The 1950s was a decade marked by the postwar boom in the economy, houses, and babies (from 1946 to 1964 over 77 million “baby boomers” were born), the Civil Rights Movement and the Cold War.

This decade was also about poodle skirts, bobby socks, and proper glove etiquette. Hanging out at the local diner having French fries and a milkshake while listening to Elvis Presley, cruising in your convertible around town before going home for dinner at 6p sharp with every family member present to be served a cream of mushroom casserole with some jellied food product that moved – either canned meat or Jell-O with surprises inside!

This robust activity revisits the 1950s including after school activities, appliances, candy, cars, entertainment, fashion, food, and slang – all accompanied with fun, diverse, interactive challenges.

For those clients with memory loss, long term memory usually stays intact allowing them to participate in this activity. It’s fun and important for folks to reminisce earlier times that perhaps were more carefree and happier for them. So, grab your client and together, let’s stroll down memory lane to a simpler time.
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

After School and Weekend Activities

Appliances

Candy

Cars

Entertainment

Fashion

Food

Slang
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

AFTER SCHOOL AND WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
What did you do after school and on the weekends for fun? What outside neighborhood games did you play? What board games did you play? What was your favorite game? How did you play that game? What were the rules of the game? How many players? What were you the most skilled at doing? What did you do as a family for fun? Share your best childhood activity memory.

ACTIVITIES:

 expiresIn: 2022-04-17T19:05:00+00:00

If possible, play a game from your childhood – adapt as needed.

Check out these 24 vintage pictures of after school activities in the 1950s
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

APPLIANCES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
What new appliance in the 1950s do you remember your family purchasing? Which appliance once in the home made the biggest difference in your family’s life? How did it affect your life? What is your favorite appliance today? What appliance can you not do without today?

ACTIVITIES:
• Visit this link and discuss the appliances in the 1950s. Together, read about the appliances’ descriptions.

• Choose one appliance and compare it to the same appliance you use today.
  How are they different?
  How are they made differently - in materials and size?
  Do you feel appliance’s qualities have improved or not? In what way?

• Google another appliance available for sale that you found on the 50s link and check out the price today? Try Home Depot; Lowes; Sears; or Wayfair

• Compare costs of the two appliances by subtracting:
  Cost of a current day appliance $________________
  Cost of a 1950s appliance $________________
  Difference in cost $________________
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

GUESS THE PRICE - APPLIANCES FROM THE 50s
Guess the price of each appliance. Compare your answers to the answers provided below.

A. Radio Emerson - New Hampshire 1950
B. Frigidaire Automatic Washing Machine - Florida 1952
C. Sylvania 21-inch Black and White TV - Michigan 1955
D. Regency Gas Range - New York 1950
E. Admiral Fridge Freezer - Michigan 1955
F. Singer Sewing Machine - Ohio 1959
G. GE Portable Food Mixer - Wisconsin 1957
H. Hair Dryer - California 1959
I. Stereo Hi-Fi - California 1959
J. Steam Iron - California 1959
K. Schick Electric Shaver - West Virginia 1956
L. Hoover Vacuum Cleaner - New Jersey 1956

ANSWERS
A. $14.95  E. $399.95  I. $199.95
B. $299.99  F. $19.95  J. $9.99
C. $148.95  G. $18.95  K. $14.99
D. $144.95  H. $5.95  L. $79.50

Copyright © 2004 / 2016 The People History Where People Memories and History Join
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

CANDY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
What candies can you name from the 1950s? What was your favorite candy as a child? Where did you buy it? Did you get it at a corner store? How did you get to the store? How much did it cost? Where did you get the money from? Describe your favorite candy using three adjectives (words that describe nouns). What is your favorite candy today?

