For ideas about how to use these resources in the classroom, refer to the accompanying Turn Back Time Teacher’s Notes.

Find more Primary History resources at bbc.co.uk/primaryhistory

Hands On History
bbc.co.uk/history
Activity 1  Types of shop

Cut out the shop signs and use them in a classroom activity about high streets from the past.
Tailors

Grocers

News Agents
Activity 1
Wordsearch

How many words can you find? Cross them off the list as you uncover them. Be careful – one doesn’t appear in the puzzle, but which one could it be?

Butcher  Blacksmith  Sausages
Grocer    Record shop  Sweets
Baker     Supermarket  Money
Ironmonger  Scales  Eric
Hairdresser  Delivery van  Counter

G P L E S M O Q A B D J T K E F W X G I
R A B F T I W L S R Q E G M H N E R I C
O E M L A Z S N I L K J B Q A T P W O Z
C I O T E B A K E R J S U D I A M F N E
E Z N Y M U D E A N T L U B R E F O Z A
R B E I L Z N M P A Q W I V D X S Y F G
A X Y V W O R B C O U N T E R E C F N B
Z D A U Q E M J S K T R L Q E M A P M O
B E N S P L N R A J B I C H S D L E G F
K L V U W T S L E M X N Y O S Z E P R Q
E I S H Y Z A D J C B T C S E R S Q A N
I V J X K I R O N M O N G E R L D P M O
Q E R E S D T C U F B R V A W Z X G Y H
A R G J X Y S M S B J L D E F M E H N Z
B Y O E H F U Z W X B N E S A F R C D T
Z V I K J L A M E Z P O Q U H R M T N S
R A F B U T C H E R X M E Z P O T W M O
S N B V A M P Z T O N B F J K E P A D F
M Q A E B N D M S P W Z I F X O Q U C U
I B V T L S N A Q E B L A C K S M I T H
Design your own shop advert

Think about including:

- The name of your shop – choose one you know or make up your own!
- A picture of the shop or the items sold there – this should make people want to buy things, so make it bright and colourful.
- The location of the shop – so people know where to find you.
Activity 3  Going shopping

Historic Shopping lists 1900 to 1975

Split the class into groups or pairs and hand each a historical shopping list. Each group needs to work out what they can afford to buy.

A Shopping list from around 1900

The value of money:
- 240 pennies make up an old pound.
  (pennies were written as d)
- 12 pennies equal 1 shilling shown as 1s

You have to decide what you would buy to help your family eat a healthy diet.

You have 3d to spend.
Work out what you could afford to buy.

I letter to post - 1d
The Times Newspaper - 3d
1 pint of milk - 2d
1 Dozen eggs - 1 and ½ d

Your shopping list and what each item costs:

A Shopping list from around 1914

The value of money:
- 240 pennies make up an old pound.
  (pennies were written as d)
- 12 pennies equal 1 shilling shown as 1s

You have to decide what you would buy to help your family eat a healthy diet.

You have 4d to spend.
Work out what you could afford to buy.

Pint of Milk - 1d
1/2 dozen medium sized eggs - 3d
1/4 lb of loose tea - 2d
Loaf of bread - 1d
Activity 3

A Shopping list from around 1940

The value of money:
• 240 pennies make up an old pound. (pennies were written as d)
• 12 pennies equal 1 shilling shown as 1s

You have to decide what you would buy to help your family eat a healthy diet.

You have a shilling to spend. You must remember that everything is rationed due to World War Two and eggs and chocolate are very scare so these may only be available on the black market. Work out what you could afford to buy.

A Shopping list from around 1950

The value of money:
• 240 pennies make up an old pound. (pennies were written as d)
• 12 pennies equal 1 shilling shown as 1s

You have to decide what you would buy to help your family eat a healthy diet.

You have 1 shilling to spend. Work out what you could afford to buy.

A Shopping list from around 1975

The value of money:
• In 1971 Britain moves to the decimalisation system and have the same system as today. 100 pennies =£1.

You have to decide what you would buy to help your family eat a healthy diet.

You have £1 to spend. Work out what you could afford to buy.
In groups or pairs, ask your students to research one of the six time periods below featured in the BBC 1 series Turn Back Time. In particular, ask them to find old photographs or drawings of high streets from the time period.

