The Aquarius Festival held in Nimbin in 1973, was designed to celebrate freedom of mind, body and spirit.

In the late 1970s a new form of protest music emerged within the mainly black inner-city communities of America’s largest cities. Hip hop artists used biting and often explicit lyrics to criticise the society around them. In Australia, the genre has been embraced by Indigenous artists, such as The Last Kinection, who use their music to explore issues of racism, social exclusion and the search for identity.

Protest music for a new era

The Vietnam War finally ended in 1975. By then, 520 Australians had been killed in action, while more than 2000 had been wounded. In the following decades, other Australian artists would continue to use music as a form of protest in defence of issues including Indigenous land rights and the environment.

EXPLANATION AND COMMUNICATION

1 What is meant by the term ‘selective conscription’?
2 Which ‘battles’ were Australians engaged in, overseas and at home, during the 1960s?
3 What did hippies believe in?

ANALYSIS AND USE OF SOURCES

4 (Sources 1 and 2) reflect very different views of the Vietnam War and whether or not Australia should participate. In your own words, explain the views of Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies and Opposition Leader Arthur Calwell. Which argument do you find most convincing? Why?
5 Compare the artists depicted in (Sources 3 and 5). What similarities and differences can you see between these protest singers? What do these similarities and differences suggest about the times in which they were performing?

PERSPECTIVES AND INTERPRETATIONS

6 Locate and listen carefully to one protest song from the 1960s or 1970s, such as Bob Dylan’s ‘The times they are a-changing’, ‘Blowing in the wind’ and ‘Masters of war’; Pete Seeger’s ‘We shall overcome’; or Donovan’s ‘Universal soldier’.

   a Read or listen to the lyrics.
   b Explain what issues of the 1960s or 1970s the song is about.
   c What attitude to the issues is adopted in the song?
   d Identify at least two lines of the song that support the songwriter’s argument.
   e How much influence do you think this song would have had in its time?
   f In what ways could a song be a more effective form of protest than a speech or a leaflet?

Aquarius relating to the Age of Aquarius — a period of transition, according to astrologers
beatt generation a subculture, first associated with American writers and poets, that rejected conventional work, possessions, clothing and lifestyle, and promoted radical ideas
civil rights the rights belonging to an individual by virtue of citizenship
conscription compulsory enlistment, especially in the armed forces; also called the draft
utopia an ideal, perfect place, especially in its social, political and moral aspects
5.7 The evolution of television

Since it arrived in Australia in 1956, no form of mass media has been more influential in establishing and reinforcing popular culture than television. From humble beginnings, the television would become a pivotal cultural and political tool, and would help to transform the country forever. In recent years, television has gone digital, offering viewers more choice than ever, and forcing television producers to think of new ways to attract and maintain their audience.

Welcome to television

Bruce Gyngell, a presenter on Australia’s first commercial television network TCN-9, officially introduced television to the Australian public on 16 September 1956 with the words ‘Good evening, and welcome to television’. The release date coincided with the Melbourne Olympics, which were held from 22 November to 8 December 1956. By the time the Olympics was broadcast, TCN-9 had been joined by HSV Melbourne and ABN-2.

Other stations sprung up in the following years, including stations based in major metropolitan areas and regional or rural areas. The most popular programs of the day were produced overseas, where higher budgets allowed studios to create shows with higher production values. Local productions included quiz and musical variety shows, which had been popular during the radio era, as well as news and current affairs shows.

Vietnam — the first ‘television war’

By 1966, only ten years after it was released in Australia, the television had become a common household item, and could be found in 95 per cent of homes in Sydney and Melbourne. The Vietnam War was the first war to be shown on Australian television and gained the name ‘the television war’. Early coverage of the war was upbeat, containing few images of the dead and focusing instead on the military’s progress. However, as the conflict dragged on, and public opinion began to turn against the war, television opened a window into the more troubling stories. This culminated in the coverage of a South Vietnamese napalm strike on an enemy stronghold in the summer of 1972. During the attack, South Vietnamese bombers bombed their own citizens and soldiers as they ran for their lives. One of the most striking images of this event is of Phan Thị Kim Phúc, a young girl burned by napalm, running down the middle of a road surrounded by American soldiers.
Neil Davis, an Australian war correspondent, captured footage from the front line throughout the Vietnam War. These stories were seen by millions of people around the world and contributed to shaping public opinion. This photograph, taken in 1973, shows him injured while in Cambodia.

Source 2

Channel 0/28 — multiculturalism on screen

In 1980, Australia made history when it established Channel 0/28, the world’s first ethnic television channel. The Fraser government supported the station because it would assist immigrants in understanding Australia and would better reflect their interests. This was part of a deliberate strategy to develop a more multicultural nation, one that respected its residents’ cultural heritage rather than attempting to force a dominant culture upon them.