POPULAR CANDY FROM THE 1950s
Mike and Ike, Dots, Chuckles, Candy Cigarettes, Sugar Babies, Jawbreakers, Red Hots, Bubble Gum Cigar, Slo Poke Bar, Candy Necklace, Charleston Chew, Fun Dip, Bubble Gum Cigarettes, Pixy Stix, Sugar Daddy Jr., Rock Candy Swizzle Stick, Wax Lips, Wax Bottle Candy, Rocky Road, Dad’s Root Beer Barrels, Bit-O-Honey, Old Fashion Lifesavers, Gold Chocolate Coins, Atomic Fireballs, Mamba Fruit Chews, Bazooka Bubble Gum, Tootsie Roll Assorted Fruit Flavors, Cup-O-Gold, Coconut Long Boys, Pez Candy and Mary Jane

ACTIVITIES:
- Alphabetize the list of candies above.
- Take a trip to your local Cracker Barrel and tour their country gift shop. They have a great selection of old-fashion candy. Barring no dietary restrictions of no sugar, buy your favorite sugary treat of years ago, sit in a rocker at the front of the restaurant and indulge!
- Check out a full listing of over 100 candies from the 1950s
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

CARS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
When did you get your Driver’s License? Who taught you to drive? What was your first car? When did you buy your first new car? How much did it cost? What year, make and model? What color was it? Why did you choose that car? Did you name your car? Did you go on road trips? Where have you driven on vacation? What was your favorite car of the 1950s? What has been your favorite car to date? Why is it your favorite car?

ACTIVITIES:

Visit this link and reminisce about the cars from the 1950s. How many cars do you recognize? Did you own any of these cars? Did you know anyone who owned any of these cars? What can you remember about specifically about any of these cars? Can you share any memories of what happened in these cars - trips taken? first kiss? cruising?

Check out the cost a car purchased in the 1950s. Choose your favorite car and write down the cost.

Visit this link for a Lincoln Continental. Today you get get a quote on a new car online without visiting the showroom. It is called ”Build and Price”. You can select the make, model, color and basic standard line or go all out and get all the extra features - spare no expense - get the heated leather seats that are also air conditioned in the summer!

Compare costs of the two cars by subtracting:
Cost of a current day car $________________
Cost of a 1950s car $____________________
Difference in cost $____________________

Got to a local vintage car show usually at your neighborhood McDonalds.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
What did you do for fun? What did you do as a family for fun?
How did you spend time with your friends as a teenager? How did you spend Saturday nights? Where did you go on dates?
What is your most memorable date? Who was it with? Where did you go?

ACTIVITIES:
• What can you tell me about the list of activities below:
  Drive-in – What was your favorite movie from the 1950s? What car did you go in?
  Bowling Alley – Were you on a bowling team? Did you bowl well?
  Diner/Ice Cream Shop – What would you order?
  Roller Skating – Did you roller skate? Did you do any tricks?
  Cruising – Did you cruise around town? What kind of car?
  Dance Hops – Who was your best dance partner? What dance did you do?
  Jukebox – What would you do when your favorite song came on?
  Listen to Records – What was your favorite 45?
  Television – List three TV shows you watched? When was your favorite show on?
  Hula Hoops – Can you still hula hoop?

Visit our link to Sing-Alongs and More – 1950s:
Watch and listen to the TV clips from the 1950s
Dance to the music
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

FASHION

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
What did you wear for work? What did you wear for leisure when at home? What would you wear as a guest at a wedding or a dinner party? If you are a woman, did you always wear a dress or did you wear pants too? Where did you buy your clothes? How did you get to the store? Were your clothes machine washable, hand wash or dry cleaned? Did you accessorize your outfits?

ACTIVITIES:
- Check out ladies’ fashions for the 1950s.
- Check out men’s fashions for the 1950s.
- Observe the styles for the decade and note how the styles change from 1950 to 1959.
  - What changes do you see?
  - What colors are popular?
  - What materials are being used?
  - How do the prices compare to today?
  - What do the models look like?
- Draw a sketch of several outfits. Use your pencil to start and then use coloring pencils to add color.
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

WOMEN’S GLOVES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
On which occasions did you wear gloves? How many pairs of gloves did you own? Did you have a favorite pair? Why were they your favorite pair? Did you ever wear long gloves? What was the occasion? When did you stop wearing gloves?

ACTIVITIES:

を持っているかどうか。また、あなたはどの程度の手袋を所有していましたか？あなたの最愛のペアがありましたか？なぜそのペアが最愛だったのですか？あなたは長手袋を身に着けていましたか？それはどのような場面でしたか？あなたはいつ手袋を身に着けやめたのですか？

・ これらの1950年代の手袋の画像をチェックしてください。

・ これはパリグローブの手袋の儀礼に関するチラシを読んでから、真理又は仮説のQUIZに参加してください。

Glove Etiquette

When a Lady Wears Gloves

Gloves should be worn on the streets of cities and large towns, when going to church, to a luncheon, dinner or reception; to a dance, a wedding or an official function. They are also worn to a restaurant and in the theatre.

