# Dates That Made History – 1431: Fall of the Angkor Empire

**ABC ME screening details: Wednesday** 20 May, 2020 at 2:30pm

This episode can also be viewed on [ABC iView](https://iview.abc.net.au/show/dates-that-made-history) after the scheduled screening time.

**Key learning areas: HSIE, history**

**Level:** secondary

**About:** **This series tells world history through a few major dates. Driven by the delivery of historian Patrick Boucheron, history comes to life in an accessible and lively manner.** **We'd like to believe in the idea of a lost civilisation in the case of the Angkor Wat. Yet the magnificent ruins of these monumental temples show no sign of any brutal disappearance.**

## Before the episode

1. Consider the title of this series ‘Dates That Made History’. What do you think makes a specific date or event important and memorable in history? Why do you think we remember some dates and events more than others?

## During the episode

1. What is meant by ‘a multitude of histories’?
2. Sketch the layout of Angkor Wat and explain the historical significance of the design.
3. Explain what is meant by ‘the fall of Angkor is a story without images.’ Why is this period of time so difficult for historians to be sure about?
4. List the various theories mentioned about why the Angkor Empire fell. Which theory do you think is the most likely and why?

## After the episode

1. Why do you think the mystery of the Angkor ruins causes such difficulty for Western historians?
2. 1431 is the date given for the fall of Angkor. Explain why this date chosen and why it is problematic.

**Follow-up activity:** The ruins of Angkor are incredibly popular with tourists from all over the world. Explain why this site is so appealing to tourists from different countries and cultures. Make a list of the possible impacts of tourism on the historical site, both positive and negative.

# NSW teacher notes

This is an optional standalone resource that could supplement student learning. The activities align with syllabus outcomes in stage 4 mandatory history and stage 5 history elective and can be modified to meet the needs of your students. Students can complete the activities while learning at home and in the classroom. All activities can be completed without access to the internet or a device. Teachers could collect student work to offer feedback and as evidence of learning.

This resource is designed to support students in Stage 4 history studying depth study 5: the Asia-pacific world – Angkor/Khmer Empire.

## Learning intentions

* To understand and account for the different theories about the decline of Angkor
* To explain the significance of Angkor today

## NSW History K-10 Syllabus outcomes

* describes and explains the causes and effects of events and developments of past societies over time (HT4-4)
* uses evidence from sources to support historical narratives and explanations (HT4-6)

[NSW History K-10 Syllabus](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/k-10/learning-areas/hsie/history-k-10) © 2012 NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales. See the [NESA website](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/mini-footer/copyright) for additional copyright information.