

Name: _____
 Date: _____

Subject: Year 5 History
 Unit: Britain 1950s-1960s

Britain in the 1950s

In the 1950s life in Britain was very different than life today. Not all families had a television and those who did could only watch it on black and white. Most people looked to the wireless (radio).



Most children spent their leisure time reading or playing with other children outside. Many girls had dollhouses like knitting and sewing. Monopoly, Snakes and Ladders and Ludo were popular board games.

New items to be introduced in the 1950s were washing machines, electric fridges, vacuum cleaners and plug-in radios. Not all families had these luxuries. Some families didn't even have a fridge. There certainly weren't any fast food restaurants. Fish fingers were probably the most convenient food type you could buy other than fish and chips. Women would buy their weekly shopping in local shops such as butcher's, baker's, greengrocers and fishmongers. The large supermarkets weren't around in the 1950s. The food shopping was done every day from local shops.

Very few people had a telephone and the internet was a thing of the future.

During this decade Elizabeth II was crowned queen. A major military conflict to the summit of Mount Everest, Roger Bannister ran the first 4-minute mile and nuclear war caused by World War II ended. The Mini was launched in 1959 and became the best-selling British car of all time.

New inventions in this era included Lego, the Barbie doll, super glue and rocket pens.

The Ford, the Volkswagen and the Chevrolet were popular cars in the 1950s. Matt Preston and Bill Hoby were popular singers.