

The Value of Broadcasts

It's really all about how much you make of them

It may not be a topic that thrills the staffrooms of the nation, but copyright licensing is the bedrock on which teachers build their resource banks, and create stimulating and innovative learning sessions.

Television and radio programmes provide educators with a rich and incredibly diverse source of material to support teaching and enhance learning. Some of the best of these programmes are available on free-to-air services in the UK. "We want to encourage teachers to make full use of the ERA licence and the fabulous resources it makes available," says Victoria Smith, ERA's Head of Licensing.

Schools are particularly good at using material in a cross-curricular way.

"Horrible Histories" (CBBC) sketches are a favourite with teachers who use them not only as a springboard for history teaching but to inspire children in performing arts, music and even maths and sciences.

There are some incredibly useful documentaries and drama adaptations, but sometimes a far less obvious source can provide a perfect clip. For instance, a science teacher might use a clip from The Big Bang Theory to illustrate a science lesson. This cult US comedy broadcast on Channel 4 is script-edited by David Saltzberg, a

Princeton Physics graduate who ensures that scientific references in the show are accurate. (The show is often credited with being behind a rise in the number of students opting to study Physics at A-Level)

A scene from a feature film could be used as a jumping off point for a literacy exercise in which students write their own screenplay or version of what might happen next.

• **If any readers use broadcast material in a creative and interesting way in their teaching and learning, ERA wants to hear from you and possibly share your case study on the resources section of the website.**

Histories that really aren't so horrible

Programme Case Study – Horrible Histories

Much loved by children and adults alike, this series has been used in so many imaginative ways by teachers, that there are too many examples to list.

The Boudicca Song

Used routinely by many teachers in delivering the primary history curriculum, pupils like nothing better than to perform their own versions and occasionally add extra verses – a boon for teachers of English, who can use the rap format to illustrate the basics of metre.

Along with other female Horrible Histories luminaries, Boudicca is a favourite role model used on International Women's Day – the story of a British woman who almost brought down the Roman Empire might date back nearly 2000 years but it still resonates with modern schoolgirls.

Other HH hits

This June sees the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, and this event is celebrated by a new Horrible Histories



song and special edition of the programme.

Historical consultant to the series, Greg Jenner, who describes himself as "Chief

Nerd" for the programme, has 20,000 Twitter followers and ensures that in the midst of the comedy there is a vein of historical accuracy.