**Victorian era**
The Victorian era saw the creation of the high street as we know it today. As more people moved into the cities, fewer were able to grow their own produce and began to rely on shops for food and other goods. Meat and vegetables were displayed for all to see outside the shops, so the early high street looked more like what we would now call a market. The buildings had small windows to help keep the contents cool and some would have had workrooms for making the products on sale. Victorian photos are extremely rare, but sketches and cartoons may be found.

**Edwardian era**
In the Edwardian era shopping became a pastime in itself. Cheap imports meant even the poorest people were able to afford meat on occasion and canned goods were becoming more popular. Selfridges opened in 1909, bringing luxury to the people as never before. The start of the First World War in 1914 shattered the comforts of the early 1900s and food prices soared. Edwardian photos are black and white or a brown, sepia colour. You can differentiate them from the 1930s images, as shops still tended to show their wares outside.
The 1930s
During the 1930s shopowners began to use the power of advertising and window displays to draw in customers. Goods inside were displayed in glass cabinets and brands we’d recognise today appeared. Shops like Woolworths, Burtons and Boots began to dominate the market. Food was becoming relatively cheap, with fruit and vegetables year-round staples and tinned foods growing in popularity. Refrigerators began to make an appearance in some domestic kitchens, allowing people to store food for longer and shop less frequently. This trend would become more pronounced in later decades. Photos from the 1930s are black and white with advertising posters and branding appearing on walls and windows.

World War Two
In the Second World War, particularly once rationing began, shoppers would queue for hours outside shops if they heard food was available. Shops displayed posters about saving food, fuel and goods and, inside, many shelves were empty. People had to register with most shops to be able to buy goods, so shopkeepers became very important in the community. As imports fell, favourite products became rare and buying new clothes became almost unheard of. Paper was scarce, so purchases were often taken home unwrapped. Photographs from this era are still black and white, though there may be some very early colour.
The 1960s

In the 1960s self service became the norm in most shops and mass-produced bread meant many bakeries closed. Shops became brighter and more colourful both inside and out, with neon, plastic and Formica appearing. This was particularly noticeable in milk and burger bars, some of which had jukeboxes. Fluorescent lights were introduced in many stores, as well as the shopping trolley. Better food packaging, refrigeration and a rise in car ownership led to the swift growth of supermarkets which changed shopping patterns from daily to weekly. Photos from the 1960s are often shinier (both black and white and colour) with white borders.

The 1970s

The 1970s saw the establishment of the ‘weekly shop’ in large supermarkets, as more women worked and shopping was done at the weekend. Shopping deliveries ceased, with newspapers and milk remaining the exceptions. ‘Sell by’ dates began to appear on packaging and frozen food became much more prevalent. Corner shops could stay open for longer hours than supermarkets, and often became the hub of a community. Record and betting shops, Chinese takeaways and boutiques became high street stalwarts. Photos from the 1970s will still often be black and white (and may be a bit ‘foggy’), so look out for clothing hints, like flared trousers.
Activity 4

What am I looking for?
You can find out about the history of the high street through:
• Old photos, paintings or drawings
• Old products, packaging and branding
• Newspaper cuttings
• Copies of local records (try your local library)
• Oral history – talk to your parents, grandparents or guardians about what the high street was like when they were growing up.

How old is my photo?
Photographs are a great source of information. Answer the following questions to identify what time period your photo is from:
• Is it colour, black & white or sepia tones?
• If there are people in the photo, what are they wearing?
• If there are vehicles, what are they? Can you see a number plate to help you identify the year?
• Is there any street furniture? (Postboxes, street lamps, street signs, traffic lights etc)
• Are there any other clues? Look at the skyline and trees and for landmarks you can date, for example war memorials or town fountains.
• If you found your photo on the internet, does the website tell you anymore information about it?
• If you are actually holding the old photo, what kind of paper is it printed on and are there any dates or notes on the back? You’ll find some examples of old photos on the Turn Back Time Flickr group.

Create
a scrapbook or collage out of the photos you have found.
Activity 4

Colour in Eric visiting this old fashioned grocery store.
Turn Back Time: Flickr group

What to do

• Choose a photo from your research that is over one year old.
• Take this photo out with you into the high street and find the spot from where the photo was taken.
• Hold the photo out at arm’s length in front of you (or ask a friend to hold it for you).
• Use buildings and landmarks to line it up with the street as it looks today.
• Take a new photo to create a ‘now and then’ image.
• Return home to upload it to our gallery or, if you need some help, visit your local library.

