

Trade and Industry: Activity 2 - Fishing **TEACHERS' NOTES**

Learning Objectives

- Understand that at the beginning of the Victorian period, fishing was an important industry in Worthing and other West Sussex seaside towns, but that by the late 1850s it was already in decline.

Sources



Source 1. Engraving of fishermen and holidaymakers on the beach, Worthing, 1849



Source 2. Engraving of the Steyne Hotel and the beach with fishermen and holidaymakers, Worthing, 1849



Source 3. Photograph of fishermen selling their catch on the beach, Worthing c1900



Source 4. Photograph of a painting of lobster fishermen off Shoreham, c1860



Source 5a. Extracts from guide books of 1839, 1850 and 1857.



Source 5b. Audio version of 5a



Source 6a. Extract from a newspaper article about fishing in 1897



Source 6b. Graph using figures from the newspaper article.



Source 6c. Audio version of 6a

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Sources 1 and 2

Both engravings are from 1849.

The three men in the foreground of picture 1 are fishermen. One is holding oars, one holds a net; there is an anchor on the beach. They are wearing working clothes and one man is wearing knee-high boots.

In picture 2, the men with the boat are also fishermen and are bringing their boat onto the beach.

In both pictures, other people are walking on the beach, mostly family groups including women and children. They are wearing "town" clothes and are walking and talking, the children are playing.

The fishermen probably live in Worthing, quite close to the beach. The other people could be visiting Worthing on holiday and staying in the hotels seen in the background.

Source 3

In the photograph from c1900, these fishermen have brought the fish they have caught onto the beach near the pier to sell them.

Source 4

In this painting from c1860 the men in the boat are collecting lobsters from a lobster pot near Shoreham.

Source 5

In the 1850s, herring and mackerel were caught in Worthing. Mackerel was sent to London after being caught in the spring. "Smacks" is the name of the type of boat used for fishing. Fewer fish were caught in 1857 than before ("diminished quantity of fish taken") because of changes in the climate ("altered character of the seasons").

Sources 6a and 6b

The article and graph show that the amount of fish caught in Worthing and West Sussex generally was much lower than in other ports in East Sussex.