Seaside Past and Present
Education and Learning Pack
Key Terms

- Seaside
- Past
- Present
- Steam Train
- Holidays
- Littlehampton
- ‘Progress’
- Hotels
- Punch & Judy
- Donkey Rides
- Sandcastles

Learning Objectives

- To compare the differences of Littlehampton in the past and Littlehampton in the present
- To make a timeline of Littlehampton
- To understand why people came to Littlehampton on holiday
- To understand why people stopped coming to Littlehampton for holidays
- To understand what you should, and what you should not find at the seaside.
Littlehampton was originally a fishing village that was then developed into a seaport. In 1735 a new channel for the River Arun was made and two piers were built. A wooden harbour was then built. This helped to create the beaches and harbour that you can see today! The town continued to grow, with lots of visitors coming for holidays or day-visits. This especially happened after the railway station was built in 1863.

Coming to Littlehampton was popular during the Victorian period as bathing in the sea became more popular, and it was also supposed to be good for you.

Even with two world wars, Littlehampton was still a popular holiday place. After the car started becoming more popular and cheaper, lots of tourists continued to come back. However, now that it is easier to go on holiday abroad it has meant that there are not as many visitors that stay. But, when it is nice and sunny and warm, Littlehampton is still a popular place for visitors on day trips.
Key Stage One

1850-1900: The Steam Train Arrives in Town!

- Littlehampton officially became a town in 1853.
- It’s motto was ‘progress’ and still is today!
- By now, coming to the seaside was popular. Lots of people came to do fun things such as donkey rides, building sandcastles and paddling in the sea.
- However, only rich people could afford it to begin with. (examples of prices)
- So in 1863, the train station was built. This meant that more people could come to Littlehampton. Over two thousand people visited a day in the summer!
- Horses and Carriages would meet the steam train at the station and take people down to the boarding houses at South Terrace.

1900-1920: Holidays for All!

- With the railway built, everybody could come on holiday!
- Lots of people came to Littlehampton on trips organised by holiday companies.
- On holiday, people went on donkey rides, built sandcastles, sat in deckchairs, swam in the sea, looked at rock pools and walked on the beach.
- There were lots of hotels for the people on holiday to stop in. Some were called The Dolphin or The Beach.
- These hotels also used to put on concerts, shows and big meals.
1920-1950: The British Go on Holiday Again

- After the First World War, the people of Britain wanted to relax. So they came to the seaside again.
- The car became a popular way to get to the beach, but people still used the train and coaches.
- The Butlin’s Fun Fair opened in 1932. This meant that more families visited Littlehampton to play on the rides at the fun fair.
- Punch & Judy shows were popular. Lots of other musical acts also performed along the seafront and in the bandstand.
- During the Second World War, people were not allowed to use the beach. This was because the beach had barbed wire and concrete blocks to stop enemy armies coming into Littlehampton.

1950’s and 60’s: A British or a Foreign Holiday?

- The 1950’s and 60’s was very busy with day visitors to Littlehampton.
- Littlehampton still had lots of traditional activities to choose from. Punch & Judy was also still popular.
- But, it started to become popular for people to go on holiday abroad instead of coming to the British seaside.
- But, on a warm and sunny day, Littlehampton was still busy.
Littlehampton: The Seaside Today

- With new airplanes and hotels being built, lots of people chose to go on holiday abroad instead of going to the British seaside.
- This was because of cost, and the weather.
- But Littlehampton is still popular in the summer with lots of day visits.
- The town is still a very traditional British seaside resort. It is a friendly place with award-winning beaches, a pretty seafront and lots of sunshine.

Key Questions

- How is the seaside different today? What differences can you find?
- What do you expect to find at the seaside?
- Name three things you would find at the seaside and three things you would find in the playground.

Beach Hotel and Green, Littlehampton, 1892.

Beach and Promenade, Littlehampton, c. 1912.
**Key Stage Two**

1850-1900: The Steam Train Arrives in Town!