Smart women usually wear gloves while travelling on a train or plane... or in any public conveyance.

On formal occasions, gloves are worn by the guest and by the hostess, while she is in residence.

At dances, long gloves should be part of a lady's ensemble, and as such, kept on. The glove fingers should be tucked into the opening at the wrist while smoking or drinking, and the gloves should be removed entirely immediately upon sitting at the table.

When gloves are worn merely as a covering for the hands (such as knitted winter gloves), they should be removed with the coat.

What to do When Shaking Hands

A lady never takes off her gloves to shake hands... and never asks that her glove be removed. Of course, this is expected if she is wearing molded gardening gloves, or the like... in which case she says she is sorry she can't shake hands.

Color, Style and Length

The most important point in choosing gloves is to make sure they fit and are comfortable. Gloves that are too tight tend to make hands look like sausages.

White or beige gloves are usually appropriate for any occasion with which those colors harmonize. Black gloves are always smart. Formal occasions do not demand, but sometimes suggest, white gloves. Colored gloves are becoming increasingly popular and are now worn, quite correctly, to weddings. It is considered very smart to wear matching gloves and millinery.

A glove of the same color as the sleeve of your garment makes the arm look longer. A contrasting glove seems to shorten it.

The length of glove is decided by current fashion and the length of the sleeve. Shorties in 5-button length are normally worn on the street, in daytime, and for informal evening. Long gloves are usually reserved for more formal occasions.

The style of glove is dictated by fashion and the style of the lady's outfit. Simple styles usually imitate tailored ensembles, while longer, decorative gloves accompany more formal attire.

Brocade may be worn over long gloves, but never rings.

To be sure your gloves are fashionable in color and style, wear Paris gloves... the gloves of good taste.
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

GLOVE ETIQUETTE QUIZ - TRUE OR FALSE
One player asks the other player whether the statement is TRUE OR FALSE. The answers follow each question.

Gloves should be worn on the streets of cities and large towns, when going to church, to a luncheon, dinner or reception; a dance, a wedding or an official function. ANSWER: TRUE

Gloves are never worn to a restaurant and in the theater. ANSWER: FALSE

Smart women usually wear gloves while traveling on a train or a plan. ANSWER: TRUE

Gloves must always be removed before eating, drinking, smoking, playing cards or putting on makeup. ANSWER: TRUE

A lady takes off her gloves to shake hands. ANSWER: FALSE

It is considered in poor taste to wear matching gloves and millinery. ANSWER: FALSE

A glove of the same color as the sleeve of your garment makes the arm look longer. ANSWER: TRUE

Long gloves are usually reserved for daytime. ANSWER: FALSE

Bracelets may not be worn over long gloves. ANSWER: FALSE

Rings are never worn over long gloves. ANSWER: TRUE
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

FOODS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
Who did the cooking in your house? What did you typically have for dinner? What was your favorite meal? What was your least favorite meal? Did you have a big Sunday meal? Who would be sitting at your family’s dinner table? Where did you sit? What time did you have dinner every night? Did you ever have guests? Who did the dishes?

POPULAR FOODS IN THE 1950s
Creamed Chip Beef on Toast
Canned Meat
Green Bean Casserole
Jell-O Salad
Swanson Frozen Dinner
Pineapple Upside Down Cake
Ambrosia
Beef Stroganoff
Meatloaf

ACTIVITIES:
Choose a meal, google the recipe, and make!

Choose another meal and google the nutritional value of the meal – what is the amount of fat, salt, sugar, and calories. How does this meal compare to today’s recommended diet?
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

SLANG

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
Every decade has their slang and the 50s are no different. Many of these words or slogans are still used today but some aren’t. This is where the fun comes in! Test your knowledge and see how many meanings you know using the ever popular college Drinking Game!