From the start, the 0/28 Channel broadcast was designed to offer a broad range of programming that would appeal to people whose interests weren’t adequately covered by the other networks. On its first night, it screened the documentary *Who are we?*, which traced the history of immigration to Australia. This set the tone for the new channel, which would become known for screening movies from around the world and for covering international issues in depth within its news programs.

Aussie ‘soapies’

Australia has produced a number of dramatic serials, or ‘soap operas’. They typically feature an open storyline, which continues from one episode to the next, seemingly indefinitely. Early Australian soap operas included *Number 96* (1972), *The Sullivans* (1976) and *Sons and Daughters* (1982), all of which ran in prime-time slots and were important in reflecting the changing social attitudes. The genre reached new heights with *Neighbours* (1985) and *Home and Away* (1988) gaining huge popularity with predominantly teenage audiences in Australia.

*Neighbours* and *Home and Away* also performed well overseas, particularly in England, because they represented a very different lifestyle than that of the British. English soap operas during this period, such as *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders*, explored the life and struggles of the working class, while Australian soap operas focused on middle class characters living in domestic and international tourism continue to make the pilgrimage to the sets of *Home and Away* and *Neighbours* each year, where they can view the Summer Bay Surf Lifesaving Club, Alf’s Bait Shop and Ramsay Street up close.

Source 3

*FOR BOOKINGS CALL: 95344755*

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Chapter 5: Popular culture (1945–present)
comfortable suburbs. *Home and Away* had the added draw of being set in a sunny coastal town, the sort of place that many English people dreamed of living in. Some Australian soap opera stars, most notably Kylie Minogue, used their new-found international stardom to become successful pop singers, while others, such as Russell Crowe, Guy Pearce and Simon Baker, became A-list movie and television actors.

**Reality television ‘gets real’**

In the late 1990s, a new genre of television emerged from England and America known as ‘reality television’. This genre took audience participation far beyond the competition of game shows or the (usually) strictly controlled documentaries of the past. *Big Brother*, once referred to as ‘the mother of all reality shows’, promised contestants a large cash prize if they could escape elimination by the audience over a number of weeks. Some people viewed the show as an interesting social experiment or reflection of our times, while others viewed it as degrading to participants.

Most reality television consists of a group of people put into a challenging situation and offered a substantial prize if they can survive a process of elimination. Since it requires no professional actors and can be shot entirely on location, reality television is quite cheap to produce, making it attractive to television stations. Other examples of popular reality TV shows include *Australian Survivor*, *Australian Idol*, *Australia’s Next Top Model*, *The X-factor Australia*, and *MasterChef*, all of which were based upon concepts developed in other countries.

**The technology of television**

Ever since the first television signal was broadcast in Australia, technology has dictated what Australians watch and how they watch it. In 1966, Australia received its first satellite images from the United States, a technology that would eventually allow television companies to show events live rather than waiting to broadcast recorded footage. On 20 July 1969, satellite images allowed Australians to watch Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walk on the moon. This immediate access to information became even more important when Australian soldiers entered the Vietnam War. In 1975, colour television...
arrived in Australia, leading to a growing popularity in this medium, and further establishing its dominance over radio.

In recent decades, Australians have been given access to a broader range of television stations via cable television, which they pay for on a subscription basis. In 2010, Australia began the complex process of shifting from analogue to digital TV, which allows for an increasing number of television channels. However, many people, including content producers, worry that, rather than promoting a greater amount of local television production, these channels will become yet more venues for broadcasting American re-runs.

EXPLANATION AND COMMUNICATION
1. What percentage of Australian households had access to television when the Vietnam War began?
2. Why was the establishment of Channel 0/28 seen as a milestone for Australia?
3. Describe the ways in which technological changes have improved television in the period from 1956 to the present.
4. Based upon what you have read in this spread, and your own observations, explain why you think people enjoy watching:
   a. soap operas
   b. reality television
   c. news and current affairs.

ANALYSIS AND USE OF SOURCES
5. Graham Kennedy, a former radio star, was one of Australian television’s first big stars. Looking at Source 1, describe what you see, including the set, Kennedy’s costume and overall ‘look’, and anything else that strikes you about the picture. In what ways does this differ from the first MasterChef finale shown in Source 4?
6. Source 2 depicts Australian investigative journalist Neil Davis. What can you tell about his style of reporting based upon this image? How might this style of reporting have given him an advantage during the Vietnam War?
7. As you can see from Source 3, some tourists include a tour of a soap opera set when they travel to Australia. What does this suggest about the importance of Australian soap operas to our image internationally? What sort of impression do you think that the major soap operas, Neighbours and Home and Away, give of Australia? Is this an accurate impression?

