

Module 8

Let's Look at Old Photographs

Using old photographs to experience the past

Curriculum Linkages and Integration

See Teacher Guidelines for additional information



SESE History

INFANT CLASSES

STRAND: Story
Strand Unit: Stories

1st & 2nd CLASSES

STRAND: Story
Strand Unit: Stories

STRAND: Change and Continuity
Strand Unit: Continuity and change in the local environment

STRAND: Myself and my family
Strand Unit: When my grandparents were young

3rd & 4th CLASSES

STRAND: Local Studies
Strand Unit: Buildings, sites and ruins in my locality
Strand Unit: My locality through the ages

STRAND: Story
Strand Unit: Stories from the lives of people in the past

STRAND: Continuity and change over time
Strand Unit: Homes and Houses
Strand Unit: Transport
Strand Unit: Shops and fairs

STRAND: Life, society and culture in the past
Strand Unit: Life in the 19th century
Strand Unit: Life in Ireland since the 1950s

5th & 6th CLASSES

STRAND: Local Studies
Strand Unit: Buildings, sites and ruins in my locality
Strand Unit: My locality through the ages

STRAND: Story
Strand Unit: Stories from the lives of people in the past

STRAND: Continuity and change over time
Strand Unit: Homes, housing and urban developments
Strand Unit: Transport & Communications
Strand Unit: Barter, trade and money

STRAND: Life, society and culture in the past
Strand Unit: Life in the 19th century
Strand Unit: Life in Ireland since the 1950s

LINKAGES



SESE Geography
- Human environments
- Environmental awareness and care



SESE Science
- Materials
- Environmental awareness and care



Mathematics
- Shape and space
- Early mathematical activities
- Measures
- Number
- Data



Gaeilge
- Éisteacht
- Labhairt
- Scríbhneoiracht
- Léitheoiracht



Visual Arts
- Drawing



English
- Receptiveness to language
- Competence and confidence
- Developing cognitive abilities through language
- Emotional and imaginative development through language



SPHE
- Myself and the wider world

“The best thing I liked was the old photograph and looking at how people lived long ago. I learned a lot from the photograph such as how they had no cars. I found it very interesting.”

6th Class Pupil



OBJECTIVE

To show the value of old photographs in understanding how life was lived in the past.

AGE APPROPRIATENESS

This module is suitable for all classes.

To manage the module for each age group, see Teacher Guidelines

**MATERIALS REQUIRED****Activity Sheets (AS)**

- Old Photographs (AS1)
- New Photographs (AS2)
- What Do You See? (AS3)
- Old and New Photographs (AS4)

PREPARATION

The very first photographic image was taken in 1826 but it was not until the late 19th century that photography became accessible and popular. An old photograph is a unique image and can often contain a lot of information about the past. We are privileged today to have so much of the past preserved for us in the form of photographs.

Activity Sheets 1 and 3 provide sample photographs but every effort should be made to substitute local examples.



Prompt: Suitable old photographs are often available in books on local history, on the walls of commercial premises (pubs, banks etc), and from the local library.

Old photographs bring the past to life



Let's get started!

Setting the Scene

The photographic scene chosen is a streetscape (see Module 9) in Kilmallock, Co. Limerick in the early years of the 20th century, approximately a hundred years ago. The photograph is in black and white because that was the only type of photography available at the time. Discuss the difficulties of taking photographs around a hundred years ago, with large glass negatives, very long exposure times (any movement would blur the photograph) and large unwieldy cameras on tripods. Contrast this with the ease of taking photographs today with even disposable cameras and camera phones. Consider the importance of these old photographs- would we ever be able to imagine what a street like this looked like a hundred years ago without photographs like this?

The Activity

Hand out **Activity Sheet 1** to each pupil. Ask them to examine the scene in the photograph. Use the list of prompts below to guide a discussion of the scene.

Start with buildings:

- look at the number of 1, 2 & 3 storey buildings
- are the buildings terraced or free standing?
- window type? (sash; framed by plaster surround)
- roofing material? (slate; thatch)
- use of buildings: shops on ground floor; living area overhead
- number of chimneys (number of fireplaces- no central heating; what fuel?)
- why are there some gaps between the building? (lanes; back yards; stables)

Shops

- what is the shop front made of?
- what are they selling in the shops? (see Teacher Guidelines)



People

- what are they doing?
- what kind of clothes are they wearing?

Transport

- what type of transport is on the street? (horse and cart, donkey and cart, bicycle)

Communication

- is the road chipped and tarred?
- what is the footpath made of?
- what is at the side of the road? what is it made of?
- what is lying in the drain?
- the poles on the street- what were they used for? (see Teacher Guidelines)



Ask the pupils to answer the questions provided on **Activity Sheet 3**.

Closing Activity

Give each pupil Activity Sheet 3- this shows the same view in AS1 but as it is today. Ask each pupil to write out a list of all the differences they notice between the two photographs, and another list of what has remained the same. When ready, go around the class and ask each pupil to name one difference they noted, and then the things that remained the same. Make a note of all of these where the class can see it.



Weblinks



Old Castlebar
www.castlebar.ie/photos/old/

Ennis, THEN and NOW
homepage.tinet.ie/~cbps/ennisthenandnow.htm

Teacher's Log

"The pupils loved looking at what the town was like in the past. It brought our local area to life in a new way".

5th/6th Class Teacher



