



Shoot for the Stars! 

100 years and counting - connecting Australians to the world.

Australia is vast geographically and in the past has been isolated from the world.

Imagine - sixty years ago, it took six weeks by ship to sail from England to Sydney.

If you wanted to talk by telephone to a family member overseas, you had to book a “trunk call” through an international operator - it was very expensive for just three minutes of conversation!

And if you wanted to research information on a topic, that meant visiting the local library to use the sets of reference books called the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

The following ideas will help students find out more about the changes in how our country and its population have connected to other parts of Australia, and globally in the past 100 years.

The launch of two new satellites from 2015 is the latest development in Australia’s communication infrastructure. The NBN satellite service will play a critical role in helping Australians to be on a level playing field – it is designed to provide everyone in the bush with access to high-speed broadband, and this will help students in rural and remote Australia overcome distances in their access to learning resources.

If one of your students wins the illustration competition featured [here](#), your school will get to work with NBN Co to name one of the satellites, so encourage your students to enter the competition.

1. How has Australia connected to the world in the past 100 years?

<http://www.fromwirelesstoweb.com/>

Create a series of newspaper front pages highlighting changes in broadcasting over 100 years.



2. A wire through the heart?

<http://www.nfsa.gov.au/digitallearning/constructingaustralia/wire/default.htm>

What does this title mean?

Using the clips on the website as inspiration, create a series of “blog” reports, keeping the public informed about progress, the features and benefits of this national infrastructure.

3. Then and Now

Pick an item of technology we use today in the classroom – BYOD such as smart phone, mp3 player or tablet, laptop or desk top computer, interactive whiteboard.

What did the classrooms of your parents and grandparents look like? How did they learn?

<http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/26010.html>

4. The CSIRAC Computer

<http://www.nationaltreasures.com.au/treasures/computer/>

What do we mean when we talk about a National Treasure? What other technological artefacts or places might you add? Should we preserve outdated technology and why? As an example, the Parkes Radio telescope played an important role on the landing on the moon some 45 years ago. Is it still in use?

5. What is the World Wide Web?

Where did children find information from for school research projects before the internet?

<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-is-the-world-wide-web-twila-camp>

6. School of the Air

How do children in regional and remote Australia learn?

<http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/school-of-the-air>

For teachers only with a Scootle log in: Put together a series of posters which highlight how this has changed every 20 years and will change into the future (eg Pre 1950, 1950, 1970, 1990, 2000, 2020)

<http://www.scootle.edu.au/ec/viewing/R2661/index.html>

Sources:

From Wireless to Web – a selective history of broadcast media in Australia, National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) Digital learning resource: <http://www.fromwirelesstoweb.com/>

A Wire through the Heart – Constructing Australia, National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) Digital learning resource: <http://www.nfsa.gov.au/digitallearning/constructingaustralia/wire/default.htm>

Then and Now – Year 2 History sample assessment – Investigating changes in technology: the past in the present, Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA):

<http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/26010.html>

The CSIRAC Computer – Investigating National Treasures, NFSA Digital Learning Resource

<http://www.nationaltreasures.com.au/treasures/computer/>

What is the World Wide Web? – TedEd, Lessons worth Sharing, Twila Camp, (2014, May 12) “What is the World Wide Web?” (Video file),

<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-is-the-world-wide-web-twila-camp>

School of the Air – The School of the Air and remote learning, Australian Government information

<http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/school-of-the-air>

Scootle – learn, teach and collaborate using digital resources to support the Australian Curriculum, Education Services Australia, supported by the Australian Government Department of Education

<http://www.scootle.edu.au/ec/viewing/R2661/index.html>

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