PERSPECTIVES AND INTERPRETATIONS
8. Discuss the following statement with a classmate: Reality TV reflects real life in a way that fictional stories do not. Give evidence to support your opinion.

HISTORICAL QUESTIONS AND RESEARCH
9. View one episode of a soap opera made at any period from 1945 to the present, and answer the following:
   a. What audiences is it aimed at? How can you tell?
   b. What values does this soap opera seem to endorse or support?
   c. What values (if any) does it challenge?

middle class the class between the working class and the upper class, usually including professionals, highly skilled labourers, and lower and middle management
multiculturalism respect for, and appreciation of, cultural diversity
napalm a highly flammable, sticky jelly used in incendiary bombs and flamethrowers
working class the class consisting of people who work for wages, especially low wages, including unskilled and semi-skilled labourers and their families
5.8 The Australian film industry: post-war to today

Australian filmmakers the Tait brothers created the world’s first feature film in 1906 with The Story of the Kelly Gang. Throughout the rest of the silent era, filmmakers would continue to create films that reflected Australia’s colonial past. In the 1940s and 1950s, the industry was neglected by the government, and major productions were made possible only with investment from large British and American studios. In the 1970s, the Australian government began to invest heavily in the Australian film industry, starting a boom period that would last for two decades. This cinematic ‘new wave’ would launch the careers of many of the country’s best-known actors, filmmakers and on-screen personalities, and would underpin Australia’s contribution to the global film industry in the decades to follow.

Australian films push the boundaries

From 1970 to 1985, the nation produced about 400 movies, more films than had been made since film production began in Australia. During this period, the Australian government threw its support behind the industry by offering large tax breaks to encourage investment in film production, and establishing both the Australian Film Development Corporation (later renamed Film Australia) and the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS). This growth in the film industry allowed local audiences to watch films that felt truly Australian, created by home-grown directors. Popular films of the period included Sunday Too Far Away and Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975), and Mad Max (1979).

Rogues, larrikins and scoundrels

Since The Story of the Kelly Gang, Australian audiences have enjoyed watching characters test the boundaries of acceptable behaviour. One of the first films financed by the newly established Australian Film Development Corporation was The Adventures of Barry McKenzie (1972). The film was written by Barry Humphries and directed by Bruce Beresford, and cost $250,000 to produce. The Adventures of Barry McKenzie told the story of Bazza, an ill-mannered, hard-drinking ‘hero’, and his ‘shameless adventures in Pommyland’. The movie relied heavily upon stereotypes of Australians and English for its humour, pitting Bazza against a cast of upright British characters.

The ocker comedy was a hit in Australia and Britain, and was the first Australian film to earn more than $1 million at the box office.

In Crocodile Dundee (1986), Sue Charlton, a reporter from the ‘big apple’ visits the Australian bush in an attempt to meet a famed crocodile hunter. Michael J ‘Crocodile’ Dundee is unrefined with a good sense of humour, but, unlike Barry McKenzie, he demonstrates a number of features associated with the traditional hero, such as bravery and the willingness to protect his friends. After Mick rescues Sue from a crocodile attack, she takes him back to New York, where his straightforward manner and
lack of pretence charm the people he meets. A worldwide smash hit, *Crocodile Dundee* still holds the number one box office record for an Australian movie.

In 2010’s *Animal Kingdom*, Jackie Weaver plays crime family matriarch Janine ‘Smurf’ Cody, who is willing to do anything to protect her boys, a criminal gang targeted by the police. A critical sensation, *Animal Kingdom* picked up numerous awards including the AFI’s Best Australian Film of 2010, while Weaver received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress. Interestingly, the success of *Animal Kingdom* both at home and abroad mirrors the success of Australia’s first feature film, another crime drama, more than 100 years earlier.

**Foreign influence**

The Australian film industry has been entwined with Hollywood for decades. Following World War II, many films shot in Australia, such as 1959’s *On the Beach*, were financed at least in part by American studios, and featured foreign actors in major roles. This practice has been heavily criticised by some people, who claim that Australian stories would be better served by using local talent. However, others claim that major international productions shot locally, including *The Matrix* (1999), *Australia* (2008) and *Where the Wild Things Are* (2009), have given Australian actors and film crews experience that would be almost impossible for them to get otherwise.

Many Australians have made it big in Hollywood in front of, and behind, the camera. These days, it is not uncommon to see an Australian actor headlining an American film (usually with an American accent), while Australian directors such as Peter Weir and Bruce Beresford have had long, successful careers in Hollywood. Since the advent of computer-generated imagery (CGI), Australian
special effects studios have contributed special effects to American films and television series including multi-Emmy Award winner *The Pacific* (2010).

