

Sovereign Hill: Believe it or Not.

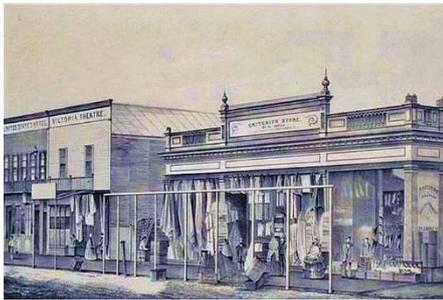
A Discover It Yourself activity for Year 9 students.

Curriculum Link

The Making of the Modern World: Australia and Asia

Historical knowledge: Significant events and influencing ideas in the development of the society, including different perspectives of the events at the time and different historical interpretations and debates

Historical Skills and concepts: Analyse and corroborate sources and evaluate their accuracy, usefulness and reliability



Part of Main Road Ballarat East, 1859, Francoise Cogne



Sovereign Hill's Main Street, 2017

Some historians suggest that Sovereign Hill does not tell the real story of the gold rushes. They point out that the venue is too clean, it lacks savage dogs and disease and does not adequately tell the story of groups like the Wadawurrung People or the Chinese.

Sovereign Hill maintains that it is an accredited museum with exhibits based on sound research using primary sources. It also boasts a collection of over 100,000 significant historic items.

What do you think?

Is Sovereign Hill an accurate representation of goldfields life?

Your task is to analyse and corroborate Sovereign Hill and other sources to evaluate the outdoor museum's accuracy, usefulness and reliability.

Before you visit

Read through the sources in [Believe it or Not: Accounts of Goldfields Life](#). Look through the images in [Believe it or Not: Images of Goldfields Life](#). Some of these sources are primary while others are secondary sources. Work out which sources are most relevant and reliable in relation to the question. Three different approaches to analysing sources can be found at the [Hidden Histories: The Wadawurrung People Secondary teaching kit](#).

During your visit

Take photographs while on a visit Sovereign Hill to use with relevant sources to create a well-balanced argument on the question

After the visit

Use your photographs and the sources you have chosen to create an audio visual or written presentation arguing your point of view. A well-balanced argument should consider all sides. ([Teacher Notes](#) for *Discover It Yourself* programs at Sovereign Hill may provide a scaffolded framework for teachers.)