



Developing Historical Knowledge, Concepts and Skills with the *MY:24* App

An introduction to the *MY:24* series and free filmmaking app, and how it might be used within the Levels 5/6 History curriculum.

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Introduction

Series and films produced by the Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF) have been enjoyed in classrooms for over thirty years. From *Lift Off* to *Round the Twist* to *Little Lunch*, we provide Australian children with entertaining media made especially for them.

Secondary teachers exploring Indigenous history or spirituality may be familiar with the ACTF film *Yolngu Boy*, while the much-loved television series *My Place* is used widely in the middle years to teach Australian history. An engaging and more recent series that teachers may not know about is our short-form documentary series, *MY:24*.

MY:24 Series

In this factual entertainment series, twenty-six young people share diverse and aspirational stories about a day that changed their lives forever. Each twelve-minute episode is told from the perspective of the individual and in their own words. The series explores many themes relevant to humanities and social sciences in the upper primary and secondary years, including Indigenous perspectives, migration, refugees and environmental issues.

The ACTF has produced comprehensive study guides for English, Health and Physical Education, and Humanities to support teachers in exploring the series with students. Through partnership with the Victorian Department of Education and Training, all teachers and students with login access to the state's FUSE portal can now freely view and download the *MY:24* episodes. Victorian Curriculum-aligned support materials for Levels 5–10 complement each episode on FUSE, providing teaching ideas for a broad range of learning areas and capabilities.

MY:24 App

Following the release of *MY:24*, the ACTF created an app that helps students develop their own digital stories. With this free app, suitable for Level 5 and up, students use basic templates to produce their own three-minute documentary. Scenes can include a 'diary cam' introduction, an image montage with voice over, a video re-enactment with filters, an interview with a family member or friend, and film credits.

At ACTF Education, we regularly hear from teachers who use the *MY:24* app in innovative ways. The app provides a useful learning tool for students, whether they follow the premise of the series to reflect on

OPPOSITE:
Screenshot from the *MY:24*
series episode titled 'Lucas.'

RIGHT: Screenshot from the
MY:24 app.

their own personal history or use the app to document another perspective or event. It develops ICT and media production skills; encourages students to tell and share their own stories; fosters communication, collaboration and connectedness; and provides for innovative cross-curricular units of work that genuinely reflect students' interests.

Links to the Levels 5–6 History Curriculum

The short-form *MY:24* episodes and related app can be used in a variety of ways to develop and demonstrate historical knowledge, concepts and skills in middle years classrooms.

MY:24 stories told by migrants and second-generation Australians, such as Rida and Andy, reveal how their perspectives and values differ from those of their parents – and how this can cause conflict between generations (VCHHC084). Reflections by African refugees Fabrice and G-Storm also provide insight into forced migration to Australia (VCHHK095). These episodes can prompt conversations about migration and diverse perspectives, and encourage reflection on students' own family histories.

When students view episodes, they could discuss the questions that elicited specific responses from *MY:24* participants. This discussion would provide a tangible example of the need for both closed and open-ended questions in historical inquiry. Students could then develop their understandings by using the *MY:24* app to document the experiences of someone who migrated to Australia.

Years 5–6 students exploring the Australian colonies can also use the app to further their historical knowledge. After investigating the establishment of the British colonies and early colonial life in Australia, students could assume the perspective of different inhabitants and detail their everyday life as, for example, a convict, free settler, indentured labourer or Indigenous Australian of the time. Students' choice of language and the details of clothing, diet, leisure, paid and unpaid work, housing and lifestyle can demonstrate their understandings of daily life and events in the Australian colonies (VCHHK089).

More generally, the *MY:24* app can be used to document student reflections about



key dates such as Reconciliation Week or Anzac Day. Teachers have also used this digital tool to document school events in an interesting way, or as an alternative to oral presentations for students who struggle with public speaking.

Summary

The *MY:24* series and app provide teachers with another option to present the History curriculum in innovative ways. In addition to the freely downloadable app and three comprehensive study guides, Victorian teachers and students with login access to the FUSE portal can now view and download all twenty-six episodes of this engaging series.

If you would stay up to date with ACTF educational content, resources, professional learning and virtual learning opportunities, sign up for eNews updates at the ACTF website.

Useful Links

ACTF eNews sign-up
<https://actf.com.au/education>

MY:24 series
<https://actf.com.au/education-programs/my24-series-1#edprogram>

MY:24 app
<https://actf.com.au/education-programs/my24-app>

FUSE
<http://fuse.education.vic.gov.au>