- Littlehampton officially became a town in 1853 and adopted the motto ‘Progress’, which is still used today.
- By this time, the seaside had become a place for fun. However, this was only a luxury for wealthy and local people.
- But, improvements in transport allowed people to take breaks from home and led to the growth of the seaside town.
- The railway arrived in Littlehampton in 1863. There was also a cross-channel ‘steam packet’ ferry service to Honfleur, France from 1863 to 1882.
- Horses and Carriages would meet the steam train at the station and take visitors down to the Boarding Houses on South Terrace.
- By the 1880’s Littlehampton was receiving two thousand visitors a day in the summer. There was also a big growth in the size and population of the town.

1900-1920: Holidays for All!

- Holidays were now no longer just for the rich. Holiday companies started to organise trips to Littlehampton that were not as expensive.
- The favourite activities while on holiday were the donkey rides, building sandcastles, sitting in deckchairs, paddling in rock pools or the sea and walking along the beach.
- The town had lots of hotels to stay in. Some examples are The Beach and The Dolphin.
- Lots of the hotels also put on concerts, shows and big meals.
- But the First World War put an end to seaside holidays until 1919.
1920-1950: The British Go on Holiday Again

- After the First World War, the British public came back to Littlehampton for rest and relaxation.
- With the car becoming a popular way of travelling, lots more people came to the seaside. But, travel companies also brought visitors by coach and train.
- Butlin’s Fun Fair opened in 1932. This offered family fun with lots of exciting rides at the fun fair.
- Ferrymen and fishermen would also dress up and race their boats along the river.
- Punch & Judy shows were also popular. Lots of musical acts, such as ‘The Pierrots’ also performed along the seafront and in the bandstand. Many used to watch these shows from the windows of the Boarding Houses. Those putting on the shows would place a bag on the end of a stick to put up to the windows to collect money.

1950’s and 60’s: A British or a Foreign Holiday?

- The 1950’s and 60’s were very popular for day visits to Littlehampton. Hundreds of coaches, cars and trains would bring visitors to the seaside.
- Littlehampton still provided lots of traditional activities such as Punch & Judy shows, playing cricket on the beach, water chutes and trampolines.
- But, it soon started to become popular for people to go on holiday abroad instead of coming to the British seaside.
- But, on a warm and sunny day, Littlehampton was still busy.

Pleasure Boat, Harbour Mouth and East Beach, Littlehampton, c.1972.
Littlehampton: The Seaside Today

- From the 1970’s, it became more popular to go on holiday abroad rather than come to the British seaside. This was because of the newly built airplanes and hotels.
- Going on holiday abroad was more popular because it could be cheaper and the weather was better.
- However, Littlehampton is still popular for day visits in the summer with hundred of cars and visitors coming to the seaside.
- The town is still a very traditional British seaside resort. It is a friendly place with award-winning beaches, a pretty seafront and lots of sunshine.

Key Questions

- How is the seaside different today to in the past?
- What important things do you find at the seaside?
- What should you find at the seaside, and what shouldn’t you find at the seaside?
- Compare the habitat of the seaside and the habitat of your school. Find five differences.
We are flexible and open to the requirements of any child that visits the Look and Sea. We will therefore tailor the experience, in conjunction with teachers and carers, to the requirements and needs of each child.

**Guidelines for Teaching SEN**

- Provide oral instructions and written instructions.
- Make instructions brief and clear, and teach one step at a time.
- When necessary, plan to repeat instructions in both written and oral forms.
- Give immediate feedback to students. Frequent progress checks and specific praise should be provided.
- Make activities concise and short; adjust work time so it matches attention span.
- Learning disabled students have difficulty learning abstract terms and concepts. Whenever possible, provide them with concrete objects and events – items they can touch, hear, smell etc.
- Encourage cooperative learning activities when possible. Invite students of varying abilities to work together on a specific project or toward a common goal. Create an atmosphere in which a true ‘community of learners’ is facilitated and enhanced.
- Students with physical impairments: Focus on the intellectual investment in an activity. That is, help the child use his or her problem-solving abilities and thinking skills in completing an assignment.
1735-1790: Littlehampton was originally a fishing village that then developed a seaport. In 1735 a new channel for the River Arun was cut and two new piers built, followed by a new wooden harbour. This helped create the beaches and dunes you can visit today.

