prophets. Lesson plans and activities come at the end.

Australian Society

Education in Australia: History

The first section gives overall coverage of the history of education in Australia. This is followed by two sections on Aboriginal education and others on distance education, girls' education and faith schools. The rest of the topic looks at schools in the various states and territories. Please notify us if your school has a history page which we have not included.

Life Sciences

Biomechanics of sport

Students of physics and HPE will find valuable information here. After a comprehensive section at the beginning, and others on injury prevention and the musculoskeletal system, specific sports are given attention. The list currently contains information on the biomechanics of basketball, golf, rowing, swimming, sprinting, track and field athletics, and other sports. Teachers will find lesson plans, interactive websites and experiments in the final section.

Art, Music and Sports:

Rock and Popular Music, Australian

This topic covers the development of rock and popular music in Australia from the 1950s to the present. Individual artists and groups are listed in the decades when they first gained national or international recognition, so many older musicians who are currently still very popular are listed in previous decades. General ideas for teaching rock and popular music are found in the last section.

Composers, Australian

Australia enjoys a rich classical music heritage as indicated by this cross-section of composers. After the initial comprehensive section the following composers are given special attention: Percy Grainger, Peggy Glanville-Hicks, Miriam Hyde, Peter Sculthorpe, Larry Sitsky, Carl Vine, Elena Kats-Chernin and Nigel Westlake. Sites to inspire composition skills in students are found in the final section, For Teachers.



Literature:

Wilde, Oscar:

The Importance of Being Earnest

After an introductory section on the author, the topic develops to cover the literary and social aspects of the play, as well as providing a collection of texts plus critical material on some of Wilde's other works. Teachers will find ideas for classroom activities and assessment in the final section.

Gleitzman, Morris:**Once**

The topic opens with a biographical section on Morris Gleitzman, followed by two sections which deal with the literary aspects of the story and its historical context. Other sections are provided for those who want to read further stories of children caught up in the Holocaust, and the topic concludes with classroom material for teaching various Gleitzman novels.

Williams, Tennessee:**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**

This topic provides students with literary analysis and reviews of Tennessee Williams' play, as well as biographical information about the author and critical material on other works should students be inspired to read beyond their course work. There are two sections for teachers here, one with classroom activities on Williams' plays and one on scriptwriting.

Shakespeare, William:**King Lear**

This topic will give students a thorough knowledge of Shakespeare's great tragedy. The first section presents a variety of texts and is followed by a selection of synopses and plot overviews. The next three sections deal with literary criticism and include a comprehensive look at the play as well as character and thematic analysis. The cultural context is examined as are the sources which Shakespeare used as a basis for the plot. Teachers will find a wealth of material in the last section for classroom use.

Austen, Jane:**Sense and Sensibility**

After an introductory biographical section, the topic moves onto critical works on the novel, followed by selections of texts and synopses. Characters are analysed and the cultural context is considered. Reviews of film and television adaptations follow as well as a section on Austen's work to encourage students to read further. Lesson plans and activities are available in the teachers' section at the end.

Australian History

We have now completed the series on 20th Century Australia through the

decades and have included an extra decade covering the 2000s so far.

Each topic commences with sections on global events and trends and general conditions in Australia during the decade. They all have sections on the entertainment and sporting passions current at the time as well as the Prime Ministers in office. The other sections pertain to particular events and principal concerns of each decade.

Australia: 1900s

Dominating the thinking of Australians at this time were the Boer War, women's suffrage and Federation. Specific years have been selected to highlight the Opening of Parliament (1901), the Immigration Restriction Act 1901 and the basic wage (1907). Lesson plans are available at the end.

Australia: 1910s

This decade was dominated by World War One and has two sections, one general and one on the conscription debate which raged at the time. (Further information on Australian involvement in World War One can be found in the topic Australia at War.) The building of the Trans Australian Railway is covered, as are specific events such as the establishment of Holden's Motor Body Builders Ltd in 1917, and the influenza epidemic of 1919. Notable Australians Fanny Durack and Douglas Mawson have sections all to themselves. As is customary, sites for classroom use are at the end.

Australia: 1920s

Included in this topic is a special section on the USA during the twenties. Events such as the birth of QANTAS, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the ACTU have separate sections as does the Opening of Parliament House in Canberra. Notable Australians chosen for attention this decade are Edith Cowan, Bert Hinkler and Charles Kingsford Smith. Teachers will find ideas for lessons in the final section.

Australia: 1930s

The Great Depression had a major impact on life in Australia in the first half of this decade. (More detailed information on the Depression is available in the Topic The Great

Depression and the New Deal in the Social Sciences Category). Other events and ideas which captured public attention were the opening of Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Aboriginal Day of Mourning, the Bradfield Scheme and the outbreak of World War II. Notable Australians selected for this decade are Don Bradman, Sir Isaac Isaacs, Elizabeth Kenny – and not forgetting Phar Lap. Teachers have their usual section at the end.

Australia: 1940s

Social conditions during the war and post war years are covered in this topic including the increase in immigration due to displaced persons arriving from Europe. These people were major contributors to the construction of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. World War II is dealt with in three sections: general sites, the Home Front and women's role. The section on Don Bradman is repeated in this decade. Teaching aids are available in the final section.

Australia: 2000s

Some of the sections here are borrowed from other topics, e.g. the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000, the Bali Bombings, the Anti-Terrorism Bill and racial violence in Sydney of 2005, Cyclone Larry in 2006 and Australia's presence in Iraq and Afghanistan. Recent global events and trends are covered as well as general conditions in Australia. People who have attracted the attention of the law, such as the various drug offenders who have attained notoriety in Asia, David Hicks and Jayant Patel have specific sections. Peter Hollingworth and Steve Irwin also warrant individual sections. Lesson ideas are at the end.

New sections:**Computers and society:**

Internet: social aspects

Great Depression:

New Deal

New Deal:

For Teachers