**Cinemas battle television for viewers**

In the five years following the introduction of television to Australia in 1956, cinema ticket sales fell drastically, resulting in the closure of many cinemas. Film studios, film distributors and cinemas responded by offering audiences productions that were shot and exhibited in Cinema Scope, a format that was twice as wide as it was tall, creating a very different experience to watching a television screen. Another important innovation was the drive-in — an open-air cinema designed to accommodate cars full of people. Throughout the 1960s, drive-ins grew in popularity by bringing together two things that suburban families loved: cars and films. By the end of the 1960s, there were 230 drive-ins in Australia.

In 1975, Australia’s first Multiplex, the Hoyts Entertainment Centre, opened in George Street, Sydney, with movies showing on seven screens. This signalled the development of multiplexes around the country and the gradual decline of single-screen cinemas. Despite this major innovation, in 1975, Australian cinemas faced another threat from television as black and white went colour. Within three years, around two-thirds of homes in Melbourne and Sydney had a new colour television, and cinema attendance had fallen by more than 30 per cent. This pattern was repeated with the release of the video recorder, which grew in popularity throughout the 1980s.

Today, movie studios and cinemas continue to search for new and innovative ways to package their product in order to bring audiences into the cinema. Some strategies that have become popular in recent years have been to release films in 3D,
and to appeal to cinema goers’ sense of occasion by serving food and drinks within the movies, and offering customers a more luxurious experience. Cinemas have also experimented with showing live events such as theatrical performances, opera and ballet. In 2010, Hoyts formed a partnership with television station SBS, the official broadcaster of the FIFA World Cup, and showed a series of live matches, in 3D, in Australia and New Zealand.

**The future of the Australian film industry**

In the years to come, for Australian filmmakers to compete with Hollywood’s enormous production and promotion budgets, they will have to be smart about how they use their resources. Relatively low-budget movies like *Look Both Ways* (2005), *Kenny* (2006) and *Samson and Delilah* (2009), prove that Australian movies — even those without a major price tag — can have huge success both in Australia and overseas if they are committed to telling engaging stories with memorable characters.

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**EXPLANATION AND COMMUNICATION**

1. Identify any characters named in this spread who could be classified as a larrikin, **rocker** or scoundrel.
2. Why are these sorts of characters important to Australian audiences?

**ANALYSIS AND USE OF SOURCES**

3. **Source 1** presents a striking view of Australia and of the future through the use of graphics and text. Highlight aspects of the poster that were designed to appeal to international audiences. Do you think this poster would still grab an audience’s attention today? Why or why not?

4. Based upon the scenes depicted in **Sources 2 and 3**, what do Barry McKenzie and Crocodile Dundee have in common? How might they differ? What might their depictions suggest about the way Australia changed between 1972 and 1986?

5. The movie shown in **Source 5** was part of an advertising campaign designed to sell Australia as a tourist destination. What does it suggest about the version of Australia that Tourism Australia wanted to show the world? How does this compare to the version of Australia portrayed by the other sources in this spread?

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**SOURCE 7**

Today, Australians have access to a greater diversity of films than ever before; in particular, we are watching more Asian cinema, including Japanese animation (known as anime), Hong Kong action movies and films produced by India’s answer to Hollywood (Bollywood). However, most of our cinematic entertainment still comes from Hollywood, with more than half of the films released in Australian cinemas between 2005 and 2009 coming from the United States, while Australian films constituted only 7 per cent of titles released.

![Graph](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**Country of origin of films released in Australia, 2005–09**

- Asia: 16%
- Australia: 7%
- France: 6%
- UK: 9%
- Other European countries: 5%
- USA: 55%
- Rest of the world: 2%

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6. Referring to **Source 7**, answer the following questions:
   a. What percentage of the movies Australians watched in the years 2005–09 were Australian?
   b. List the countries in order from the country whose movies Australians watched most to the country whose movies Australians watched least during this period. What points of interest does this list reveal?
   c. Based upon this graph, how important does it appear that Australian film is to Australian people today? Does this ring true for you, based upon what you know about the viewing habits of you, your friends and family?

**PERSPECTIVES AND INTERPRETATIONS**

7. The number of Australian films produced annually has shrunk since the 1970s. List the effects that you believe this might have on those who work in the Australian film industry, on film audiences and on Australian society as a whole. Then compare your list with that of a classmate.

8. Cinemas have often attempted to gain viewers by improving the technology and making movie going an ‘event’. Do you believe that this strategy will work with a growing list of entertainment options available to viewers? Explain.
5.9 Continuity and change in beliefs and values

From 1945, as the British Empire lost its influence in Asia, Australia began forging closer ties with its Asian neighbours and America. Australia also changed its immigration policies between the late 1940s and the last decades of the twentieth century. From the 1960s onward, it responded to major social changes that were sweeping much of the world. These moves would have major implications for Australia — socially, politically and culturally. Although Australia had traditionally considered itself to be an egalitarian nation, this period of social upheaval would force many people to question just how fair the nation was towards all its citizens. Events, particularly in the 1970s, would lead many Australians to question the extent to which Australia was a truly democratic nation. And it was also during this turmoil that the country would finally break free from some long-held religious prejudices.

