

STAGE SIX – ANCIENT HISTORY

Red Hill Archaeological Site and Source Study

UNIT OVERVIEW

Students explore and examine the past occupation of Red Hill Historic Precinct in Gulgong. Students investigate this historic site, including the contribution of archaeology and science to the understanding of the past. This involves the analysis and interpretation of physical and written evidence.

HISTORY OUTCOMES

AH11-6 analyses and interprets different types of sources for evidence to support an historical account or argument

AH11-9 communicates historical understanding, using historical knowledge, concepts and terms, in appropriate and well-structured forms

AH11-10 discusses contemporary methods and issues involved in the investigation of history

KEY INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- What do we know about the lives of people who lived on the Gulgong gold fields?
- How do we interpret physical and written sources to construct the past?
- How to conduct an archaeological site investigation?

CONTENT

Students investigate:

- the changing nature of archaeological excavation and recording techniques
- the contribution of archaeological and scientific techniques to the discovery and investigation of the past

FIELD WORK SITES

- Red Hill Environmental Education Centre
- Red Hill Historic Precinct
- Gulgong Holtermann Museum



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Students take part in the acknowledgement of country activity, showing respect to the traditional owners of the land, The Wiradjuri People.

INTRODUCTION

This activity introduces students to the role and fundamentals of archaeology in contributing to an understanding of the past. Students examine and discuss archival evidence and existing artefacts, whilst predicting past activities on Red Hill based on these sources. Students take part in a brief survey around the Red Hill Historic Precinct.

HOLTERMANN MUSEUM VISIT

Students visit the famous Holtermann Museum to engage in an interactive experience with the Holtermann Gold Rush photos. Students examine primary source material depicting Gulgong and surrounds in 1872.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND DIG

Students participate in an archaeological investigation involving a site survey and set up (grid system). Students proceed with an archaeological dig in a systematic manner as per field work booklet instructions, recording and labelling artefacts discovered.

REPORTING AND CONSOLIDATION

Students discuss what discovered artefacts reveal about the past and the use of the Red Hill site over time. Students define how their findings support the archival and photographic evidence in constructing the past. Students discuss the next steps in completing the post-visit activities.

For bookings or further enquiries about this program, please contact Red Hill Environmental Education Centre on 02 6374 2558 or redhill-e.schools@det.nsw.edu.au.

