

History: Fame and Recognition Through Time

Madame Tussauds Sydney — Schools Resource

NSW Syllabus: History K–10 | **Stage:** Stage 3 (Years 5–6)

About this resource

This resource explores how ideas of fame, achievement and public life have changed over time, using figures from different eras represented at Madame Tussauds Sydney.

Curriculum outcomes addressed

- **HT3-3** — identifies change and continuity and describes the causes and consequences of change on society
- **HT3-5** — applies a variety of skills of historical inquiry and communication

Key inquiry question

What has changed, and what has stayed the same, about how societies celebrate notable people over time?

Exercise 1: Then and Now (Classroom — Pre-Visit)

Format: Classroom-based | 20 minutes

1. Discuss: how did people become famous 100 years ago, compared to today? What's changed (technology, media) and what's stayed the same (talent, achievement)?
2. In pairs, list ways fame or public recognition might look different across generations.
3. Introduce the historical concepts of continuity and change.

Exercise 2: Comparing Eras (Excursion — In-Venue)

Format: Excursion-based | Individual worksheet

Choose two figures from noticeably different eras.

1. Note the era each figure is from and what they are known for.
2. Identify one thing about how they became well-known that reflects the technology or society of their time.
3. Identify one thing that has stayed the same between the two eras (e.g. importance of talent, public admiration, hard work).

Exercise 3: Change Over Time Report (Classroom — Post-Visit)

Format: Classroom-based | Extended task

Write a short report (200–300 words) comparing how two figures from different eras

achieved recognition, and what this reveals about continuity and change in society. Use historical terms such as "era," "significant," "continuity", and "change."

Teacher note: This task supports HT3-3 and HT3-5 and works well as a scaffolded writing task with a graphic organiser for the compare/contrast structure.

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Exercise 1: Then & Now (Classroom — Pre-Visit)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think about how people became famous 100 years ago compared to today. Work with a partner to complete this activity.

What has changed? THINK: Technology, media

What has stayed the same? THINK: Talent, achievements

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Exercise 2: Comparing Eras (Excursion — In-Venue)

At Madame Tussauds Sydney, choose two figures from different time periods and complete the comparison table below.

[illegible]

What has stayed the same between these two eras?		

Exercise 3: Change Over Time Report (Classroom — Post-Visit)

Write a 200-300 word report comparing your two figures. Use historical terms like "era," "significant," "continuity," and "change."

Planning space:

My report:

[illegible]

[illegible]

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