Australia — a truly egalitarian society?

Australians have traditionally considered Australia to be an egalitarian society; that is, one that values equality and fairness. Some people have even referred to Australia as a ‘classless society’ because every member of society, in theory, has the opportunity to succeed. However, in 1945, there were a great number of people whose voices were left out of the national debate, including Indigenous Australians, non-white immigrants, homosexuals and many women. It would take decades for Australia to become a society that would truly value citizens of any colour, sexual orientation, religion and gender.

But in some ways Australians have become less equal since 1945. Today, while it is possible for people from a range of backgrounds to get an education, gain employment and become productive members of society, many Australians still live in poverty, lacking education and access to health and other services. In the last 70 years, Australia has also seen the gap widen between its poorest and richest citizens (see Source 1). For those living in poverty, the concept of egalitarianism can seem more myth than reality.

The power of democracy

A democratic society is one in which the people have the power to determine the laws and actions of the state. Australia has one of the oldest, continuous democracies in the world. In 1945, all white Australian adults over 21 were entitled to vote in the federal election. This right did not extend to most Indigenous Australians. In 1962, as the civil rights movement built up momentum in Australia and overseas, the Menzies government extended the vote to all Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders (see spread 4.7). In 1971, Liberal senator Neville Bonner became the first Indigenous person to sit in Parliament.

In 1975, Australian democracy was put to the test when the Labor prime minister, Gough Whitlam, was dismissed by the governor-general, Sir John Kerr. This dismissal was due to many things. One reason was because the government’s supply of money had been frozen by the Opposition in...
the Senate. This made it impossible for the prime minister to govern the country. The Whitlam dismissal was very significant because it was the first time that many Australians realised that the governor-general (who was appointed by the prime minister to represent the Queen) could sack an elected prime minister. Despite the unsettling nature of this decision, the response by all parties demonstrated the strength of Australian democracy. All parties, including the Labor Party and trade unions, agreed to resolve their issues through the established democratic process.

Today, all Australians aged 18 and over are required to vote in state/territory and federal elections. Each person’s vote is cast in secret and recorded on a ballot (list of candidates); ballots are counted by independent monitors. Donations to political parties above a certain level must be disclosed. The whole electoral process is designed to be as fair and inclusive as possible, and is a great source of pride for many Australians.

**Religious tolerance in a changing society**

In the 1940s, most of Australia’s Anglo-Celtic population identified themselves as Christian (either Protestant or Catholic). It was expected that people would attend church at least once a week. Everybody wore their ‘Sunday best’, and a common meeting place for girls and boys was in church-sponsored events, including dances. However, there was still a large religious divide between these denominations.

When World War II ended, most Australians considered themselves loyal to England, the ‘mother country’. Many of these people viewed Catholics, who had traditionally immigrated from Ireland rather than England, as unreliable, superstitious and even disloyal to Australia. It was not uncommon for a job to be advertised accompanied by the disclaimer, ‘Catholics need not apply’. At this time, a ‘mixed marriage’ referred to marriage between a Protestant and a Catholic. It was an act that could break families
apart. Catholics who were married in a Protestant church were excorccomumicated, which meant they were denied membership to the Catholic Church, a fate which befell Ben Chifley, who was prime minister in the late 1940s. Despite the potential damage that it could cause, 1 in 5 people chose to marry outside their faith prior to 1960.

**Changing attitudes to religious practice**

Some of these long-held prejudices would start to be broken down as a tide of European migrants reached Australia’s shores following World War II. Suddenly, the number of Roman Catholics (many from Italy) increased dramatically, along with members of other Christian denominations such as the Greek Orthodox church, challenging the supremacy of the Anglican church.

Another significant milestone occurred following the 1963 federal election. The largely Protestant Coalition government approved state aid for Catholic schools (and other non-government schools). Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam consolidated this in 1972 when he tripled the amount of state aid given to all schools. From this point onwards, it could be said that the religious intolerance that had marked much of Australia’s early history had finally begun to crumble.

With Whitlam’s abolition of the White Australia policy in 1973, the nation opened its arms, and its borders, to people from across Asia, greatly increasing the number of practising Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs in Australia. Between the 1980s and the present, an influx of immigrants from the Middle East has led to a large increase in the number of practising Muslims. Throughout this era, growing support for multiculturalism has led to an increasing level of religious tolerance within the community.

