

Leisure: Activity 2 - Holidays, Travel and Seaside

TEACHERS' NOTES

Learning Objectives

- Learn about the different means of transport used by people for leisure travel in Victorian times
- Understand that the growth of the railway made it easier and cheaper for people to travel and take holidays at the seaside or in other places away from their home town
- Compare holidays then and now
- Develop children's research skills in using historical sources, in particular photographs, paintings, prints and maps, to learn about Victorian holidays

Cross-curricular Links

- Art
- ICT
- Literacy

Sources



Source 1. Alfred Pain and his sisters, Arundel, c1900



Source 2. Annual nurserymen's outing, Worthing, c1892



Source 3. Early motor car, Worthing, c1890



Source 4. Swiss Gardens, Shoreham-by-Sea, c1840



Source 5. Worthing Beach, watercolour painting, c1860



Source 6. View of Arundel, oil painting on wood by F. Wilson, 1877



Source 7. Map of Sussex, Printed by William Collins Sons & Co, 1877



Source 8. Gray's Beach, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, 1895



Source 9. Paddling in Worthing, 1900



Source 10. Bognor Pier, 1850



Source 11. Esplanade and Pier, Worthing, 1866



Source 12. Bognor Beach, 1898



Source 13. Punch and Judy Show, Worthing Beach, 1870



Source 14. Cinderella Goat Cart, Worthing Promenade, c1890



Source 15. Donkeys at Marine Parade, Worthing, 1895



Source 16a. Extract from *Guide to Worthing* by M. A. Lower, 1880



Source 16b. Audio version of Source 16a.



Source 17. Advertisements in the *Worthing Season Guide to Attractions*, 1896

Leisure: Activity 2 -Holidays, Travel and the Seaside **TEACHERS' NOTES****Source 1**

Alfred Pain, owner of an ironmongers/hardware store in Arundel, poses with his sisters in a horse-drawn gig or chaise - a light two-wheeled horse-drawn carriage used for relatively local travel and outings, to visit relatives, etc.

Source 2

Nurserymen (market gardeners) pose for a photograph as they prepare to go on their annual outing by horse-drawn charabanc. For many of them, this outing would be their only holiday.

Source 3

A group of well-dressed, well-off men pose in an early motorcar.

Source 4

This engraving shows the Swiss Gardens in Shoreham, a 'pleasure garden' with attractions such as a boating lake, observation tower (centre left with flag), Cosmorama (see doorway centre right below tree branches), theatre, ballroom and glasshouse. Such pleasure gardens were popular destinations from the mid-19th to early 20th century.

Source 5

Water-colour showing the beach with bathing-machines, a sailing boat, rowing boats, and horse-drawn carriage.

Source 6

Arundel Station with a steam train seen in the right foreground of this painting. The castle is surrounded by trees on the right, the cathedral on the skyline at left. People would use the train to go on holiday or on day trips to the seaside, to visit relatives, to go to towns like Arundel and cities like London (see Leisure Activity 8 on the 1851 Great Exhibition).

Source 7

The 1877 map shows seaside resorts in Sussex that could be reached by train from Worthing Station: Bognor, Littlehampton, and Brighton. Note also that inland towns such as Chichester, Arundel, and Horsham were accessible by train, as was London. Dates when some train stations opened (see Victorian Timeline):

London Bridge Station opened in 1836

Brighton Station opened in 1841

Worthing Station opened in 1845

Chichester Station opened in 1846

Victoria Station opened in 1860

Bognor Station opened in 1864

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These photographs show children paddling and enjoying the sun - though not sunbathing. The children, as well as the adults in source 8, are wearing their normal day-clothes and hats. Note the beach tents or huts, prams, and the pier. It was considered healthy to go the seaside for the clean air, to relax and rest, to paddle and play on the beach, go swimming, etc.

Sources 10 and 11

People would go on the pier to take in sea air, and go for walks for exercise. Early piers were a simple wooden platform; later piers had amusement stalls, souvenir kiosks, and a theatre to attract the public. Piers were made of wooden flooring supported by iron pillars. Iron was used a lot in Victorian times to support light structures, such as seaside piers and the famous '1851 Crystal Palace' in London.

Source 12

In the foreground we can see bathing machines - wooden huts on wheels that were rolled into the sea. Once out in the water, the person inside could change into their bathing clothes without been seen by others and go swimming. Women especially were required to be 'proper' and not be seen by men in their swimming clothing. Horses were used to pull the bathing machines up and down the beach.

Source 13

Crowd watching a 'Punch and Judy' puppet show near Worthing Pier. Punch and Judy are traditional British glove puppets operated by one puppeteer. The characters perform short scenes entertaining children at the seaside.

Source 14

Cinderella Goat Cart - the children dress up in fancy clothing as part of the goat ride experience popular at Worthing beach. This cart, the 'Cinderella Coach', allowed a girl to dress up as the princess and be accompanied by three child 'footmen' in fancy dress.

Source 15

Donkeys for hire as rides along the promenade. The women are organising the rides and collecting the money paid.

Source 16

This passage from the 1880 *Guide to Worthing* comes from a newspaper article in the 1873 Daily Telegraph. It describes children digging in the sand, building sandcastles, paddling in rock pools, fishing off the pier, playing games like cricket, going for rides in pony carriages and goat chaises, flying kites, etc.

Leisure: Activity 2 -Holidays, Travel and the Seaside **TEACHERS' NOTES****ADDITIONAL NOTES**

Differences/similarities between the Victorian seaside experience to today:

- More noisy attractions at seaside today than in the Victorian period.
- More technologically advanced rides are available today.
- Food available at the seaside like fish and chips is still popular today as it was in the past. Today there is a greater variety of food from around the world.

Note that:

- The growth of the railways allowed more people to visit the seaside, and this had a great affect on leisure time. Shorter journey times resulted in day trippers.
- Different activities were enjoyed by rich and poor children. Rich families in Victorian times could afford to stay in hotels and allow their children to go on rides. The rich had the time and money to travel frequently. Poorer children would not be able to afford a holiday until later in the 19th century when they may have been able to take advantage of the cheap day ticket on trains to the seaside - especially after the Bank Holiday act of 1871 formalised a set number of Bank Holidays each year. The poor did not have as many opportunities to travel, especially in trains or cars.
- Today, people generally have more holiday time than in the 19th century. With the development of faster and cheaper means of travel such as planes, and modern trains and cars, many people are able to travel to other countries on holiday.