Museum Learning Program

Year 2 – Introduction to Telecommunications

Rationale

The Year 2 History program delivered at Wireless Hill Park gives the students an opportunity to learn about different modes of telecommunications. Wireless Hill has a long history of communication. Wireless Hill Station, or the Applecross Wireless Station as it was originally known, was built in 1912 as part of a radio network which controlled Australia's communications with the rest of the world from 1912 to 1962. The Introduction to Telecommunications Program at Wireless Hill Park allows students to explore telecommunications *within a particular historical context to facilitate an understanding of the past and to provide a focus for historical inquiries.*

On the day, students will participate in a demonstration of Morse code and telephones, learn about the significance of Morse code and telephones in the history of telecommunications, and develop an understanding of the *impact of changing technology on people's lives.* Students will interpret Morse code messages. Students will handle telephones and create a timeline of telephone technology allowing them to sequence *familiar objects and events and identify and compare features of objects from the past and present.*

Links to the Australian Curriculum

Year 2 History Learning Program: Introduction to Telecommunication is directly linked to the Australian Curriculum:

Humanities and Social Sciences: History (Yr2)
Historical knowledge and understanding   **The past and the present:**
The history of a significant person, building, site or part of the natural environment in the local community and what it reveals about the past. (ACHHK044)
The importance today of an historical site (e.g. community building, landmark, war memorial, rock painting, engraving,) and why it has heritage significance and cultural value for present generations (e.g. record of a significant historical event, aesthetic value, reflects the community's identity). (ACHHK045)

Humanities and Social Sciences Skills
Chronology, terms and concepts: Sequence familiar objects and events. (ACHHS047) Distinguish between the past, present and future. (ACHHS048) **Analysis and use of sources:** Explore a range of sources. (ACHHS050) Identify and compare a range of sources from the past and present. (ACHHS050)

Cross curriculum priorities		
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and culture	Asia, and Australia's engagement with Asia	**Sustainability**

General Capabilities			
Literacy	Numeracy	ICT capability	**Critical and creative thinking**
Personal and social capability	Ethical understanding	**Intercultural understanding**	

What needs to be done before the museum visit

The museum visit will be more powerful if students have a prior understanding of the purpose and functions of Morse code.

You might also like to familiarise them with some of the terminology used on the day.

Vocabulary list		
Morse code	wireless	code
decipher	primary source	secondary source
telecommunications	arterfact	interpret

After the museum visit

After their visit to the Wireless Hill Museum the students can continue communicating in Morse code.

Suggested activity:
- Teachers may like to set up a treasure hunt in the playground with Morse code clues to the treasure.
- Students interview their parents about how they used telephones when they were in Year 2. What did the phones look like then?

Focus questions:

- How do you think your parents used telephones when they were young? What about your grandparents?
- How, when and why was Morse code used?
- What do we use now to communicate?
- Why do you think the way we do things now has changed?