

The Time Machine ©John Duff
Teachers' Resource Kit - Excerpt

The Time Machine

©John Duff

Teachers' Resource Kit

Table of Contents



<u>Educational and Personal Benefits of Participation in <i>The Time Machine</i></u>	2
<u>Connections to the Australian Curriculum</u>	3
<u>Central Themes</u>	7
<u>Central Themes and The Australian Curriculum</u>	8
<u>Teaching Resources For Each Act</u>	11
ACT ONE: The Professor's Laboratory	12
ACT TWO: The Age Of The Dinosaurs	15
ACT THREE: Julius Caesar's Rome	18
ACT FOUR: King Arthur's Round Table	21
ACT FIVE: Early Australia	25
ACT SIX: Newfoundland, Canada – An Airport Runway	28
ACT SEVEN: A 1950's Rock'n'Roll Prom Night	34
ACT EIGHT: The Moon	38
ACT NINE: Back To The Future – The Underground	43
ACT TEN: The Professor's Laboratory	49

Educational and Personal Benefits of Participation in The Time Machine Musical Production

- **Enhanced Learning:** Involvement in *The Time Machine* offers students a dynamic way to engage with the Australian Curriculum. The musical aligns with the cross-curricular priority of Sustainability and supports most key Learning Areas such as The Arts, History, Science, English, and Humanities, while also reinforcing General Capabilities like Critical and Creative Thinking, Literacy, and Intercultural Understanding (see Connections to the Australian Curriculum p.3).
- **Creativity and Expression:** Students have the opportunity to express themselves through acting, singing, and dancing, developing their creativity and confidence. This artistic involvement nurtures their ability to communicate ideas and emotions effectively.
- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Being part of a school musical teaches students the importance of teamwork. They learn to collaborate with peers, respect different perspectives, and contribute to a shared goal, building strong social skills and a sense of community.
- **Confidence and Public Speaking:** Performing on stage helps students build self-confidence and improve their public speaking abilities. These skills are not only valuable in the context of the play but also beneficial in academic and future professional settings.
- **Cultural Appreciation:** Through the diverse themes and historical periods explored in the play, students gain a greater appreciation for different cultures and time periods. This broadens their understanding of the world and encourages empathy and curiosity.
- **Fun and Engagement:** Above all, participating in *The Time Machine* is an enjoyable experience that makes learning fun. The play's engaging storyline, humorous script, entertaining characters and catchy songs, ensure that students remain motivated and excited about their educational journey.

Connections to the Australian Curriculum



The Time Machine musical provides a dynamic platform for exploring various areas of the Australian Curriculum, offering students engaging opportunities to develop key knowledge, skills, and capabilities. Through its rich narrative and thematic elements, the musical supports learning across multiple disciplines, fostering critical and creative thinking, cultural awareness, and social understanding. By incorporating historical, scientific, and ethical perspectives, ***The Time Machine*** encourages students to make connections between the past, present, and future, while enhancing their personal and social development. All of this is delivered in an entertaining, engaging musical with catchy songs and a humorous script, ensuring an enjoyable and memorable learning experience.

Cross Curricular Priorities

Connections to the Cross-Curricular Priority of **Sustainability**

The Time Machine musical aligns with the cross-curricular priority of Sustainability by addressing the ongoing capacity of Earth to sustain all life. Through its exploration of a climate-affected future in Act Nine, the musical engages students in discussions around environmental stewardship, responsible decision-making, and the long-term impact of human actions on the planet. It emphasizes the importance of sustainable patterns of living that meet the needs of the present generation without compromising those of future generations. The narrative encourages students to reflect on their personal connection to the environment and the role of communication and collaboration in fostering a sustainable future.

Learning Areas

Connections to **The Arts** in the Australian Curriculum

The Time Machine musical aligns with *The Arts* in the Australian Curriculum by engaging students in **Drama**, through performance and character development, while supporting the study of narratives and their ability to express cultural and social perspectives. It incorporates **Music**, offering opportunities to analyse, interpret, and perform original songs. The **Visual Arts** are highlighted through the creation of props, costumes, and set pieces that enhance storytelling. The musical also fosters **Critical and Creative Thinking** as students analyse how it communicates ideas about history, environment, and culture and encourages imaginative problem-solving through performance and production tasks.

The Time Machine ©John Duff

Teachers' Resource Kit - Excerpt

Connections to the Australian Curriculum cont'd



Connections to **Technologies** in the Australian Curriculum

The Time Machine musical supports learning in **Technologies** by encouraging students to engage with **Design and Technologies** through the use of provided digital backdrops, as well as designing props and costume elements to complement the production. It incorporates **Digital Technologies** by exploring the role of technological advancements, in fields such as aviation and space travel, in shaping historical and future worlds. A key example is in Act Nine, where future humans communicate only through emojis, prompting students to critically reflect on the wise use of technology and its impact on communication. Students also use tools like sound editing, projection systems, and lighting design during performances, developing **problem-solving and project-management skills** by integrating these elements into their production process.

Connections to **Science** in the Australian Curriculum

The Time Machine musical engages students with key scientific concepts by exploring the impacts of human activity on the environment and the importance of sustainable practices.