ACTIVITIES:

SENIOR DRINKING GAME
The caregiver states the slang word or words. The client guesses its meaning. Every time the client gets the answer right, they take a slug or sip of prune juice, water, cranberry juice, etc. Pick your poison just NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES!

Surprise your college-age grandchildren and invite them to play this drinking game with the fun twist of NO ALCOHOL.

Achin’ for a breakin’ ........................................... threatening someone to fight
Agitate the gravel ............................................................... to leave
Ankle-biter ......................................................................................... a child
Apple butter .............................................................. smooth talk or flattery
Back seat bingo .......................................................... necking in a car
Bee’s knees ................................................................. something wonderful and good
Big Daddy ............................................................................ an older person
Big tickle ...................................................................................... really Funny
Bird Dog ..................................................... someone who tries to steal your girlfriend
Bread ........................................................................................................ money
Burn rubber ................................................................. to accelerate hard and fast
Bust a gut ................................................................. laugh very hard
Candy ass .............................................................................. wimp or easily scared
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

Cat .............................................................. a hip person
Cheaters ................................................................. sunglasses
Church key .............................................................. can opener
Classy chassis ....................................................... great body
Deck of Luckies ................................................... pack of Lucy Strike cigarettes
Dibs ................................................................. a claim – as in “got dibs” on that seat
Don’t have a cow .................................................. don’t get so excited
Dreamboat ........................................................... a really cute guy
Easy ................................................................. a girl who “puts out”
Eyeball ................................................................. to look around
Fake out ................................................................................. a bad date
Fast ......................................................... someone who was sexually active
Flip Flop ................................................................. a convertible car
Flutter bum ............................................................ good looking guy
Fream ................................................................. someone who doesn’t fit in
Fuzz ..................................................................................... police
Give me a bell ....................................................... call me on the phone
Got the zorros ..................................................... feeling nervous
Gringles ................................................................. worries
Grouse ................................................................. a surfer
Haul ass ............................................................. drive very fast
Hot Mama ............................................................ cute or sexy girl
Hunk of junk .......................................................... broken down car
Ice it ................................................................................. forget it or don’t do it
Jacked up ............................................................... car with raised rear end
Jets ................................................................................. smarts, brains
Keeper ............................................................... parent or good friend you keep
Kicks ..................................................................................... another name for shoes
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

Kitten ................................................................. young, inexperienced girl
Knuckle sandwich .................................................. a fist in the face
Lid ................................................................................... hat
Lighter ........................................................................... a crew cut
Made in the show .................................................. success guaranteed
Make out ........................................................................... a kissing session
Mickey Mouse ....................................................... something dumb
Neat or neato ......................................................... really cool or good
Nifty ................................................................................. good, cool, or great
Nuggets ................................................................. loose change
Odd ball ............................................................... someone a bit off the norm
Peachy ...................................................................... unusually good or fine
Peel out ........................................................................... to accelerate hard and fast
Pinky’s out of jail ...................................................... Your slip is showing
Pinned ........................................................................ in grade school “going steady”
Pooper ............................................................................. no fun at all
Put a lid on it ............................................................... stop talking
Rattle your cage ........................................................ get upset
Raunchy ............................................................. messy or gross in some other way
Razz my berries ..................................................... excite or impress me
Real gone ................................................................... very much in love
Shaft .............................................................................. getting a bad deal
Sides ........................................................................ vinyl records
Sit on it ............................................................................. loosely means “up your keister”
Snogging ........................................................................ kissing
Sounds ........................................................................... music
Split a wig ...................................................................... to beat someone up
Square .................................................................................. A regular, normal person
MEMORY LANE - 1950s

Stacked ...................................................... A woman with a large bosom
Swell ............................................................... Great, good, or wonderful
Take a picture ........................ said to someone who is staring at you
Tank ................................................................. a large sedan
Threads ............................................................. clothes
Wazoo ............................................................... your read end
What’s buzzin .................................................. what’s new?
Wheelie ....................................................... lift the car’s front wheels off the ground
Yoot ................................................................. a young sibling
Zs ................................................................. sleep or shut eye

Copyright 1996-2020, Michael Rich. All rights reserved. WWW.FIFTIESWEB.COM is a creation of RichWeb and is not endorsed or sponsored by or affiliated with any of the products, services, programs, celebrities or entities mentioned herein.