**Activity 4: The General Store**

**Collection Areas:** General Store, number 8 on the map.

**Curriculum links:**

* ***Social Sciences.***
* ***Technology:*** Technological Knowledge,Nature of Technology.

**Topics/Themes:** Social Sciences, comparing old and new, sustainability.

**Resources Pack:** Laminated copies of the modern food items, old store items and utensils for students to have a look at and play with, information about the General Store, Questions for Viewing, Guide for Teachers / Helpers

**Time estimation:** 15-20mins.

**Goals:**

Students will be able to:

* Develop an awareness of how supermarket products and packaging have evolved and changed over time.
* Develop awareness and understanding of how and why stores have changed over time.
* Discuss the evolution and impact of the small general store to the large supermarket corporation.

**Guide for teachers/helpers. What to do at this activity:**

1. Encourage students to have a good look around the room.
2. Read the information panel about the general store.
3. Hand out the ‘interesting items’ for students to touch, asking them what they think the item could be and might have been used for.
4. Hand out the activity sheet with the modern food items on. Students can work alone or in pairs to match the new items on the sheet with the old ones in the store, behind the glass.
5. Facilitate a group discussion using the ‘questions for viewing’.
6. Please ensure all items are returned into the resource box.

**Questions for viewing:**

* What differences do you notice between the old food items in the store and the new ones on your sheet?
* Find three things in the store you are unsure of what it is. Show your partner, can you work out what it is and may have been used for?
* What is something you are wondering as you look around?
* Take a look around the store, what differences can you identify between this general store and your local supermarket?
* There is a certain type of packaging missing from this general store… can you identify what this may be? (we want the students to realise there is no plastic packaging.)
* After reading/listening to the information panel, what might be some challenges people may have had in the olden days regarding their shopping?
* Is there anything you consider to be an ‘essential/necessary’ item at your house, that you cannot see here in this store?
* What do you think would have been the top 3 most essential items for shoppers in the 1800s?
* (If have been to the maritime activity, or heading there:) Think about how the food in the General Store was transported to NZ. (Getting students to make connections to the ships in the maritime building that would have transported the cargo here.)

**Post Visit Classroom Activity:**

**Curriculum links:**

* ***Social Sciences.***
* ***Technology:*** Technological Knowledge,Nature of Technology.

This visit to the general store can be a starting point for further discussion and inquiry into topics such as food packaging and waste, and comparisons between olden day times and current times. Discussions can be had regarding the pros and cons of the 1800s general store compared to our current modern-day supermarket. Students can be prompted to take note of these old practices and inquire into how we may be able to incorporate these when thinking about sustainable practices for our current world.