

TEACHER RESOURCE

LIFE ART MIND



Social Sciences

Technology

LIVING THE PAST 1950s

Permanent Programme

NE - Year 4

Students will gain hands-on experience of everyday activities associated with living in New Zealand in the 1950s.

Supported by the Ministry of Education

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Te Manawa
MUSEUM GALLERY SCIENCE CENTRE
LIFE ART MIND

INTRODUCTION

This hands-on programme is designed to give students an experience of life in the 1950s. Topics covered include clothing, food, toys, shopping, technology and schooling.

Students work in groups using objects from the 1950s. In a five way rotation they will experience: breakfast with table laying and using a flip sided toaster, shopping where sixpence will buy a student something from the shop that is then wrapped in brown paper, school, games, and various technologies from this era including a record player and a wringer washing machine. Clothing, packaging and advertisements provide extra information and contribute to the overall experience.

ABOUT THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

This programme is suitable for New Entrant - Year 4 students, and runs for 2 hours. The programme involves a whole group introduction followed by five rotational activities. For this students need to be in five pre-arranged groups of 6 or less. Each group **must** be accompanied by an adult.

A Typical Programme

Introduction

Using objects from the museum collection of Te Manawa the students will be able to begin making comparisons between their lives and life in the 1950s. They will see items of children's and adult's clothing, some of which they will be able to try on.

Breakfast

The students are taught how to lay a 1950s breakfast table using a table cloth, butter dishes, butter knives, jam spoons, jam in jam dishes, teapot, milk jug, sugar bowl, knives etc. The students then use a bread knife to cut a slice of bread from an uncut loaf. This is then toasted in a side-opening toaster. Once cooked the students are shown how to put butter and jam on the sides of their plates, before spreading and eating the toast.

Shopping

A small 1950s corner shop is set up with appropriate goods from the era. The students will:

- View advertisements
- Discover how packaging has changed
- Weigh products using non-metric scales
- Compare products from the 1950s with those available today
- Examine and use coins from the era

Finally, with one of the students acting as shopkeeper, the others will use sixpence to make a purchase. They can choose between lollies, broken biscuits or sultanas and their purchase will then be wrapped in brown paper.

School

In this area the students:

- Read from 'Janet and John' books
- View other text books and story books from the era
- Compare School Journals from the 1950s with those of today
- Write on slates and blackboards
- Use fountain pens

Technology

This area consists of a large range of objects used in the 1950s including a valve radio, electric heater, eye glasses, slides and a magnifier. Students will be able to handle these objects and compare them with their modern day equivalents. Students will also be shown how to use a wringer washing machine.

Games, Toys and Clothing

In this area students will have the opportunity to play with games and toys from the era. They will also be able to examine clothing through magazines and dress ups.

Special Requirements:

- Students need to be in five pre-arranged groups of 6 or less, with an accompanying adult. Adults need to assist with or oversee all activities.

Some prior knowledge of students' level of understanding within this subject area would be appreciated, and can be provided by filling out our pre-visit questionnaire or contacting mary.sheridan@temanawa.co.nz This will mean that your students' specific learning needs will be better catered for.

CURRICULUM LINKS

Social Sciences

Students will understand:

How the past is important to people (Level 1).

How time and change affect people's lives (Level 2).

How people remember and record the past in different ways (Level 3).

Technology

Nature of Technology

Characteristics of technology (Level 1-2)

Technological Knowledge

Technological Products (Level 1-3)

Key Competencies

Thinking

Students will use creative, critical, metacognitive, and reflective processes to make sense of and question information, experiences and ideas in regards to technology and lifestyle of the 1950s.

Using language, symbols and texts

Students will learn and become familiar with the specialist language (including symbols and text) associated with the 1950s era.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

We are learning to:

- Compare and contrast life in the 1950s with life today.
- Use technologies and equipment that are new to us.
- Be aware of how new technologies can help us.

We will know we have achieved this when:

- We can describe the differences we see between the clothing, technology, games and meal time of then and now.
- We can operate or describe the operation of certain technologies used during the programme such as the washing machine and toaster.
- We can state how and why today's technologies are more helpful than some from the 1950s.

PRE AND POST VISIT ACTIVITIES

- Invite someone who grew up in the 1950s to visit your classroom and talk to the students.
- Collect some photographs taken of your town in the 1950s and compare them with the area today. This could be sections of town or specific buildings.
- Investigate the job and recreational opportunities available in your town in the 50s and compare them with those available today.
- Examine the packaging of products in your local supermarket and compare them with packaging of the 1950s.
- Discover the forms of transport used in the 1950s. Compare buses and cars from that era with those of today.
- Post World War 2 rationing was still in place in the early 1950s. Discuss the concept of rationing and how the students would feel if certain foods were rationed today.
- Listen to and learn some popular songs from the 1950s.
- This is the era of Rock n Roll. Teach your students this dance form.
- Research the lives of some famous New Zealanders from this era. (Sir Edmund Hillary, Bob Scott, Yvette Williams, Lord Freyberg, Princess Te Puea, Bob Charles, Dame Hilda Ross).
- Read stories popular in the 1950s such as 'Peter Pan' and 'The Wind in the Willows'.
- Watch a film from that era such as 'South Pacific', 'Lady and the Tramp', 'Oklahoma' and 'Alice in Wonderland'.

RESOURCES

BOOKS:

Available from Palmerston North City Library:

Good Morning New Zealand. News stories of the day from the 1950s

Edited by Gil Dymock

Auckland: Moa Publications, 1990.

Available from The National Library:

Having Fun (50 Years ago)

Karen Bryant-Mole

Wayland, 1998.

Check out the Palmerston North City Library catalogue online at

www.citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz

WEBSITES:

<http://www.andmas.co.uk/index.html>

This is a British site but has sections that cover areas that relate to 1950s trends throughout the world.

Within these sections there are also many appropriate 'advertising' pictures that could be used in class.

<http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/English/Collections/OnlineResources/X20L/Games/alldressedup.htm>

An interactive site.

Choose the correct music from the 1950s and dress a man or woman in the appropriate clothes for the decade in question.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/walk/games_index.shtml

An interactive site.

Choose items from a 1950's home that do not belong and send them down the 'time tunnel'.

NATIONAL LIBRARY SCHOOLS' SERVICE

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<http://www.natlib.govt.nz/>

0800 171717 or fax 0800 907000

Palmerston North

Monday - Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Thursday 8.30am - 6.00pm (during term time)

Online request form: <http://www.natlib.govt.nz/cis-online-request>