



Archaeology Detectives – C. Using Historic Photographs

Activity plan

Learning Intention

To be able to notice and identify changes to a place through time, using historic and modern photographs of the same location and spotting the differences between them.

This lesson will introduce / reinforce skills with photographs – both interpreting images and taking photographs. This activity develops further opportunities to identify and formulate reasoning for why structures, buildings or monuments were built in a particular place, how they were used, what they were built out of, and how and why they have changed over the years. Your group might also begin to think about why certain places are protected and conserved for the future.

Curriculum Links

I can compare and contrast a society in the past with my own and contribute to a discussion of the similarities and differences.
SOC 2-04a

Heritage Hero Award

Investigate Activity
Engage Activity

Resource List

- ◆ Digital / paper copies of historic photographs to review (you will need to prepare)
- ◆ Starter activity (in **Learning Resource C**)
- ◆ Set of questions to answer (in **Learning Resource C**)

Research needed before session

Allow **1 hour** for preparation time.

There are 3 items to prepare before this session.

1. Identify and duplicate historic photographs of your site / building

Historic photographs are an excellent resource for investigating a local place and finding out what it looked like many years ago.

For this activity we are going to suggest using **Canmore** – find the link on our [links page](#). Follow these instructions to try to find historic images of the place you are investigating.

- I. Type in the place name in the Search box on the top right.
- II. Select Images in the drop down box, and click on the blue search button (it has a picture of a magnifying glass on it).
- III. The results of your search will be displayed. It may be easier to find useful images if you chose to show 96 images per page.
- IV. The results will show historic, as well as more recent photographs of sites and monuments, alongside other images.
- V. Click on an image to view it.
- VI. Copy the image by clicking on Download beneath the photograph.

- VII. This takes you to a page with licensing information. Canmore license images for educational purposes – the correct attribution and licensing information is shown above each enlarged photograph. The larger 800px image are for educational use.
- VIII. Click on Download to save the image.
- IX. You will need to find a more recent image of your site as well. These might also be available on **Canmore**, or you could try to locate it on Google Street View.
- X. Historic and modern images may also be found on **SCRAN**.

2. Preparing a suitable set of questions about your site

Learning Resource C has a list of questions relevant to investigating historic photographs depicting a wide range of different sites and buildings. We recommend you adapt these ideas to your chosen place of study.

3. General overview of resources

We suggest you always review our resources and amend as necessary before running the session.

Timings

Activity	Summary	Time
Starter – spotting the differences	Using Learning Resource C look at the photos and ask the group to think about the WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN and WHY questions about your site.	10 mins
Introduction	Explain to the group that you will be using this information to create a table of information and observations about your site.	10 mins
Main activity	In pairs / groups or individually study the historic image, the modern image and then compare them both. Use the questions in Learning Resource C to prompt discussion and investigation.	30 mins
Plenary	Group share of information.	10mins

Extra Activities / suggestions on scaling up and down

You might like to extend this activity by undertaking some repeat photography. This is finding the place shown in an historic photograph, visiting it and trying to take a digital photograph of the exact same scene in your historic photo. You can then do a compare and contrast exercise of the historic image and digital photograph(s) taken by your group.