



Post visit

Learning Activities

Stage 5 History

Learning Programs K-12

Outcomes grid for *ONE Hundred* exhibition learning activities, Stages 5

Exhibition artefact	Syllabus outcomes
<p>The New Guard (Yr 9)</p> <p>Vietnam War Protest poster (Yr 10)</p>	<p>5.5 Identifies, comprehends and evaluates historical sources.</p> <p>5.6 Uses sources appropriately in an historical inquiry.</p> <p>5.10 Selects and uses appropriate oral, written and other forms, including ICT, to communicate effectively about the past for different audiences.</p>



Studio portrait of De Groot in military uniform, c. 1915

Photographed by Lafayette, London.
Mitchell Library, PXA 708

Artefact 73: The New Guard, De Groot image, 19 March 1932

Stage 5 History - Year 9

Teacher's notes

Stage 5 History outcomes

- 5.5** Identifies, comprehends and evaluates historical sources.
- 5.6** Uses sources appropriately in an historical inquiry.
- 5.10** Selects and uses appropriate oral, written and other forms, including ICT, to communicate effectively about the past for different audiences.

Inquiry Question: Was Captain Frank De Groot a hero, a villain, or a fool?

Instructions:

1. Students read background information.
2. Students answer recall questions in class discussion.
3. Students complete learning activities and 'Take the Challenge' for extension.

Student learning activities

Inquiry question: Was Captain Frank De Groot a hero, a villain or a fool?

Background

Francis (Frank) Edward De Groot was born in 1888 in Dublin, Ireland. He migrated to Australia in 1910 and became well known as an antiques dealer. De Groot's other passion was soldiering. He had served with distinction in World War I and after immigrating to Australia, joined the New Guard. Based in Sydney, the New Guard was made up of a group of ex-military men who were violently opposed to the spread of communism in the world. The New Guard was particularly unhappy with Jack Lang, Labor Premier of NSW, whom they saw as a dangerous communist. There were even rumours that they were planning to kidnap or assassinate Lang.

The New Guard decided to use the opening ceremony of the Sydney Harbour Bridge to stage a protest against the Lang Labor government and 'give the Commos a hiding'. They were angry that Lang, and not Sir Isaac Isaacs, Governor-General and representative of King George the Fifth of England, would be officially opening the Harbour Bridge. On 19 March 1932, the day of the opening ceremony, hundreds of police and hundreds of thousands of people lined the route of the procession. The Governor-General, Sir Isaac Isaacs, drove up with an escort of mounted soldiers in front of and behind his open coach. At the back of the group was a man on horseback who looked decidedly out of place. It was Captain Frank De Groot mounted on a scruffy-looking horse and wearing a strange military uniform.

Suddenly De Groot charged forward and slashed the ceremonial ribbon with his sword. He declared the bridge open 'in the name of the decent and respectable people of New South Wales'. He was quickly dragged from his horse by police and taken away for questioning. He was declared to be sane, charged with offensive behavior then released from custody. However, De Groot's usual defiance against authority persisted: he later sued the New South Wales police for wrongful arrest and was awarded a large out of court settlement. The photo you saw in the *ONE Hundred* exhibition shows De Groot being dragged from his horse.

De Groot's action divided opinions of the nation at the time and still causes debate amongst historians today. Was De Groot a hero or a villain? Did his action show courage? Should he have been imprisoned? Less than two months after the opening of the Harbour Bridge, Premier Jack Lang was sacked by the Governor of NSW, Sir Philip Game. The New Guard then disappeared when they no longer had a reason to protest.

Recall questions

1. What was the New Guard?
2. Who was the Premier of NSW at the time of the opening of the Bridge?
3. What did De Groot do at the ceremony?
4. What happened to the Premier two months after the Bridge's opening?

ONE Hundred exhibition 2010 Stage 5 History The New Guard: De Groot image, Vietnam War poster

Source A



1. In your own words, describe what is taking place in Source A.

Source B

After De Groot's release on Monday 21 March 1932 he gave an exclusive interview to Hugh Buggy, a reporter for the *Melbourne Herald*:

'When I got to the bridge approach', said Captain De Groot, 'I did not want to show discourtesy to the Governor-General. I followed his escort, but I carefully waited until Sir Isaac Isaacs had completed his speech before moving into position near the ribbon...'

Captain De Groot said: 'For a long time I have been convinced that the intentions of Mr. Lang and his Government have been to sovietise [turn to communism] the State of New South Wales in a constitutional manner, as a preliminary step to the general idea of sovietising the rest of Australia, with hopes of the disease spreading into other British communities...'

Having arrived at that conclusion, I, with other members of the New Guard, determined that the Sydney Harbour Bridge would be a symbol of power, and that if Mr. Lang were allowed to cut that ribbon then a lot of our people might become dispirited, might feel that the opposition was too strong, and the unemployed might even drift into the Communist ranks...'