While the number of practising Anglicans and Catholics has been declining steadily in Australia since the 1960s, **Pentecostal Christianity** is on the rise, particularly among the youth of Australia. In recent years, it has also become more common to hear some political leaders referring to their faith in election campaigns and other interviews. Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, and Opposition Leader Tony Abbott, have made it clear that their religious beliefs are an important factor in their decision-making process. This has become a point of debate for some people, who fear that such religious politicians may be unable to choose between their religion and the needs of the country, particularly when dealing with controversial issues.
EXPLANATION AND COMMUNICATION

1 Name three beliefs or practices mentioned in this spread that have changed in Australian society since 1945. Briefly explain how they have changed.

CHRONOLOGY, TERMS AND CONCEPTS

2 Using the information from this spread, explain the following terms in your own words:
   a democracy
   b egalitarianism
   c religious tolerance.

ANALYSIS AND USE OF SOURCES

3 Examine Source 1. This graph shows how the inequality between the rich and poor of many nations has changed over time.
   a Where does Australia sit in relation to similar developed nations such as the United States, Canada and New Zealand?
   b What impact do you believe this growing inequality has had on the belief that Australia is an egalitarian society?

4 Source 2 is a photograph taken only hours after the dismissal of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.
   a Examine the source carefully and describe the scene.
   b How do the expressions of the people in this scene provide evidence for the seriousness of this event?
   c How different may this photograph have looked if Australia didn’t have a strong democratic process in place in 1975? For example, would the prime minister be able to stand freely in front of the public after being dismissed?

5 Read Source 3.
   a What were the sources of Protestant and Catholic hostility after World War II?
   b In what ways could these issues be seen to be less about Australia than about England?
   c Why have these issues become less of a problem today?

6 Examine Source 4.
   a What were the largest religions at the middle of each decade between 1945 and 2006?
   b Based on your current knowledge, how do these changes reflect Australia’s changing immigrant intake?
   c What do these changes suggest about Australia’s changing attitude toward religion since 1945?

7 How do you think the average person from 1945 would have responded to an interfaith ceremony, such as the one depicted in Source 5?

PERSPECTIVES AND INTERPRETATIONS

8 Based upon what you have read, and your own observations, do you think it is accurate to call Australia today a ‘classless society’? Explain your view.

9 Using print or online magazines and newspapers, work in a small group to fill a blank A3 page with article headlines and images that you believe capture Australian beliefs and values today. Based on the finished product, each group member should write 250 words explaining what your image suggests about the values and beliefs that dominate Australian culture today and how these have changed since 1945. You can do extra research if you wish.
What is a historical investigation?

Engaging in historical inquiry involves asking rich questions; locating and evaluating primary and secondary sources of evidence; and drawing conclusions based on your findings.

Why is a historical investigation important?

As we delve into the past, one of the most valuable skills we can develop is the ability and willingness to inquire about the past. This involves recognising that what came before is important, not only because it affected the lives of the people involved but because it has a lasting effect on our lives today.

How to become a historical investigator — a step-by-step approach

First you have to formulate the questions you want to answer. These should require more than a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer or a single date.

A rich question may be puzzling at first, but sparks the imagination. Based upon the sources presented in this spread, it is your task to decide, ‘Does America have too much influence on Australian popular culture?’

To answer this question, you must locate and evaluate sources of evidence. One of the most challenging aspects of finding reliable evidence is that different people will offer different accounts of the same event. Accounts tend to differ based on whether the person experienced the event directly or indirectly, whether their information was complete or incomplete, and their role in the event. Some accounts may also suggest bias. To decide which historical account is most accurate, you need to gather a range of sources and establish how reliable they are through a process of corroboration — that is, comparing them against each other.

Once you have located a number of sources, choose those that seem most relevant. Examine each in turn, asking the following questions:

- What ‘answers’ does the source offer to your major question?
- Who created this source and why?
- Are the views expressed reliable or unreliable?
- Do you see any evidence of bias?
- Whose views or experiences are not represented?

The final stage of investigation involves drawing conclusions based on the evidence you have collected. The conclusions you draw are always open to challenge and should be revised if you find compelling evidence to the contrary.

Source 1 has been used as the basis for answering questions a-e.

- What ‘answers’ does the source offer to your question?
  The author suggests that, although American television and other media is heavily broadcast in Australia, it is a two-way street, with Australian ‘cultural products’ being sent overseas as well. He also suggests that the claim that American media has a negative effect on Australian culture is simplistic.

- Who created this source and why?
  This source was created by a university student as part of a paper looking at the influence of American media on Australia’s popular and political culture.

