AC History Units

Developed by the History Teachers' Association of Australia



www.achistoryunits.edu.au

The inquiry process

1.	Develop inquiry question(s)	What do you want to investigate about the topic?
2.	Contextualise your question	Where does your topic and question fit historically? What time, place, people, values and attitudes? Your question should relate to the historical context.
3.	Locate or select sources	Sources may be provided or you may have to find relevant sources yourself, eg from an archive, library, website or museum.
4.	Analyse sources	Use key questions to analyse sources to see if they will be useful to your inquiry.
5.	Identify relevant evidence	Identify information in each source that relates directly to your inquiry question. This information may be able to be used as evidence to support an answer to the question. You may also find evidence that appears to contradict the answer(s) you are developing.
6.	Develop a theory or hypothesis	Re-examine relevant evidence and use it to develop a working theory or hypothesis that addresses the inquiry question.
7.	Organise evidence	Summarise relevant evidence and organise it into a logical sequence that addresses the inquiry question.
8.	Develop an interpretation	Construct an interpretation (or argument) that uses evidence from sources to answer the inquiry question.
9.	Communicate	Communicate your response to the inquiry question in an appropriate form for your topic and audience (eg report, essay, museum display, audio-visual presentation, ICT presentation etc).

