

Summer Term 2 Year 1 History Overview

Key facts

The 1871 Bank Holidays Act declared that certain days throughout the year were official holidays (when banks and offices closed for 4 days a year in total). The speed of railway transport meant that people could quickly travel to the seaside. Coastal towns like: Blackpool, Scarborough, Llandudno and Brighton quickly grew into popular holiday resorts.

The working classes went there on day trips on a charabanc (coach) from the factory towns.

Wealthier people went for a week in the summer, staying in hotels or guest houses.

To attract visitors, lots of seaside towns built piers out into the sea. People enjoyed strolling along them to breathe in the fresh, healthy sea air.

Other popular forms of entertainment included: watching Punch and Judy puppet shows, eating ice cream (sometimes called a hokey pokey), riding on donkeys, building sandcastles on the beach with a bucket and spade, eating fish and chips and watching variety acts at music halls and theatres often on the pier.

Seaside Holidays

Brief summary/ overview

From sandcastles to fish and chips, promenades to pleasure piers, many of the things best associated with a trip to the British seaside have their roots in the Victorian summer holiday.

To be by the seaside was seen to be therapeutic especially bathing in the sea. Not many people could swim in the Victorian period – they could only paddle. Rich people, particularly the ladies, paid to get changed in wooden huts called bathing machines which were then taken into the sea by a horse. A lot of people didn't own their own costumes and had to hire them. As the costumes were made from wool they would become very heavy as they absorbed sea water. Few people enjoyed summer holidays in the past. The very wealthy could afford a week away and factory workers an annual day trip.

Prior Knowledge

Children have a sound understanding of the passage of time and the impact the past has on the present through topics studied throughout the year. They are able to use appropriate historical vocabulary and understand chronology being able to sequence events.

Key Vocabulary

Seaside, beach, sandcastle, holiday, sun, donkey, ice-cream, candy floss, hotel, day trip, promenade, quay, pier, fun-fair, beach hut, charabanc, carriage, retreat.

Resources

On line clips and footage
Photographs
Non-fiction texts
Newspaper reports/articles
Postcards

Cross curricular links/visits

Geography – human and physical features. Make a comparison between a seaside location and Bromsgrove.