- Are the views expressed reliable or unreliable?
  Although the author’s views appear quite balanced, this is an essay and does not come from a recognised publication such as a newspaper or academic journal. Therefore, it is hard to know how reliable his claims are.
In recent decades, globalisation has ploughed deep furrows across Australia’s cultural landscape. Developments in communication and transportation technologies have allowed for new forms of cultural production, consumption and exchange, while the changing nature of global markets has resulted in the consolidation of media and entertainment ownership, and increased flows of cultural products into and out of Australia. Concerns abound that our leisure time is becoming increasingly commodified [made into a business] and emblazoned with corporate logos, and that the popularity of cultural products originating in the United States signals the demise of Australian culture. However, fears of cultural imperialism [promoting one culture over another] often fail to take into account salient [prominent] aspects of Australia’s cultural history, the nature of cultural transmission, and the vitality and breadth of contemporary Australian popular culture.

Australian culture has always been influenced by imported cultural products, and indeed has been largely built on selective adoption of overseas cultural practices … The mixed origins of contemporary Australian culture suggest that the dynamic of overseas cultural influence cannot be explained purely in terms of cultural imperialism, with larger, more established powers prevailing over their younger, apparently more impressionable counterpart.

**d** Do you see any evidence of bias? There is little evidence of bias in the author’s tone, although this excerpt does not reference actual evidence.

**e** Whose views/experiences are not represented here? In this excerpt, there are no quotes from the opposition, who claim that American culture dominates Australian culture. Instead, these views are dealt with quite generally by the author.

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American culture is part of Australian mass consumer culture, like it or not, dude! It dominates our television, radio stations, movie theatres, fashion and our imagination. We are effectively governed from Washington DC with our cultural menu set by producers in Los Angeles and designers in New York. Resistance is futile and likely to mean you are totally uncool. In short, we are all Americans now.

This summary of affairs is, of course, an exaggerated view of reality, although plenty of Australians probably watch American sitcoms, own American CDs and DVDs, and dress in American fashion labels right down to their Calvin Klein underwear …

… Global and Australian culture Americanised, particularly since World War II.

Although put-downs of American culture often run roughshod [without careful consideration] over the sheer diversity of American cultural output, it is entirely understandable that people worry about local business and art being overrun by American cultural icons such as McDonald’s, Coca-Cola, Time AOL and so on.

Others worry about our obsession with middle-class American life via the tube. The world of TV viewers often knows far more about American high schools and colleges, American court rooms and police precincts, and American hospitals and office life than they know about their own society. I worry that Australians are familiar with Frasier’s Seattle and Ally McBeal’s Boston but have no popular equivalents set in Darwin, let alone Jakarta …

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**Source 1**

An excerpt from an academic article entitled ‘Globalisation: a threat to Australian culture?’ by Jonathan Pickering, a university student. The article appears on an educational website promoting multiculturalism.

**Source 2**

An excerpt from an opinion piece titled ‘Does Aussie culture need protection from US cultural imperialism?’ written by Brendan O’Connor, Associate Professor at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney and editor of the four-volume series Anti-Americanism

**Source 3**

The author of **Source 2** worries that the saturation of American culture has made Australians more familiar with cities such as Seattle (facing page) than with closer cities such as Jakarta.
In this chapter we have considered the impact of political, cultural and social changes between 1945 and the present. We have studied their reflection in the mass media and have used the products created during this era, including movies, television shows, music, fashion and sport, to attempt to learn more about what regular people thought and felt during this period. We have also looked at the present day and considered some of the implications for popular culture in the years to come.

Quick quiz
1. What event made life so hard for many people in Australia in 1945?
2. Why were Lee Gordon’s ‘Big Show’ rock concerts so influential on the Australian music scene?
3. Name a form of mass media that has shaped Australian society since 1945.
4. What was the date of Australia’s first television broadcast?
5. What was one popular pastime for suburban families in the early 1960s?
6. What was the name of the Beatles’ tour of Australia?
7. Why was Dawn Fraser banned from competitive swimming after the 1964 Tokyo Olympics?
8. Name one Australian ‘trendsetter’ in any form of popular culture.
9. Why was Channel 0/28 established in 1980?
10. What was the event that shaped Australian society and dominated popular culture during 1969–75?
11. Name one significant Australian film that was created in the 1980s.
12. Why were continuous dramas originally referred to as soap operas?
13. What has made Australian soap operas so popular in England?

Analysis and use of sources
1. Source 1 describes an act of grassroots activism (a type of protest rising almost spontaneously from the people). Do you think this was an effective form of protest against conscription? Why or why not?
2. In your own words, explain the reasons Andrew Blunden offers for not wanting to fight in Vietnam.

Historical questions and research
1. Use your library and the internet to research the three men shown in Source 2 and the incident known as ‘the Black Power salute’.
2. Considering the Olympics are supposed to be free from political statements, do you believe the openly political actions of the men depicted in Source 2 were right or wrong? Explain your view.
3 Go back through this chapter, and the popular culture concept map you began working on in spread 5.2, and choose one key area. Then prepare a report on the major features of this key area from two decades between 1945 and the present. In your report, you should address:
• changes during this period
• major figures in the industry/area
• any controversy generated within the area
Include your report to the class as part of a class website, a PowerPoint or other electronic presentation.

