

Seaside 1 - Getting there

TEACHERS' NOTES

Learning Objectives

- Discover the kinds of transport used in the past to get to the seaside
- Develop children's research skills in interpreting historical images, in particular with a view to recognising which are older and which are more recent

Sources



Source 1. Steam locomotive of the London Brighton and South Coast Railway, c1906



Source 2. Steam locomotive and passenger train at Barnham Junction, 1864



Source 3. Cars parked at Selsey beach, c1928



Source 4. Cars at West Parade, Bognor Regis, c1935



Source 5. Bicycles on the seafront, Worthing, c1900



Source 6. Advertisement for Southern electric trains in the Littlehampton guide-book, 1974



Source 7. Worthing-to-London stagecoach, c1840

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Source 8. Horse-drawn brake, Worthing, c1890



Source 9. Outing from Steyning to Bognor Regis, 1930



Source 10. Advertisement for Southdown coaches in Bognor Regis guide book, 1961



Source 11. Motorbike with sidecar, Findon, c1920



Source 12. Charabanc on Worthing seafront, c1929



Source 13. Description of a family's train journey to Worthing for their seaside holiday in 1911.

[To find additional material related to this topic, go to the Source Gallery and search by keyword, e.g. transport, motor, trains, or click on 'Extra material' in the topic list.]

Source 1

This postcard shows the front and side of Atlantic-type locomotive No 37, with coal tender and carriages behind. Atlantic-type locomotives were introduced on the London Brighton & South Coast Railway c1906.

Source 2

This early steam locomotive with guard's van and three passenger carriages is seen at Barnham Junction station on the opening of the Bognor branch line of the London Brighton and South Coast Railway in June 1864. Note the observation window above the roof of the guards van. The three carriages left-to-right first, second and third class have different windows indicating the different widths of each compartment.

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Sources 3, 4 and 11

Motor cars became accessible to a wider public in the inter-war period and were a popular means of transport for day trips or weekend outings to the seaside and other destinations. Motor-cycles with sidecars were also popular.

Source 5

These men are riding their bicycles along Worthing seafront. After the introduction of the pedal bicycle with chain in the mid 1880s, cycling became a popular leisure activity. Cycling clubs were formed which organised outings, often to the seaside.

Source 6

Electric trains, like steam trains before them, relied heavily for their income on excursions, and train companies advertised their seaside services in guide-books for the different resorts.

Source 7

In the summer season in the 1840s, there were four return coach trips a day between London and Worthing, with a journey time of around eight hours each way. The last regular coach on this route ran in 1845, shortly before the opening of Worthing railway station in November that year.

Source 8

Horse-drawn brakes such as this could be hired for outings in the countryside and to the sea.

Sources 9 and 12

Open-topped buses, also known as charabancs, were a popular means of transport to get to the seaside. They could be hired for private outings such as the Oddfellows' (a friendly society and social club) excursion from Steyning, or could be used on scheduled services, especially in the summer season.

Source 10

The post-World War Two years saw an expansion of motor coach services to the coast, which again would be advertised in resorts' guide books.

Source 13

Source 13 is a description of a young girl and her family setting off by train for their seaside holiday in Worthing in 1911. This was written in 1979-80 by Florence Alice Holloway (1901-1994).

Other extracts from Florence's memoirs can be found in "On the beach", "In the water", and "Piers". The complete text of her description of the family's holidays in Worthing can be found in the Source Gallery (search by keyword "seaside" and select document titled "Florence Holloway's holiday - at the seaside").

