

Photo Timeline

Class: Primary 4-5

Subject: History

Duration: 20-30mins

Lesson Focus and Goals:

- Allow the children to think about how places change over time
- Allow the children to think about how society has changed over time

Materials Needed:

- Printed photos from your local area (Colour A3) – If you are in or around St Andrews you can see the 6 photos of market street in our downloadable resource package for this activity. If you are not around St Andrews you can use the national archive collection or St Andrews archive collection to search for appropriate photos of your local area
- PowerPoint slides - which can be found in the resource package for this activity.

CfE Learning Points:

- When I engage with others, I know when and how to listen, when to talk, how much to say, when to ask questions and how to respond with respect. LIT 1-02a
- I can compare aspects of people's daily lives in the past with my own by using historical evidence or the experience of recreating an historical setting. SOC 1-04a

Teacher Notes:

This activity will strengthen the children's ability to place events in time like the invention and use of bicycles, cars, electricity and photography. This task will also get the children thinking about how peoples lives were different in the past.

The task will be carried out after an introductory PowerPoint and will conclude with a class discussion.

Background Information:

- Early photography was pioneered in St Andrews. This was mostly down to the contributions of three men: Thomas Rodger, John Adamson, and David Brewster.
- Thomas Rodger was a student at Madras College in St Andrews and later, St Andrews University. He was mentored by John Adamson and was one of the world's first portrait photographers, opening his own studio at 16. John Adamson was a doctor, photographer and physicist who lectured at the University of St Andrews. He knew how to develop photos (which took a large understanding of chemistry and physics) and taught Thomas Rodger. David Brewster was the Principal at the University of St Andrews. One of the reasons that photography was taken up in St Andrews so early was because of Brewsters presence in the area.
- The bicycle only became popular in the 1860s-1880s (even though the first one was made in 1817 without pedals in Germany), mains electricity was available in the UK from 1883 (when Londons first power station was built), and cars were invented in 1885 . Photography predates the popularity of all of these useful inventions. It was invented in 1839, allowing us to see how life changed with each of these monumental inventions of the industrial revolution.

Discussion Questions for Introductory Presentation:

- Do you think the lamps in the picture are electric street lamps?
- Why do you think horses were important in the Victorian era?
- When do you think this photo was taken?
- What are the people in these photos wearing? Is this different to what you wear when you are not at school?

Activity Instructions:

- Once the class discussion has finished split the class into groups of two or three.
- Assign each group a photo and ask them to talk to each other and answer the following:
 - When was each photo taken (year)
 - What they think the defining features of the picture are
 - If there are any people or animals in the photo, what they think they are doing in the picture and why.
- Give them 3-5 minutes for this discussion
- Once finished, bring the smaller groups into larger groups and ask them to order their pictures in chronological order. Ask them to prepare reasons for why they have placed the pictures in this order.
- Give them 5 minutes to do this and once finished, ask each group why they decided on the order they did.
- Once this discussion has come to a natural end show the children the answers. If any group got it wrong, ask one of the groups that got it correct to reiterate their reasoning for putting the photos in the correct order.

