**Source Research**

*Source A is the John Dias Plaque*

*Source B is the Calico Hood*

*Source C is the Old Melbourne Gaol*

**Notes about Source A – John Dias Plaque**

**A plaque with a picture of a person

Description automatically generated**

* **Details of the time period:** Around the 1890s and early 1920s, which is John Dias’ active years as a unionist, Australians were experiencing economy depressions and conflict between workers and employers. Australia also experienced a sudden downturn (values of stocks, properties, and commodities fall, production declines in rate or grows slower, and gross domestic product shrinks, expands slower, or stands still). Also, Australia was experiencing many strikes by worker unions. As well as this, many other things happened, such as the Australian pound becoming the national currency in 1910, and the harvester case, establishing the right for a basic wage of 7 shillings in 1907.
* **What the source is, and its purpose if applicable:** The source is a plaque of unionist John Dias. The plaque is meant to honour John Dias and his work, by giving him his own plaque. John Dias was a shearer initially, where he would endure harsh conditions. In 1886, the shearers founded the Queensland Shearer’s Union, with John being one of the founders, going up again the pastoralists (people who owned and tended the livestock). In 1891, the pastoralists presented their log of conditions, which included disregarding the 8 hour day, decreasing wages, and the right to forfeit a man’s wage. The shearers didn’t accept, but the Queensland government were also aiding the pastoralists. The shearers had to set camps, with John being their leader. After attempting to persuading strike-breakers, John was arrested for using threats against a publican. After this, the Shearers merged with the Australian Workers’ Union. John Dias then left his job to become a miner during the sliver/lead/zinc boom. An eighteen week strike was held. While there, John’s brother was killed by a truck that was detached and rolled down an incline. John, during his lifetime, also attempted to run for Parliament. He was also Union Secretary. Overall, John Dias played a very important role in terms of unions.
* **Specific Details about the source:** The plaque features John Dias in a suit, with the text “- JOHN DIAS - --BORN MAY 11 1861 – DIED AUGUST 13 1924 – A MAN WHOSE EVERY ENDEAVOUR WAS IN THE CAUSE OF THE WORKER AND TO UPLIFT HUMANITY-A TOKEN OF RESPECT FROM THOSE WHO KNEW HIM,” which is in reference to his good “deeds” as a unionist, specifically a union leader. The plaque contains an emblem, most likely from either the people who made the plaque, or more likely one of the unions or the last union he was involved in. A wreath is manifested on top of the plaque, as well as a small man, again most likely to be one of the symbols of one of the unions John was associated with. At the bottom is a man cutting wood, and another man performing another job. These may also be symbols from the Australian Worker’ Union or some other union as John never worked with timber or had any kind of wood profession.
* **Goal and Effectiveness if applicable:** The goal of this plaque is seemingly only to honour John Dias for the work he has done.

**Notes about Source B – Calico Hood**

**A white mask with holes on it

Description automatically generated**

* **Details of the time period:** During the 18th and 19th century, Australia was receiving large amount of convicts. Understandably, as Australia was colonized to be a penal colony (a place for prisoners to go). Across 8 years, about 165,000 convicts were transported to Australia.
* **What the source is, and its purpose if applicable:** The source is a hood made out of calico (a heavy woven fabric made from cotton). It was used on inmates when they left their cells. The idea was to completely block any interaction cellmates can have with each other or the outside world, as a form of solitary confinement while still giving the inmate a chance to do other things like exercise. Calico hoods, also known as silence masks, would be worn throughout an inmate’s sentence, except when in their cell.
* **Specific Details about the source:** The hood seems to be stitched together, with a seam down the middle of the mask. The contains two eye holes, and potentially an unintentional hole near the nose. The mask also shares a resemblance to the Klu Klux Klan masks, which is most likely a coincidence. The mask, as its name implies, is made from calico, a type of woven fabric.
* **Goal and Effectiveness if applicable:** Its goal was to provide solitary confinement to prisoners leaving their cells, while still letting them participate in out-of-cell activities. It was effective at that, but whether that’s a good thing is debatable.

**Notes about Source C – Old Melbourne Gaol**

* **Details of the time period:** Many crimes related events were occurring during the construction and “lifespan” of the Old Melbourne Gaol. Bushrangers were beginning to grow in number (bushrangers are robbers that used the bush as their base), reaching a boom during the 1850/60s. Many riots were being held, some happening at a prison in Fremantle. Convict numbers were also rising.
* **What the source is, and its purpose if applicable:** The source is the Old Melbourne Gaol, a jail infamous for its gallows (hangings), death masks, and cruel methods of punishment. It was where popular bushranger Ned Kelly was kept and executed. Going through those points in order, the gallows are places where people would be hanged. The gallows are where Ned Kelly was killed. Speaking of which, Edward “Ned” Kelly was a bushranger who killed many policemen and is known for his defiance of authorities. Ned Kelly was captured and hung, and post mortemly participated in an experiment involving “Death Masks.” The Death Masks are sculptures made from the severed heads of hung victims. An inmate would be hung, shaven, and then applied for a plaster cast. This would allow the prison to make wax replicas. Alive prisoners weren’t spared from a cruel fate, as they had to endure constant solitary confinement by wearing a calico hood whenever they were out of their cells. For exercise, prisoners would have to walk in a circle outside for one hour, while still wearing the hood. Prisoners were allowed to go to a chapel service on Sunday. Usually, people were executed for murder, but some executions were for assault, rape, armed robbery, and shooting with intent. Children could be held in the prison, even if just to be with their parents. The prison also contained padded rooms.
* **Specific Details about the source:** The “Death Mask” wax statue of Ned Kelly’s head in white in colour. The statue contains precise details, such as Ned’s eyebrows and eyelashes. Ned’s eyes are closed, as were most of the death masks. Apart from Ned’s eyebrows, no hair is found on the statue, and the eyebrows may just be an artifact left from the casting procedure. The room with the padded cell in made from white bricks. The room, just like the main hall of the jail, has skylights. The walls are high, and the doors are made from steel. The pads on the door are white with indents, while each door has dimples. There are also pipes running across the wall. The outside of the jail is made out of much darker and much bigger bricks. There are three levels, each level containing cells with barred windows. There are also plates and extra windows for the roof. Inside the jail, the walls are lighter in colour. There are skylight windows, separated by beams. The cells are generally spread apart. The paths have grates on the side, and the levels are connected by stairs. The cell numbers are above the cell entrances. There are also windows on the walls. The gallows appear to be right next to/directly below the cells. It contains a wooden beam with a rope wrapped around it, a trapdoor underneath it, with the whole area blocked off by grates and steel fences. The trapdoor is made out of wood.
* **Goal and Effectiveness if applicable:** The goal of the Old Melbourne Gaol was to punish convicts, while not acting like a prison where the inmates were kept for a long time. At this goal, the jail did succeed, although punishment methods were exceedingly cruel and led to repeat offences and mental breakdown from those who suffered the punishments.