In Act Two, the time travellers encounter dinosaurs bringing concepts from Biological and Earth Sciences to life, such as biodiversity, adaptation, and extinction. The Professor's goal to obtain samples encourages students to consider how scientific knowledge evolves through evidence and discovery, making prehistoric concepts accessible and memorable.

Act Nine highlights a climate-affected future, encouraging students to reflect on the causes and consequences of environmental change. This act also provides a platform for discussing renewable energy, ecosystem conservation, and the science of climate change, linking to core curriculum areas like Earth and Environmental Science. The musical fosters critical thinking and inquiry-based learning by prompting students to analyse the scientific and ethical dimensions of technological advancements and their role in shaping a sustainable future.

Connections to **Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)**

The Time Machine invites students to gain Inspiration From History (see Themes) by engaging with significant historical events, figures and ideas, thus fostering an understanding of their influence on the present and future. By exploring these connections, students develop an appreciation for how history shapes identity, values and aspirations. The inclusion of Anachronistic Humour (see Themes) — where modern elements are juxtaposed with historical contexts — adds a creative layer to the learning experience. This approach not only highlights the unique characteristics of different historical periods but also encourages students to think critically about the interplay between the past and the present.

The Time Machine ©John Duff

Teachers' Resource Kit - Excerpt

Connections to the Australian Curriculum cont'd



Connections to English

The Time Machine provides rich opportunities to explore language as a tool for storytelling and expression. The script demonstrates how language can be used to develop characters, set scenes, and convey themes, while the song lyrics serve as examples of language crafted for musical expression.

In Act Four, the exaggerated, humorous use of Middle English introduces students to the evolution of language and its historical context, providing an engaging way to explore how language changes over time. This act also encourages students to analyse how dialogue and tone contribute to character development and humour in storytelling.

The use of Anachronistic Humour throughout invites students to analyse how language and context can be creatively manipulated to generate humour and engage audiences. By studying these elements, students enhance their literacy skills and develop a deeper understanding of how language shapes meaning in various formats.

Connections to Health and Physical Education (HPE)

In ***The Time Machine***, students are encouraged to explore key topics such as teamwork, resilience, and decision-making. As they engage with the story, they learn the importance of supporting each other in difficult situations and recognising individual talents, just like the characters in the musical. By performing scenes and taking on different roles, students build confidence, develop social skills, and understand how working together can lead to better outcomes. This helps them understand how to handle challenges in their own lives and how to collaborate effectively with others.

General Capabilities

Connections to General Capability: **Critical and Creative Thinking**

The Time Machine musical nurtures students' Critical and Creative Thinking skills by encouraging exploration of creativity, innovation, and problem-solving. Throughout the narrative and lyrics, the musical emphasizes the Power of Imagination (see Themes) in driving change, fostering ambition, and opening new possibilities. Students are challenged to reflect on historical achievements, apply lessons to modern challenges, and think critically about the past while envisioning the future. The narrative explores the interplay between Chance and Choice (see Themes), highlighting the importance of flexibility, adaptability, and creative problem-solving in navigating uncertainty. These elements collectively inspire students to think innovatively and engage with the complexities of planning, spontaneity, and achieving success in life.

The Time Machine ©John Duff

Teachers' Resource Kit - Excerpt

Connections to the Australian Curriculum cont'd



Connections to General Capability: Personal and Social Capability

The Time Machine presents students with opportunities to develop essential **Personal and Social Capability** by encouraging teamwork, self-awareness, and emotional intelligence. As they engage with the narrative of a team of time travellers navigating unexpected destinations, students reflect on the social dynamics of working together, adapting to new environments, and overcoming challenges. The characters' interactions with historical figures echo the experiences of trailblazers such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, Elvis Presley, and Neil Armstrong, who each demonstrated perseverance, social courage, and leadership. These figures inspire students to understand the importance of collaboration, respect for others, and the ability to contribute positively to group efforts, both on and off stage. Through their collective journey, students learn how personal qualities and social skills play a pivotal role in facing challenges and shaping history.

Connections to General Capability: Ethical Understanding

The musical encourages students to think about right and wrong, fairness, and how our actions affect others and the environment. As they follow the characters on their journey through time, students reflect on important ethical choices, like the responsibility of looking after the planet and making decisions that will help future generations.

Connections to General Capability: Intercultural Understanding

The Time Machine offers students an opportunity to explore different cultures and perspectives through its imaginative journey across time. From the hedonism of Ancient Rome through to the ground-breaking Amelia Earhart, students learn to appreciate how people from different eras and backgrounds have shaped the world we live in today. By thinking about how society has changed over time, students develop empathy and a greater understanding of diverse cultures and experiences. The musical helps them see how people in the past made choices that affect us now and encourages them to think about how we can create a better future together.

The Time Machine ©John Duff
Teachers' Resource Kit - Excerpt

Central Themes

The Time Machine musical production takes students on an entertaining journey through time whilst exploring a range of thought-provoking themes.

