

Leisure: Activity 5 - Popular Entertainment **TEACHERS' NOTES**

Learning Objectives

- Understand what Victorian entertainment consisted of and how it was different from modern entertainment
- Be able to name various types of Victorian entertainment
- Develop children's research skills in using historical sources, in particular photographs, newspaper articles and ephemera

Cross-curricular Links

- Art
- ICT
- Literacy

Sources



Source 1. Circus parade at Southgate, Chichester, 1895



Source 2. Pamphlet advertising 'Harry Poole's Myriorama' at the Theatre Royal, Worthing, 1897



Source 3a. Newspaper advertisement for 'Poole's Greatest Myriorama', Worthing Gazette, 10 March 1897



Source 3b. Audio version of Source 3a



Source 4a. Review on 'Poole's Myriorama', Worthing Gazette, 17 March 1897



Source 4b. Audio version of Source 4a



Source 4c. Retyped copy of Source 4a

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Source 1

A man leads a camel at the head of a circus parade in Southgate, Chichester, followed by an elephant and a horse-drawn carriage. Children in foreground, girls wearing pinafores and boys with caps. The parade marked the arrival of Alexandra, Anderton and Haslam's circus and menagerie in May 1895.

Sources 2 and 3

A pamphlet and a newspaper advertisement for Harry Poole's Myriorama picture show at the Theatre Royal, Worthing. The Myriorama was a pre-cinema entertainment popular throughout Britain. Images, mostly accompanied by music, were made up of several smaller pictures, producing a great variety of scenes or landscapes. The shows often recorded events in a similar way to the later cinema newsreels, though not as current. There were also acts such as performing dogs, jugglers, dancers, comedy acts, all accompanied by an orchestra, and they were particularly enjoyed by children.

Source 4

The newspaper report on the Myriorama indicates that the show was very popular and a great success, using phrases such as: 'unique and popular form of entertainment', 'large audiences', 'people do not lose their love for pictures as they grow older', 'really first-class variety entertainment', and 'watched with the greatest enthusiasm by the audience'.