

The Musical Fifties

Areas of Learning

Primary

Language and Literacy
The World Around Us

Post-Primary

English
Environment and Society
Science and Technology

Cross-Curricular Skill

Using ICT

Setting the Scene

Creating the correct atmosphere is essential for learning to take place. This theme includes suggestions for incorporating Music and Using ICT into your lessons. You can stimulate your learners' senses through a range of activities using sights, sounds and textures.

Depending on the age of your learners, you may want to transform your classroom into a 1950s dance hall or give it a Disney theme (Disneyland opened in California in the 1950s). Use your learners' artwork to transform your classroom door into a time machine (perhaps a phone box or Dr Who's TARDIS). This will help create an atmosphere from the moment your learners arrive at their classroom door.

What to Do

At the start of the lesson, play *Reverse Time* available from My School – *Audio Networks* through C2k.

Ensure all your learners are sitting comfortably facing the screen (for showing the Whiteboard Slides).

Explain to your learners that they are going on an adventure through time. This will involve lots of music, dance, dressing up, exploring technologies and tasting favourite foods from the past.

Turn off the lights and make the room as dark as you can.

Play a piece of fifties music (available from *Audio Networks* through C2k) to set the scene.

Make sure you have all your props ready before you start.

Introduce your learners to **Resource 1: The Fifties**.

During the lesson, make a note of your learners' preferences and/or reactions so that you can provide a choice of preferred and non-preferred items during slide 13 of the presentation. Make sure you have handheld mirrors so that your learners can see themselves and you during each activity.

Further Suggestions

Timelines

Search online for resources that might help you to advance the topic such as www.timetoast.com/categories

What You Need



Resource 1: The Fifties (Whiteboard Slides)

- Data projector attached to a laptop
- Interactive whiteboard
- Internet access
- Sound of a manual typewriter (available online) recorded onto an augmented alternative communication device or button
- Video clips of:
 - Elvis singing *Blue Suede Shoes*
 - Teresa Brewer singing *The Hula Hoop Song* and
 - the scene from *The Wizard of Oz* when Dorothy arrives in Oz and the film changes from black and white to colour (available online)
- Music or video clip of a song from *The Sound of Music* (available online)
- Access to My School (*Audio Networks* through C2k)
- Handheld mirrors
- Old typewriter
- Blue suede or velvet
- Hula hoops, tinsel and glitter
- Bunch of grass or candle scented like grass or outdoors
- Fan, switch and PowerLink (to make the fan switch accessible)
- Disney characters or toys, Mickey Mouse ears
- Barbie and Ken dolls
- Glow sticks
- Multi-coloured silk scarves or parachute
- Coloured balls
- Coloured ribbons
- Perfume and aftershave
- Crown covered in jewels, bright colours and different textures (add some small battery-operated lights to the crown, so you can use it in a darker environment)
- Cotton wool balls
- Prince and princess dressing up clothes
- Grapefruit, fruit cocktail and frozen melon balls
- Crushed ice and fruit juices