The rules are really simple:

• The only part of you (or a friend) that should be visible in the photo is a hand.
• Photos must not be copyright in any way – for example the photo must be your own or you must have permission to use it.
• Each photo must be uploaded by an adult and tagged with your location so other people in your area can find it. Also include your favourite information from your research.
• You will find full terms and conditions along with clear instructions for uploading your photo at: bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory
1. In 1801, 20% of the population lived in towns and cities. By 1901 what percentage lived in towns and cities? Was it:
   A: 30%  B: 50%  C: 80%

2. In January 2009, a well-known high street store closed all its shops, after nearly 100 years of trading in the UK. What was the name of the shop?
   A: Zavvi  B: Woolworths  C: MFI

3. Which item in the following list was not rationed during World War Two?
   A: Petrol  B: Fish  C: Honey

4. In 1943, how many allotments were there in Britain? Was it:
   A: 20,000  B: 800,000  C: 1,400,000?

5. In what year was decimalisation introduced in the UK?

6. During the First World War the popular “German sausage” was renamed. What was the new name?
   A: Empire sausage  B: Freedom sausage  C: Butcher’s sausage

7. In the Victorian era, if you bought a ‘penny lick’, what would you be buying?
   A: An ice cream  B: A sweet  C: A stamp

8. Known as ‘Unclaimed Babies’ in the Victorian era and ‘Peace Babies’ during the First World War, what name do they have today?
   A: Jelly Babies  B: Jelly Beans  C: Jelly Tots

9. During the Second World War, if you bought ‘Macon’, what would you be buying?
   A: Bacon substitute made from mutton  B: Tinned soup  C: Face powder

10. Wartime rationing did not end until 1954. What was the last item to come ‘off the ration’?
    A: Eggs  B: Chocolate  C: Meat
Answers

1. C: 80%
2. B: Woolworths
3. B: Fish
4. C: 1,400,000
5. A: 1971
6. A: Empire Sausage
7. A: An ice cream. A penny lick was an ice cream served in a small glass. Customers would lick the glass clean and return it to the vendor who would then wipe it and reuse it.
8. A: Jelly Babies
A guide to researching the history of your high street

Hi, I’m Eric,
I think old stuff rocks! Use this guide to help your class research your local high street.

Watch my adventures through time and find details of activities and events around the UK online: bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory
Public Libraries

The best place to start is the Local Studies Library for your area. Most local studies collections will have the following resources:

- Local maps and books on the history of your area
- Pamphlets and periodicals produced by local organisations
- Old and current trade directories

Your local library may also be able to offer:

- Local newspapers from pre-1900 to the present on microfilm or as digital copies
- Press cuttings and ephemera (advertisements, leaflets, etc)
- Illustrations, sketches and photos of the area
- DVDs, videos and CD-Roms about your local area

Your library is likely to have some handwritten copies of older records. The librarian or local archivist should be able to help you understand them – particularly if the writing is difficult to decipher.

You can find details of your public library and its local history collection on the DirectGov website: www.direct.gov.uk

To find the page, click on the Education link and enter ‘library’ into the search box, then click on ‘Libraries and Books’ and scroll down to ‘Find out about the historical search service in a library’.

Top Tip

Old telephone directories may seem a strange place to look, but they can provide invaluable evidence of the past life of a shop and may also include adverts for shops which will give you even more information. Look out for Yellow Pages or directories from the past, including: Bennett’s, Kelly’s, Pigots, Post Office, Slater’s and White’s.
Local Archives

The local Record Office covering your city, town or village will offer lots of information including details of local estates, families, towns, deeds, leases, sales particulars or maps and photographs. These records can be used to follow a shop from the present day back into the past as it has changed hands and use.

Find your local Record Office by either asking at your local library or searching online: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/

Before you visit the Record Office itself you can find out what sort of evidence you'll find there by visiting the A2A section of the National Archives website. You can also read an introduction to searching archives by visiting the ‘Need Help?’ section: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/

Once you have completed your search online and noted down the results you can then visit the Record Office in person and read the documents themselves. The staff can often help you interpret what you’ve found.

Local History Societies and Museums

The British Association for Local History can put you in contact with your local history society. Remember, they do not all have ‘local history’ in their name! Some societies have collections of local records, photos or artefacts they can share with you and they may even hold exhibitions and guided walks around town centres.

Many towns and villages have books written by local historians that provide helpful local history information. These can often be found in the library but also in local shops and tourist information centres.

