TEACHER'S GUIDE TO THE CONTENTS OF THE JCPML DIGITAL TREASURE BOX

The JCPML Education Program explains Australia’s role in the Pacific theatre of World War II, with a focus upon the leadership of Prime Minister John Curtin and the impact of the war on the homefront. The Digital Treasure Box includes fun-filled historical activities for students from years 5 to 9 and detailed lesson plans for teachers. Access the Digital Treasure Box at http://john.curtin.edu.au/education/treasurebox/treasureboxdigital.html including downloadable documents and links to online activities. Teachers have the option to use selected activities, whole section groups or the entire Treasure Box contents; where many or all activities in a section are chosen, it is advisable to consult its Lesson Plan as a guide to coordinating activities.

Section 1: Introduction to World War II

The information provided on the events of World War II in the European and Pacific theatres of war is not comprehensive and no attempt has been made to investigate causes of the war. The intention is only to provide a context for an examination of the homefront in Australia during World War II.

- Teacher’s Guide to the Contents of the JCPML Digital Treasure Box – A summary of the Digital Treasure Box contents.
- Background to the War teaching resources
  - Character Profiles For Allied And Axis Leaders – Photocopy masters for student resource sheets. Information summaries about some of the principal actors in World War II including a photograph of each.
  - Some Characters You Should Know
    - Student Question Sheet – Photocopy master for student quiz/cloze sheet about some of the principal actors in World War II.
    - Teacher’s Answer Sheet – Answers for the student quiz/cloze activities.
- Shaping the Nation: John Curtin and Australia – Online exhibition about John Curtin’s rise through the socialist movement to become Prime Minister. Features photographs, audio clips and online activities. (JCPML0067/13)

Section 2: Finding out about John Curtin’s background

Trace John Curtin’s rise from a working class boy to a socialist orator, young politician and Prime Minister.

- John Curtin poster – A3 poster featuring a photograph of John Curtin as Prime Minister.
- Biography of John Curtin - Illustrated outline of Curtin’s life, including an account of his childhood in From Poor Boy to Prime Minister.
- John Curtin as MP and PM – Illustrated outline of Curtin’s political career in relation to the development of Australia as an independent nation.
- There Are Holes in Our Story
  - Student Question Sheet – Photocopy master for student cloze sheet about the life of John Curtin.
  - Teacher’s Answer Sheet – Answers for the student cloze activities.
- It’s a Numbers Game: How John Curtin Became Prime Minister – Online game and quiz about parliamentary procedures and the circumstances under which John Curtin became Prime Minister.

Section 3: The war comes to Australia

This critical package explores how Australia came to be involved in the Pacific War, the bombing of Pearl Harbour and the bombing of Darwin, along with aspects of Australia’s preparations for a possible Japanese invasion in 1942. Students will use audio sources, documents, photographs and craft activities to investigate these events.

- Lesson plan – Activities about Japan’s Pacific campaign and the bombing of Darwin. Includes The Bombing of Pearl Harbour newspaper article. Suggestions for sourcing audiovisual material and links to JCPML online resources are also included.
- Distinguishing between the battlefront and the homefront - Teacher’s guide to explaining two key concepts to students when introducing the subject of Australia’s role in World War II.
Section 4: Finding out about rationing and austerity

This important package demonstrates the reasons for the implementation of rationing, the means by which austerity measures were promoted and the effects of rationing and austerity upon Australian life during World War II. Students will explore the subject using a variety of approaches, from maths and cartoon analysis to quizzes, audio activities and study of original historical advertisements.

Lesson plan – Activities about austerity measures, rationing of resources and the role of radio in promoting rationing and austerity during World War II. Suggestions for sourcing audio material are also included.

Audio History Activity: Austerity

- **Be a Shock Trooper in the Austerity Army!** – Photocopy master for student group/teacher-directed oral discussion and activity sheet with article about women’s role in achieving austerity measures from *The Australian Women’s Weekly*, 19 September 1942, p.13, featuring Elsie Curtin.

- **Be a Shock Trooper in the Austerity Army! (article only)** – Original article on Trove website with transcript and downloads available in left column. (Includes JCPML00376/242 of Elsie Curtin)

- **Advertisement for Radios** – Photocopy master for student information sheet featuring an advertisement for radios from *The Bulletin*, 18 February 1942, p.3.

- **A Brief History of Radio in Australia from the 1920s to the 1950s** – Photocopy master for student information sheet outlining the social roles of radio in Australia in the mid-20th century.

- **Radio Shows and Film Reviews** – Photocopy master for student information sheet featuring advertisements for radio shows and film reviews from various Australian magazines and newspapers of the 1940s.

- **Austerity Speech Transcript** – Annotated transcript of John Curtin’s announcement of austerity measures. (JCPML00408/10)
Section 5: Bringing it all together

Quizzes and activities to test students’ recollection of some of the key ideas in the Digital Treasure Box.

- **John Curtin: A Man of Peace, A Time of War**
  - **Student Question Sheet** – Photocopy master for student quiz sheet about John Curtin’s allies in World War II. Includes links to additional online quizzes and activities.
  - **Teacher’s Answer Sheet** – Answers for the student cloze activities.

- **Letter to the Prime Minister**
  - **Student Question Sheet** – Photocopy master for student literacy activity puzzle and quiz sheet. Print each page on a separate sheet, so that when students cut up page 1, page 2 will not be affected.
  - **Teacher’s Answer Sheet** – Answers for the student activity.

- **True or False?**
  - **Student Question Sheet** – Photocopy master for student quiz sheet reviewing what has been learned about the life and times of John Curtin.
  - **Teacher’s Answer Sheet** – Answers for the student cloze activities.

Section 6: Discovering democracy

Activities in which students examine and interpret primary sources.

- **Lesson Plan for Middle Primary School: Using the JCPML Website** – Activities about John Curtin and the collections of the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library. Links to JCPML online resources are included.

- **Upper Primary School Activities and Resources**
  - **Lesson Plan for Upper Primary School: Using the JCPML Website** – Activities about John Curtin and Australia’s role in World War II, emphasising Australia’s relationships with Britain and the United States. Links to JCPML online resources are included.
  - **Section 6 Source Materials Upper Primary** – An outline of John Curtin’s 1944 trip abroad and primary source excerpts concerning Australia’s relationships with Britain and the United States.