Childhood

We can learn a lot about the past by finding out what it was like to be a child years ago and comparing that with what it is like today.

Artefacts

An artefact is an object from the past. Museums often display historical artefacts. Artefacts can tell us about how people used to live. Everyday objects like baby bottles, clothing, toys and books can tell us about childhood in the past.



Victorian baby bottle



wood and metal pram



wooden rocking horse



child's storybook



teddy bear



glass marbles

Stages of human life

There are six stages of human life.



baby



toddler



child



teenager



adult



elderly

At each stage, people have different needs, responsibilities and lifestyles.

Family tree

A family tree is a diagram that shows someone's family. The oldest family members are at the top of the tree and the youngest are at the bottom. Every family tree looks different because no two families are the same.



Important life events

Important life events include birthdays, religious festivals or family celebrations. Some life events happen every year and some happen at certain stages of human life.



Birthdays happen every year.



Weddings happen when two adults get married.



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Retirement happens when an elderly person leaves work.

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The 1950s

The 1950s were different from today.



There were few supermarkets in the 1950s, so shoppers had to visit many different small shops to get their shopping.



Most people listened to the radio because television was very new and there were only a few programmes.



Children played out in the street. The roads were very quiet as there were not many cars.



Many men worked in coal mines, factories and shipyards. Some women worked in the 1950s but many became housewives when they got married.

Coronation of Elizabeth II

A coronation is a ceremony where the crown is placed on the head of the new king or queen. Elizabeth II was the Queen of the United Kingdom for 70 years until she died in 2022. The coronation ceremony of Elizabeth II took place on 2nd June 1953 at Westminster Abbey, London. Many people celebrated the coronation by holding street parties.



Queen Elizabeth II on her coronation.



Street party to celebrate the coronation.

Changes over time

The way people use land changes over time. For example, in the 1950s there were fewer cars, so fewer roads were needed. Today lots of people have cars, so there are many more roads for people to drive on and driveways for parking.



A street in the 1950s.



A street today.

Glossary

artefact	An object from the past that tells us something about how people used to live.
childhood	Time in a person's life when they are a child.
housewife	An old-fashioned name for a married woman who stays at home and looks after the house and children.
museum	A place that people can visit that contains important objects linked to history, science or art.
past	Something that has already happened.
present	Something that is happening now.
today	On this day.
Victorian	Victorian times were the years between 1837 and 1901 when Queen Victoria was Queen of the United Kingdom.

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