These include:

- **Sustainability**
Highlighting the importance of environmental stewardship.
- **Inspiration From History**
Learning how historical achievements can inspire and instruct.
- **The Power of Imagination and Dreams**
Using creativity to shape a better world.
- **Chance and Choice**
Exploring the balance between intentions and outcomes.

Literary Device

Through clever use of anachronistic humour, *The Time Machine* musical production makes history accessible and engaging, blending past and present in a way that sparks laughter and deeper understanding.

- **Anachronistic Humour**
Blending past and future together with a sense of fun.

Central Themes and The Australian Curriculum

Sustainability (SU)

Sustainability addresses the ongoing capacity of Earth to maintain all life. Sustainable patterns of living seek to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations.



Cross Curricular Priority – Sustainability

When ***The Time Machine*** travels to the future, students engage with ideas around environmental stewardship, responsible decision-making, personal connection and communication, and the long-term impact of human actions on the planet.

The Power of Imagination and Dreams (ID)

Imagination and Dreams are powerful means of inspiring creativity, driving ambition and opening up new possibilities.



General Capability – Critical and Creative Thinking
Personal and Social Capability

The Time Machine encourages students to explore their creativity, think innovatively, and imagine new possibilities. It fosters an appreciation for the power of imagination in driving change and achieving goals.

Inspiration from History (HI)

Understanding and appreciating history can offer valuable lessons, guidance, and inspiration for the present and future.



Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)

The Time Machine encourages students to explore significant events, people, and ideas from the past and understand their impact on the present and future. By drawing inspiration from historical figures and events, the play helps us appreciate how history shapes our identity, values, and aspirations.

The Time Machine ©John Duff

Teachers' Resource Kit - Excerpt

Central Themes and The Australian Curriculum cont'd

Inspiration from History (HI) cont'd



General Capability – Critical and Creative Thinking

The Time Machine challenges students to reflect on historical achievements and imagine how those lessons can be applied to modern-day challenges. It inspires us to think critically about the past and creatively about the future.

Chance & Choice (CC)

This theme explores the difference between spontaneous and planned approaches and events in life. It also highlights the balance between actions taken with intention and outcomes that arise unexpectedly.

Each one of Randall's attempts to pull 'The Big Lever' results in an unexpected visit to an unplanned destination – a 'Random' destination :)



General Capability – Critical and Creative Thinking

The Time Machine prompts students to consider how both planned and unplanned events shape the world around us. It encourages us to think flexibly, adapt to new situations, and creatively solve problems when faced with the unexpected.

Through this theme, **The Time Machine** provides a valuable opportunity for students to engage with the idea that while planning is important, the ability to navigate uncertainty and embrace spontaneity is equally essential for success in life.

The Time Machine ©John Duff

Teachers' Resource Kit - Excerpt

Central Themes and The Australian Curriculum cont'd

Literary Devices

Anachronistic Humour (AH)

This occurs when something modern is placed into a historical context creating a surprising and absurd contrast.

Seeing modern ideas, objects, or behaviour in a historical setting is unexpected. This clash between different time periods catches people off guard and leads to humour. This could be simplified as "**time-mix humour**" - when something from today is placed in the past, creating a humorous tension between what we know to be true about history and the modern elements that don't belong there.



Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) – Historical Concepts

By mixing elements from different eras, anachronistic humour helps students recognize the distinct characteristics of historical periods while also engaging them in creative thinking about how history connects with the present.



English – Literacy and Critical and Creative Thinking

The use of this literary device throughout the musical encourages students to analyse how language and context can be manipulated to create humour.

*** Look for these symbols throughout the Teachers' Resource Kit**



Thematic Summary

The Time Machine is more than just a school musical; it's an enriching educational experience that combines important life lessons with the joy of performance. By exploring themes like sustainability, imagination, historical inspiration, and the unpredictability of life, students not only gain knowledge but also develop the creativity, confidence, and collaboration skills needed for success in all areas of life.

The Time Machine ©John Duff
Teachers' Resource Kit - Excerpt

Teaching Resources for Each Act

Historical Context/Background

A short summary of the time frame in which the Act is set.

Characters

A brief profile of the historical figures featured in each Act.

Historical Quotes

The origin and context of any direct quotes found in the script.

Script Notes

Identification of where the central themes are reflected in the script.

Song Lyrics Analysis

Explanation of literary devices and thematic references in the song lyrics.

Thematic Focus

A summary of the central themes explored in the Act.

Discussion Questions

Thought-provoking questions that encourage students to reflect on themes, characters, and events from each act.

Creative Writing

Prompts that engage students' imaginations and inspire storytelling and personal connections to the musical's themes.

Cross Curricular Activities

These activities provide opportunities for students to connect themes from each act of the musical to a variety of subjects, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and cross-curricular learning.

The Time Machine ©John Duff
Teachers' Resource Kit - Excerpt

Ready to bring THE TIME MACHINE to life at your school?

When you order the full musical package, you'll receive everything you need for an unforgettable production, including:

- The complete Teachers' Resource Kit
 - Full script and lyrics
 - Sheet music for every song
 - Professional vocal and backing tracks
- Stunning digital backdrops and sound effects
 - Audition parts and so much more!

Get the complete musical today—[click here!](#)