

TEACHERS NOTES



Holidays



Souvenir tea set

This china tea-set is from the social history collection at Touchstones. It was purchased as a souvenir from the seaside resort of Blackpool, and features drawings of popular local landmarks. Souvenir is a French word meaning 'a remembrance or memory'. It refers to an object acquired for the memories it evokes.

Blackpool became a popular destination for holidaymakers during the 1840s, when it was connected by rail to industrialised towns in North West England. At this time, it was customary for cotton mills to close annually for repairs to machinery (with the closure of different premises staggered throughout the summer). As a result, entire workforces holidayed together in Blackpool during what became known as 'Wakes Week'.

Blackpool is the only town in the UK to have three piers. It also boasts the famous tower (built in 1894 and inspired by the Eiffel Tower), the Winter Gardens (built in 1878) and the annual illuminations (founded in 1879).



INTRODUCTION

Thank you for booking a 'Holidays' discovery box from Touchstones.

Think of this box as a mini museum. It contains groups of objects that together, support learning around a particular topic or idea. These notes contain additional web links and background information to help you run themed sessions using the contents.

Before you get started

Today most of us go on a holiday—to explore a new city, relax by the seaside or enjoy the great outdoors. Workers take paid leave to relax and unwind, though this wasn't always the case. In the past people enjoyed less free time and holidays were more expensive. To discover how things have changed visit: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/families/holidays-through-history/

Top tips for using the discovery box

- Use one group of objects at a time. The objects relate to each another and help re-enforce ideas.
- Look closely by using magnifying glasses. Take measurements or weigh objects. Complete a museum record card (template included), or write an exhibition label.
- Treat objects with respect. Encourage children to handle objects with care over a table and use the gloves supplied.
- Ask the children to act as curators (people who look after collections and organise displays.) Can they arrange objects in date order, by material or by function? Explain that museums arrange and display objects to help us understand the relationships between things and make sense of the world.

Find out more about holidaying through the ages

A brief history: www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Great-British-Seaside-Holiday/

Find out about seaside holidays across Britain here:

<https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/topics/key-stage-1-topics/we-are-britain/seasides/>

Posters from the Victoria and Albert Museum:

www.vam.ac.uk/articles/selling-the-seaside-british-holiday-posters



TOPIC ONE: BE PREPARED

Holidays require a lot of planning and preparation. Families have to decide where to go and how they will get there. In the 1950s and 60s, it was unusual for families to holiday abroad, as flying was very expensive. Many families would stay in the UK and travel by train. They had to make sure they packed everything they would need for the holiday. What do you need to bring on a holiday?

Contents:

- Suitcase
- Sailor costume
- Travel iron
- Touring maps
- Camera
- Roll of film
- Plastic shoes
- Swim cap
- Travel clock
- Sunglasses
- 1970s sunglasses
- Parasol

Points to consider:

- Can you identify these objects?
- Are they new or old?
- Who might have used them? (Parents, grandparents or someone older?)
- What do we pack to go on holidays today?
- Have holiday destinations changed?

Activities:

Pack the discovery box items into the suitcase provided and reveal them one by one to the class. Discuss the age and use of each object. Sort items into a timeline from oldest to newest.

Create weather or location symbols (sun, snow, rain, mountain, jungle) and hand them out to children. Where are they going on holiday? What activities will they enjoy? What do they need to pack? Draw and label suitcases containing relevant contents.

Create an imaginary passport: www.activityvillage.co.uk/passport-for-kids

Useful resources:

Watch a short film about a child's first holiday: www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/my-first-holiday

Learn about Thomas Cook and early package holidays: www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Thomas-Cook/

Watch footage of a 1950s coach holiday: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VlrR_syreA



TOPIC TWO: OH I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE!

People began to take seaside holidays in Britain during the 1700s. At first, holidays were only available to the very rich. Slowly, they became more affordable, as the expansion of the railways reduced the ease and cost of travel. Now, many families head to the seaside each year. Popular destinations in the UK include Blackpool, Scarborough and Morecombe. Have you been to any of these places?

Contents:

- Punch & Judy puppets
- Shells
- Bathing costume pattern
- Postcards
- Brochure
- Penny lick
- Union Jack flag
- Wooden spade
- Tin bucket

Points to consider:

- Can you identify these objects?
- Which objects are different from or the same as today?
- What does the word 'souvenir' mean? Do you have souvenirs from a holiday?
- Mr Punch dates back 350 years. Can you think of other holiday traditions?

Activities:

Find out about seaside holidays in the past: www.historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education/teaching-activities/what-did-people-do-at-the-seaside-in-the-past

Imagine you have travelled back in time. Send a postcard home, describing the weather, accommodation and activities you enjoyed: <https://learn.folkestonemuseum.co.uk/questions/seaside-holidays-activity-12-design-a-comic-seaside-postcard/>

Make a Punch or Judy puppet: www.rmg.co.uk/stories/how-make-seaside-inspired-puppets

Useful resources:

Watch this video about Victorian bathing: www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnOf0nGYnzc

Explore seaside sounds here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p02y4781>

Sing some sea shanties: www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/music-ks1-sun-sea-song-index/zr4x2sq

Read more about Punch: www.vam.ac.uk/articles/thats-the-way-to-do-it-a-history-of-punch-and-judy



ADDITIONAL BOX CONTENTS

- Blank museum-object cards (digital copy sent to staff member who booked box)
- Gloves for object-handling
- Magnifying glasses

Further resources:

Discover 'Wakes Week', when workers holidayed together:

www.lep.co.uk/news/when-everyone-town-had-seaside-holiday-together-1093898

Watch footage of Blackpool during Wakes Week, 1927:

www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk/viewVideo.php?token=2352agw56q2d2604nxZYm7125b49Hq

Make a seascape with clay: www.happyfamilyart.com/art-lessons/mixed-media-art-lessons/air-dry-clay-art-projects-or-adventures-with-clay

Experience interactive adventures with Magic Grandad:

www.linghams.co.uk/product/magic-grandad-seaside-holidays/

Create coloured sand and a seascape in a jar:

www.mothernatured.com/nature-crafts/diy-coloured-sand-in-a-bottle/

Lesson plans and resources to download:

www.planbee.com/products/seaside-holidays-in-the-past-ks1

www.keystagehistory.co.uk/keystage-1/outstanding-lessons/seaside-past-beyond-living-memory/

Recommended reading:

At the Beach, by Roland Harvey, a book of fictional, illustrated postcards

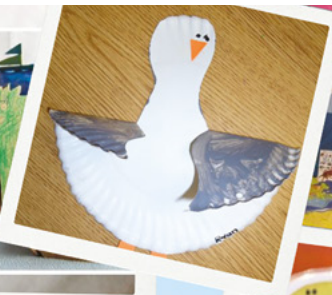
ISBN: 978-1741147049, published by Allen & Unwin

Lucy and Tom at the Seaside, a picture book

ISBN: 978-1782955160, published by Red Fox

Storm Whale, by Benji Davies Published by Simon & Schuster Children's UK

ISBN-10 : 9781471115684



SEASIDE

Inspiration Board