You may be lucky enough to have a museum in your town or village - or nearby - and this could prove an invaluable source of information. Many local museums have staff or volunteers who are passionate about the area and will be happy to share their knowledge.
People

One of the most important resources in finding out about your high street is people. By talking to shopkeepers and local residents you will make the most of local knowledge and find stories and rumours to investigate.

Possible leads include:

• Shopkeepers – you may find they have inherited information, photos or news clippings about the site itself from previous owners.
• People who work with the public and have a knowledge of the geographical area such as bus and taxi drivers, police officers, post and milk deliverers.
• Local publicans – publicans often have good stories to tell and can be a great source for old photos.
• People from traditional professions such as undertakers, chimney sweeps and stonemasons. Often their family will have worked in the industry and in the area for several generations.
• People who are members of community organisations – like the Women’s Institute, the Mothers’ Union or the Bowls club.
• Places of worship – many faith groups keep good local records including photos.

Why not interview older relatives or neighbours to find out their stories about the history of the high street. Write down or record the answers for the investigation.
Working online

Use the tips and useful websites to research as much background information as possible about your local high street.

5 top tips
- If you are using a search engine, try a few variations. For example, don’t just put in ‘Local History [your town]’, also try ‘maps [your town]’ ‘shops [your town]’ etc.
- Check if your town was known earlier by a different name or if your county boundaries have changed, as this will affect your search.
- Write down the searches you’ve done as it will save you duplications.
- If you find a great site, either add it to your favourites or make a note of the address.
- Many local organisations keep records online, for example your local chamber of commerce, local tourist board and local authority.

Useful websites
There are lots of excellent national websites. One that is particularly useful for Turn Back Time is ‘Historical Directories’. This includes a digital library of local and trade directories for England and Wales from 1750 to 1919: www.historicaldirectories.org
You can research online to find out about painters, poets and authors who may have visited your town and produced works featuring it. You can also visit websites that include travel writing. Two great sites to try – www.visionofbritain.org.uk and www.imagesofbritain.org.uk
You can search census returns (results) online. From 1851 they include the occupation of the head of the household. Census returns are not accessible for 100 years – so the most recent returns you can access will be from 1911:
England and Wales: www.ukcensusonline.com
Scotland: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk
Northern Ireland: www.nisranew.nisra.gov.uk/census
Find lots more great websites on the back of this booklet.
Useful contacts and websites

These are just a few of the many organisations that could help you in your research.

Archives Wales
www.archiveswales.org.uk

Ancient Monuments Society
St Ann’s Vestry Hall, 2 Church Entry, London EC4V 5HB
www.ancientmonumentssociety.org.uk

Baptist Historical Society
www.baptisthistory.org.uk

Black & Asian Studies Association
www.blackandasiastudies.org

Brewery History Society
www.breweryhistory.com

British Association of Paper Historians
Find lots of information to do with paper manufacture, including mills.
www.baph.org.uk

British Association for Local History
Offers guides to researching and presenting local history and reading old handwriting, as well as a directory of other websites to try.
www.balh.co.uk

British Brick Society
www.britishbricksoc.free-online.co.uk

British Library
www.bl.uk

Chapels Society
www.britarch.ac.uk/chapelsoc

English Place-Name Society
www.nottingham.ac.uk/~aezins/index.php

Federation for Ulster Local Studies
www.fuls.org.uk/fulsmembers.html

Historical Association
www.history.org.uk

Historical Directories
A project by the University of Leicester which has a range of directories online that you can search and print off pages from for your own use.
www.historicaldirectories.org

The London School of Economics Library
London School of Economics and Political Science
10 Portugal Street, London WC2A 2HD
www.lse.ac.uk

The Modern Records Centre
University Library, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL
www.warwick.ac.uk/go/modernrecordscentre

The National Archives
The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The National Archives of Scotland
www.nas.gov.uk

The National Library of Wales
www.llgc.org.uk

The National Museum of Wales
www.museumwales.ac.uk

The Peoples History Museum
Left Bank, Spinningfields, Manchester M3 3ER
www.phm.org.uk

Pub History
A guide to working out the age of a pub.

Public Record Office Northern Ireland
www.proni.gov.uk/index/about_proni.htm

Scottish archives, libraries and museums
www.scotlandsinformation.com

Scottish Screen Archive
ssa.nls.uk

The Scottish Association of Family History Societies
www.safhs.org.uk

The Working Class Movement Library
51, The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WX
www.wcml.org.uk