

MEMORY LANE

1950s

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.

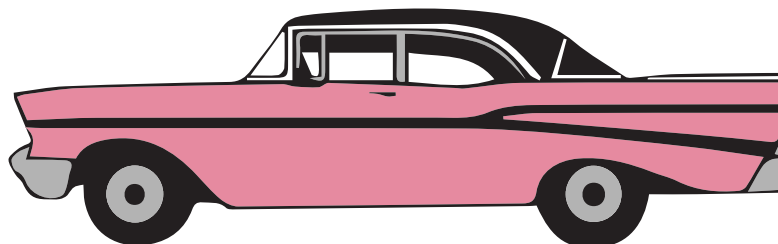
This decade was also about poodle skirts, bobby socks, and proper glove etiquette. Hanging out at the local diner having French fries and a milkshake while listening to Elvis Presley, cruising in your convertible around town before going home for dinner at 6p sharp with every family member present to 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.

A MOMENT IN TIME:
LET’S LEARN, LAUGH, PLAY AND PRAY!

Copyright 2020® Always An Angel Homecare



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:

- 🎵 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
\$ _____



Copyright © 2004 / 2016 The People History
Where People Memories and History Join

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

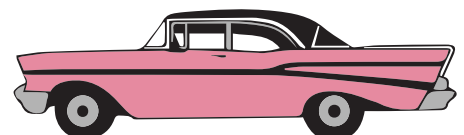
CARS

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.
- 🎧 Vist 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.



MEMORY LANE - 1950s

ENTERTAINMENT

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?

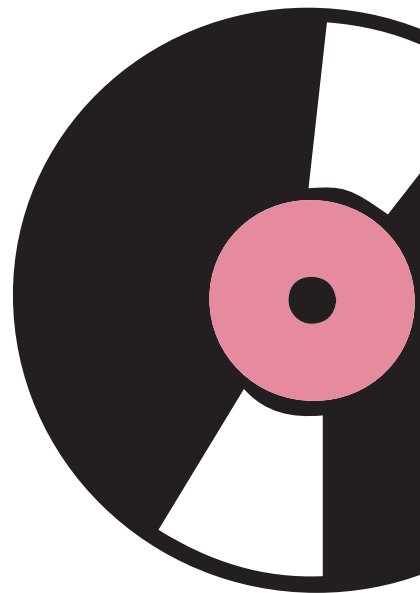
Television – List three TV shows you watched?
When was your favorite show on?

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:

- 🎧 Check out these images of vintage gloves from the 1950s
- 🎧 Read this pamphlet entitled *Glove Etiquette* by Paris Gloves and then take the TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ.



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 plane. **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**

 **TRUE FALSE**

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.