1850-1900: Bathing in the sea became a pleasure rather than just a health cure. In 1853 Littlehampton officially became a town. It adopted the motto ‘Progress’, which is still used today. The railway station was built in 1863, which gave easier access for larger numbers of visitors. Additionally, a cross-channel ‘Steam-packet’ ferry service to Honfleur in France (1863-1882) made the town prosperous as a port and holiday resort. The improvements, brought about by the Industrial Revolution, allowed people to take holidays away from home, and led to the further growth of coastal towns as seaside resorts. In 1868 the Duke of Norfolk funded the construction of a new esplanade. By 1870 bathing machines were being replaced by tents on wheels. By the 1880’s the town was receiving between 2 and 3 thousand visitors a day in the summer. During this period there was a rapid growth in the size and population of the town; ‘Beach Town’ was no longer separate from rest of the town as, by the end of the century, a new development and roads had joined the two together.
1900-1910: This period was an early high point for visitors staying in Littlehampton. Hotels and 200 boarding houses offered holiday accommodation. Littlehampton was no longer simply for the rich. So-called ‘working class’ holidaymakers travelled on organised visits to Littlehampton. This was a period of comparatively increased wealth and leisure time. Favourite activities included donkey rides, building sandcastles, relaxing in deckchairs, paddling in rock pools or the sea and strolling on the beach or promenade. Families started to bathe in the sea together as mixed bathing became more acceptable, and rented beach huts started to become more available. The esplanade was lengthened between 1902 and 1904 to ¾ of a mile. The Coastguard station was rebuilt between 1904 and 1905. The town boasted many hotels (e.g. the Beach, Norfolk, Terminus and Dolphin). The Terminus Hall, originally opposite the railway station, was a very popular place for theatrical entertainment, concerts and banquets. The harsh realities of the First World War then put an end to seaside holidays until 1919.

1920-1935: Between the wars over a quarter of a million holidaymakers and day-trippers visited each year. This was due to a need for rest and relaxation. Additionally, the motor car became a popular form of transport. In 1932 the opening of Billy Butlin’s Amusement park on the site of the old windmill and cottages helped the town’s claim to
be a ‘Children’s Paradise’. This offered family fun, including an exciting choice of entertainment rides. ‘Uncle Charlie’s’ Punch & Judy shows were a favourite attraction in the 1920’s. Butlin’s Windmill Amusement Park closed during the Second World War, but reopened afterwards as part of the Butlin’s chain of Holiday Camps. Due to the war, pleasure visitors to Littlehampton were banned from midnight on 25\textsuperscript{th} March 1941. The public was also banned from parts of the beach. The ban removed the last hopes of a summer season for the many Littlehampton boarding houses. Visitors gradually returned after the war but times were still difficult until the 1950’s.

\textbf{1950’s & 60’s}: The 1950’s and early 60’s were the heyday for Littlehampton’s beaches. Hundreds of coaches would arrive, and increasingly cars took over from trains. Seaside picnics were very popular with the resort providing the attraction of traditional activities. Towards the end of the 60’s and into the 1970’s many symbols of the traditional British resort (e.g. holiday camps and variety entertainment) gradually became outdated as the attraction of foreign holidays increased. To make up for a decline in visitors, others sources of employment were developed (e.g. light industry, service businesses and retirement homes). However, on a warm sunny day the beaches continued to be popular.
To The Present Day: From the 1970’s onwards, easier access to foreign holidays and low-cost airlines meant there were fewer staying visitors. However, Littlehampton remains very popular for day visits in the summer, and on sunny days hundreds of cars arrive from all over London and the South East. In 1977, the Billy Smart Circus family bought the Butlin’s site, and set about re-equipping it as a family amusement centre. In 1994, Gary Smart, the owner, oversaw a sizable redevelopment of the site, including changing the name to Harbour Park. The town has therefore improved its facilities for holidaymakers over the years, but it is still very much a traditional British seaside ‘day visit’ resort. There are many activities and competitions for water sport enthusiasts. Day trips by schools and education groups are also popular, with the nearby West Beach Site of Special Scientific Interest attracting groups to study rare seaside creatures and vegetation.
Timeline – Compare Past Littlehampton to Present Littlehampton

1. South Beach Terrace, Littlehampton, c. 1850.

2. The Promenade, Littlehampton, 1912.


4. Littlehampton Harbour, Today.