



The Fab Four Files

● What do I need to do?

John, Paul, George and Ringo are counting on you to investigate the stories behind The Beatles' tour in 1964 and its impact on Australian society, by analysing the objects, documents, photographs and oral histories featured in *The Beatles in Australia* exhibition.

Explore the eight sections of the exhibition to answer the questions below. You will find the primary sources for The Fab Four Files analysis activities throughout your adventure inside the exhibition.

● Section 1: Before The Beatles

What influenced the development of a new youth culture in the early 1960s?

What other British influences were apparent in Australia prior to The Beatles' tour?

After your visit: Back at school, search the Powerhouse Museum's online collection database for additional technological developments in the 1960s. What impact did this changing technology have on the daily lives and activities of Australians during the decade?

<http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database/>

● Section 2: Beatlemania

How did Australians gain access to news and stories about The Beatles and their music prior to the tour? Provide examples on display in this exhibition section.

Can you think of other ways that Australians gain access to popular culture today?

List examples of objects that demonstrate acceptance of The Beatles in Australia. Is there any evidence that some groups or individuals rejected the craze?

Analysing objects

Look through Judy Small's scrapbook available for viewing in this section.

List some examples of material Judy collected about The Beatles in her scrapbook and what this can tell us about how teenagers interacted with popular culture in the 1960s.

Why do you think the Powerhouse Museum has acquired personal scrapbooks into their collection?

● Section 3: B-Day

What was 'B-Day'?

List examples of source evidence from this section that show the overwhelming popularity of The Beatles when they arrived in Australia.

Analysing photographs

View the slideshow of images projected on the wall in the gallery space.

What can be revealed about Beatlemania from these photographic sources?

● Section 4: The Fans

Using the source evidence in this section, what do you think contributed to the explosion of Beatlemania in Australia?

Identify and describe three personal responses to Beatlemania on display in this section.

How might teenage pop culture fans interact differently today?

Analysing oral histories

Listen to interviews with fans:

Jennie Small

Keri Phillips

How was The Beatles' tour significant for these individuals?

Jennie: _____

Keri: _____

Why is the study of personal stories useful for historians?

What problems might there be with using this approach?

● **Section 5: Managing the Tour**

Analysing documents

Read through some of the pieces of correspondence on display in this section.

What does this documentary evidence tell us about 'doing business in 1964'?

● **Section 6: Twenty Shows in Four Cities**

Choose *one* concert and describe the extent of Beatlemania hysteria experienced in this city. Use source evidence from this section to support your answer.

Analysing oral histories

Watch *at least one* of the four Beatlemania archival videos (all approximately 2 mins in length):

- Beatlemania 1 — Screaming in Sydney
- Beatlemania 2 — Adoration in Adelaide
- Beatlemania 3 — Mayhem in Melbourne
- Beatlemania 4 — Bedlam in Brisbane

What does the archival footage reveal about Beatlemania in Australia?

● **Section 7: Merchandise**

Analysing objects

Look at the selection of Beatles merchandise.

What can these objects tell us about the consumers of Beatles paraphernalia? Who do you think is the major target audience(s)? Use source evidence from this section to support your answer.

If you were a teenage Beatles fan in the 1960s, what merchandise items would you have been tempted to buy?

● **Section 8: After the Tour**

Fill in the mind map with information about the impact of The Beatles' tour in Australia (eg consider Beatles fashions, the Australian beat boom, social change etc).

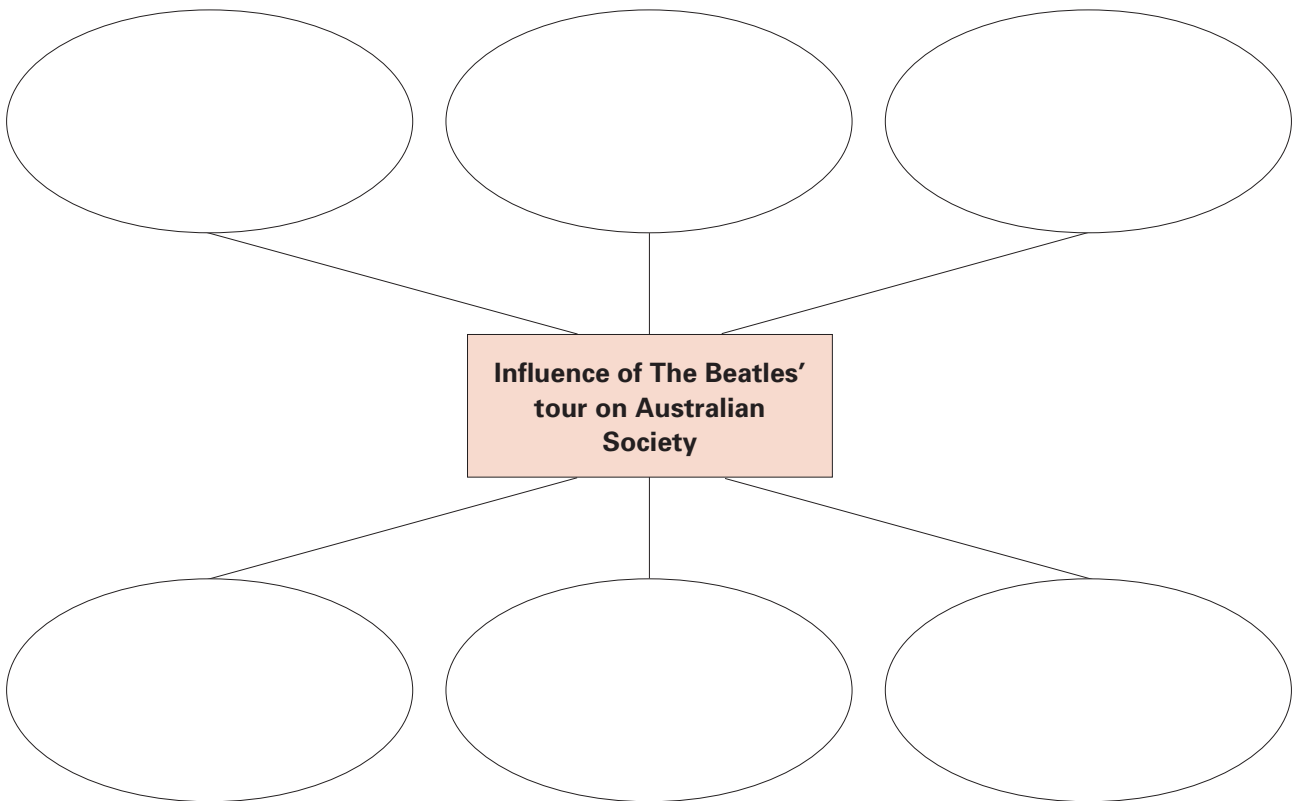




Photo by Trevor Dallen/Fairfax Syndication

The Beatles in Australia is presented by the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, and Arts Centre Melbourne.


**For more information on the exhibition
The Beatles in Australia,
visit the Powerhouse Museum's website
<http://www.thebeatlesinaustralia.com/>**

For more information about education support
or your booking, contact Bookings at the
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