Back to the big questions
At the beginning of this chapter several big questions were posed. Use the knowledge you have gained to answer these questions.
1 How did changes in technology shape the lives, work and culture of Australians during the 1950s and 1960s?
2 How do the major social, cultural and political changes of the 1960s continue to influence our world today?
3 In what ways have society’s changing views been reflected in popular culture?
4 How have teenagers helped to reshape the world between 1945 and the present?

Reflect
Think about your learning over this topic. For each of these statements, tick the box that you think best reflects your learning and briefly state your reasons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statements about my learning in this chapter</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Reasons why I agree or disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I learned new things about the power of young people to change the world.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was able to recognise different people’s perspectives about popular culture.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I understand why there may often be contradictions between sources.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was surprised by some of the things I learned.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing and reading primary sources brought the past to life.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can understand how art and music reflect the views of the society in which they were created.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learned about Australia’s role as a follower and innovator of cultural change from 1945 to the present.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This chapter has shown me the value of being a historical investigator.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
using ICT

Life in Australia in the 1960s
SEARCHLIGHT ID: PRO-0118

Scenario
Your local council has asked you to make an individual contribution to their community history project: a photographic slideshow, with a voiceover, uncovering families’ involvement in Australia’s past. This slideshow will be viewed by the public when they visit any local government council office in the country.

Your task
Create and deliver a photographic slideshow, with voiceover, uncovering Australia’s past. This will be based on research and interviews with your parents/grandparents and should focus on ordinary Australian residents’ daily lives in the 1960s. The expected length of your photographic slideshow and voiceover is around three minutes and should cover the following topics:
• daily life
• the role and work of various groups
• the division of labour between men and women
• rituals
• family.
A resource sheet containing suggested interview questions for each of these topics is provided for you in your Media Centre.

Process
• Open the ProjectsPLUS application for this chapter in your eBookPLUS. Watch the introductory video lesson and then click the ‘Start Project’ button and set up your project. You can complete this project individually or invite other members of the class to form a group. Save your settings and the project will be launched.
• Navigate to your Research Forum where the slideshow topics have been loaded for you to provide a framework for your research. Find at least two sources other than your textbook to research extra information about life in Australia in the 1960s. The weblinks in your Media Centre will help you get started. Enter your findings as articles in your Research Forum. You can view and comment on other group members’ articles and rate the information they have entered.
• When your online research is complete, it is time for each group member to go to a primary source — someone who lived in Australia in the 1960s. This might be a parent, grandparent or a family friend. Download the suggested interview questions document from your Media Centre and arrange a time for your interviews. You can record the
Your ProjectsPLUS application is available in this chapter’s Student Resources tab inside your eBookPLUS. Visit www.jacplus.com.au to locate your digital resources.

Suggested software
- ProjectsPLUS
- Audacity, Garage Band or other voice-recording software
- PowerPoint, iPhoto or other slideshow software

Media Centre
Your Media Centre contains:
- a selection of images from the 1960s
- suggested questions for your interviews
- an assessment rubric.

Interviews using your mobile phone or a free voice-recording program like Audacity, Garage Band or Windows recording software. Ask your sources if they can provide you with any images from life in the 1960s to use in your slideshow. It is likely they will have family photos from this decade.

- When your interviews are recorded, share the audio files and photos you have gathered with the other members of your group and then work together to select the images and audio quotes that you would like to include in your voiceover. You may also like to record your own intro and outro to the slideshow. Use the Storyboard template in your Media Centre to help you plan your final presentation.

- Edit your voiceover using appropriate sound editing software and create a final soundtrack for your slideshow. Note: Wavepad is a great free program for editing MP3s.

- Use iPhoto, PowerPoint or other multimedia software to compile your photo slideshow, ensuring that the audio matches up with the images you have selected.

- Print out your research report from ProjectsPLUS and hand it in to your teacher with your final slideshow.

POPULAR CULTURE TIMELINE
Use this fun interactivity to create a visual timeline of key events since 1945 that have shaped popular culture.

SEARCHLIGHT ID: INT-2973

FACT FINDER: ‘LIFE IN THE 1950s’
In 1950, Australia was at the beginning of an era marked with vast changes. In this interactive fact finder game, you will race against the clock to identify images in the montage of life in the 1950s from a series of clues.

SEARCHLIGHT ID: INT-1417

FACT FINDER: ‘AUSTRALIAN ICONS’
In this interactive fact finder game you will race against the clock to identify a series of quintessentially Australian icons from a series of clues.

SEARCHLIGHT ID: INT-1401