

Year 3: HASS and Geography

Lesson Plan: A history of Tasmanian Hydro villages

Introductory activities (engage)

(5 minutes)

In small groups or as a class brainstorm:

1. What would you need to do to build a **new** village, town or suburb?

It may be useful to display a picture or map of your town on the smart board to generate ideas.

Possible Answers

People	Materials
Builders	Water
Equipment	Electricity / Power
Machines	Roads
Trucks	

Collate answers on a flip charts, poster or word wall

Lesson (explore)

Introduction (15 minutes)

The Hydro Electric Department began with a big dream in the early 1900s – to bring electricity to every Tasmanian farm, business and home.

Materials	Quantity
Smart board (or projector)	1
Internet connection	1
People of the Hydro	YouTube/Online
Activity – Learn about Hydro villages.	1 each

1. Have students watch the first two sections of online video resource [People of the Hydro](#) to explore the beginnings
(*Introduction and Pioneering Spirit* 0 to 5:15 minutes, pause the video when the *Against the Odds* screen appears)
 - a. Ask students to look and listen for words and images that describe:
 - **the location and environment** (remote; harsh; extraordinary conditions; rugged; dangerous)
 - **the people** (ordinary people; displaced by hard economic times, war and strife; from all over the world)
 - **the challenges** (work by hand; no machinery; money; weather; union trouble)
 - b. Waddamana A Power Station was converted to a museum in 1988.
 - Invite students to discuss why it would be important to preserve the history of Waddamana 'A' Power Station.

Early Hydro camps, villages and people (20 minutes)

Hydro's work saw roads built where there had been none and villages grow in the wilderness. Thousands of men and women came to Tasmania, working alongside locals to build the hydropower scheme.

2. Explore the early camps, villages and migrant stories in the *Against the Odds* section of [People of the Hydro](#) (5:15 to 12:18 minutes, pause or stop the video when *The Golden Year* appears)
 - a. Ask students to look and listen for:
 - **reasons why people moved to these camps and villages** (hard economic times; displaced by war; poor circumstances)
 - **the challenges** (no roads; new employees had to walk in by foot; weather; tough and lonely environment; snakes; march flies; money; war time; poor food)
 - **how the camps and villages changed over time** (no home comforts; from tents to shared huts to single men's barracks; simple construction villages evolved into communities; migrant bands/orchestras; arrival of families)

Options for assessment and extension

	Options
HASS and Geography Individual / Group Activities	- Explore the four villages (Bronte Park, Butlers Gorge, Tarraleah and Waddamana) mentioned in the <i>Against the Odds</i> section People of the Hydro video. Use Activity – Learn about Hydro villages as a framework to explore the four villages. Complete one or all depending on your timeframes. Introductory Activity - Have students locate each village on a map of Tasmania (online preferable or print copies of a map of Tasmania from Unit 2). - what are some surrounding land marks or features? - what is location or distance from your school? Villages (includes a brief history and activity) - Bronte Park - Use Google Maps (or similar) to compare an aerial image of Bronte Park to a 1953 Map. - Butlers Gorge - Explore how the temporary village of Butlers Gorge is different from students' own community. - Tarraleah - Explore the contributions to community through the narrative of George (Wladyslaw) Krzysica <i>People of the Hydro</i> (chapter <i>Against the Odds</i> 8:30 minutes). - Waddamana - Waddamana 'A' Power Station was converted into a museum. Have students suggest why it is important to look after this historical site. Extension Activity - Invite students to create a timeline of events listed for Bronte Park, Butlers Gorge, Tarraleah and Waddamana. - Ask students to research other key facts, photos, maps or other details to add to your timeline.

Elaborate and Review

As a class group review and discuss

- How these Hydro Villages differ from the community students live in?
- Why it might be important to remember them?

Excursion Opportunity

Waddamana Power Station heritage site is now open to visitors, and provides a unique look at the history and development of hydropower in Tasmania. The original machinery at Waddamana has been faithfully restored, along with some of the equipment from the old Shannon Power Scheme. Historical photographs and memories give an insight into what life was like in the early days of this small but social village deep in the Central Highlands.

If you would like more information please contact our Education team at education@hydro.com.au