**Orcharding and Jam Making with Beci Orpin**

**Audio Transcript**

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My name's Beci Orpin and I'm a designer. I think my strongest skill has always been drawing. From a very early age, that's what I wanted to do with my life was to draw.

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My first inspiration was always children's books that I read growing up, so I guess that's where my first desire to draw came from. I would say my work is quite optimistic and has a lot of joy about it and I definitely like things that connect with a whole range of people, and I think joy and optimism does that in a really easy way.

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When people ask me where do you get your inspiration from? I say the number one thing is experiences. For example, we're doing a project based on fruit today. So coming to an orchard and actually seeing where the fruit grows, how it grows on the trees, what the colours are, what the forms are, is really important part of the process.

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The orchard we're visiting today is one of many in the Yarra Ranges area since the 1870s. Making jam and jam factories became a really important part of the history of the area and it played a huge part in the local economy,

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I guess because it was such an important part of the community. When the fruit was picked, there was often parties and festivals to celebrate the harvest.

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The Yarra Ranges Regional Museum have got some beautiful examples of 1930s and 1940s jam labels which highlights the importance of jam and fruit growing in the region. They even have one from Monbulk Jam Factory, which was the biggest manufacturer of jam in the area.

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Now we've talked about the history of the Yarra Ranges and the importance of fruit and jam making. I've designed an activity for you to do at home or in your classroom with your teacher which is using coloured paper to make some fruit.

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Like this.

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This one I have here is an apricot. It starts with a really simple shape, just one shape like that. But then the more that you cut out and the more that you stick together, the more it becomes a 3D form.

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Once you've got your finished fruit, if you have an empty jar, you can pop them into the jar and then you'll have your own paper fruit jam, just like the fruit that's grown in the arrow ranges.