2. According to Source B, why did De Groot take this action?

3. What does Source B suggest about some Australians' concerns at this time?

Take the challenge

Assume the role and character of Inspector MacKay, Chief of the Investigation Branch who questioned De Groot after his arrest. Write a list of five key questions you would ask De Groot about his involvement in the incident. Explain what information you would hope to obtain by asking these questions.

Question	Information to be obtained
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Artefact 86: Vietnam war poster, 1970

Stage 5 History – Year 10

Teacher's notes

Stage 5 History outcomes

- 5.1 Explains social, political and cultural developments and events and evaluates their impact on Australian life.
- 5.5 Identifies, comprehends and evaluates historical sources.

Inquiry Question: How did Australia's moratorium campaign divide the nation?

Instructions

1. Students read background information.
2. Students answer recall questions.
3. Students complete learning activities questions and 'Take the Challenge' task for extension.

Note

Text on poster:

- 'Tell it in the streets! Friday 11th Dec-4.30 pm Martin Plaza [no year given]
- Withdraw troops now
- Abolish conscription
- Withdraw support for Saigon regime
- Image: Left shoe print in black; right shoe print in red

Student learning activities

Inquiry Question: How did Australia's Vietnam Moratorium Campaign divide the nation?

Background

The Vietnam Moratorium Campaign was the largest public protest movement in Australia's history. It was modeled on the anti-war moratorium marches in the United States in October 1969 in which more than 500 000 Americans across the country had protested against the Vietnam War.

In Australia opposition to the Vietnam War developed gradually. A number of people objected to Australia's involvement in wars in general, while others were against conscription when it was introduced in November 1964. Finally, there were those who opposed the war in Vietnam because of its violence, especially as war reporting on television showed graphic images such as the massacre of Vietnamese civilians at My Lai by the Americans.

Conscription was also known as National Service. All Australian males had to register when they reached the age of twenty. Each year a lottery was held and all those whose birth dates matched the dates drawn were called up for service in the army. In March 1966 the government announced that National Servicemen would be sent to fight in Vietnam.

Dr Jim Cairns, a Labor Party politician, was the chairman of the Vietnam Moratorium Campaign and called for a peaceful demonstration from 8-10 May 1970 against the war. Across Australia 200,000 people turned up and it became known as the First Moratorium demonstration. Second and Third protests that attracted smaller, less peaceful crowds, were held in September 1970, and June 1971 respectively.

On 18 August 1971 the Australian government announced that all Australian troops would be withdrawn from Vietnam by the end of the year.

Recall Questions

1. In which year were large protests against the Vietnam War held in America?
2. When was conscription introduced in Australia during the Vietnam War?
3. List three different reasons why people opposed the war in Vietnam.
4. When did the Australian government announce the withdrawal of Australian troops from Vietnam?

Source A – Vietnam War poster

Copyright permission was not granted for the full reproduction of this source.. You will be relying on your memory to answer the questions related to this source. Here are some elements from the poster.



Source B – Editorial, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 July 1969.

The argument that conscription is not justified because Australia is not immediately threatened by an enemy is surely naïve in the extreme....What the critics ignore – or refuse to admit – is that there has been since World War II, a struggle for power throughout the world between the communist powers and the Western democracies.

Source C – Excerpt from *A Military History of Australia* by Jeffrey Grey. Third Edition 2008 Cambridge University Press, page 248.

Although disruptive, it is unlikely that the existence and activities of the Moratorium influenced the government to make a decision it would not have made otherwise, or to change a decision already taken. The wind-down of Australia's military commitment in Vietnam came about because the Americans too were beginning to withdraw, and was based on a perception that the war could not be won.

Questions

Use Source A

1. Can you remember what image was used in the centre of the poster? What was it?
2. Why was this such a powerful image?
3. How useful would you consider this poster to be to a historian? Why?
4. Posters have been used successfully in the past to advertise events, promote ideas, or challenge readers. If you were designing advertising material for a protest march today, how would you advertise the march and what images would you use? Why?
5. According to Source B what was a major reason for conscription in Australia?
6. According to Source C what was the effect of the moratoriums on government policy?

Take the challenge

1. If you had three posters to put up to promote the campaign where would you position them so they had the greatest effect?
2. Use the website 'Australians at War' to explore the differing views of the supporters of the war, the soldiers and the moratorium movement campaigners.
'Marching in the Streets': http://www.australiansatwar.gov.au/throughmyeyes/vi_toh.html
Imagine you are an Australian soldier fighting in Vietnam. Write a letter to your family back home in Australia explaining how you feel about the protests.

References

- Ham, P. (2007) *Vietnam: the Australian War*. Australia: Harper Collins Publishers.
- Cairns, J. F. (1970) *Silence Kills: events leading up to the Vietnam Moratorium on 8 May*. Australia: The Vietnam Moratorium Committee.

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