

Seaside 3 - On the beach

Learning Objectives

- Investigate the different beach activities people enjoyed in the past
- 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. Boy sits in a goat-cart on the beach, Worthing, c1910



Source 2. Donkey ride on the beach, Littlehampton, c1912



Source 3. Crowded beach, Bognor Regis, c1925



Source 4. Water chute at Littlehampton beach, c1925



Source 5. Princess Elizabeth builds a sandcastle, Bognor Regis, 1929



Source 6. Boys building a sandcastle on the beach, Worthing, c1930



Source 7. Playing cricket on the beach, Worthing, c1947

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TEACHERS' NOTES



Source 8. Children with pedal racing cars on the beach, Bognor Regis, c1950



Source 9. Children make sandcastles on Worthing beach c1951



Source 10. Children watch a Punch and Judy show, Worthing, c1957



Source 11. Children bounce on trampolines, Littlehampton, c1974



Source 12. Girls make sandcastles on the beach, Worthing, c1971



Source 13. Children playing on Worthing beach, c1925



Source 14. Description of a young girl and her brother and sister on the beach during their seaside holiday in Worthing in 1911

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

Source 1

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, children enjoyed rides in carts pulled by goats on the promenade at Worthing.

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Source 2

From the early 19th century until well into the 1960s and 1970s, children could take donkey rides on the beach in most seaside resorts.

Source 3

As well as donkey rides, this postcard features some of the timeless beach activities: making sandcastles with flags, sitting in deck-chairs or on the sand, strolling on the beach or on the prom.....

Clothes worn on the beach in the 1920s tended to be more formal than today - note the boy's jacket, shoes and socks, and the hats and shoes being worn by the women.

Sources 4 and 11

Sports equipment such as water chutes and trampolines was often provided as an added attraction in seaside resorts.

Sources 5, 6, 9, 12 and 13

Building sandcastles has been a favourite seaside pastime for children through the ages.

5: In 1929, the two-year-old Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) was visiting her grandfather King George V who was recuperating from a serious illness in Bognor. Here she is making sandcastles near Craigwell House, where the King was staying.

6, 9, 12: These photographs show children making sandcastles in the 1920s, 1930s, 1950s and 1970s.

Source 7

Playing cricket and other sports was a popular beach activity in 1947 as it is today.

Source 8

This photograph of children enjoying "motor racing" on the beach appeared in the 1950 Bognor Regis guide-book.

Source 10

Punch and Judy shows were a regular feature of most seaside resorts into the 1960s, but are less common now.

Source 14

Source 14 is a description of a young girl and her brother and sister on the beach during 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 "Getting there", "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").