

Resource 1: **The Fifties** (*Whiteboard Slides*) (1 of 3)

(available from the Inclusion and SEN at www.nicurriculum.org.uk)

The Fifties

Slide 1:

We're off to the 1950s

Slide 2:

The war years are over and everyone is glad
It's the 1950s and there's a good time to be had

Slide 3:

It's the age of the typewriter, click, click, PING!

Sensory Activities

Use a communication device to play the sound of a manual typewriter. Encourage your learners to press the button to hear the sound. If you have an old typewriter, encourage your learners to experience the feel and sounds of pressing the keys.

Slide 4:

And the age of the transistor radio – when we could hear Elvis sing

Sensory Activities

Give each learner a piece of blue suede or velvet and play Elvis Presley's *Blue Suede Shoes* on a large screen or interactive whiteboard. You may wish to back project the video of Elvis onto a large white sheet and give each learner a personal experience by hanging it from a curtain pole or moveable bar. Encourage all the staff and learners to dance to the music.

Slide 5:

In the 1950s hula hoops were all the rage

Sensory Activities

Place a hula hoop covered in tinsel or glitter over each learner. If appropriate, support them to experience the hula hoop around their waist. Staff can show the learners how to hula hoop and look for their reactions. Play *The Hula Hoop Song* as everyone tries some hula hooping. Encourage lots of swirling and moving to the music.

Slide 6:

And *The Sound of Music* hit the Broadway Stage

Sensory Activities

Play a song from *The Sound of Music*. If you are using the theme track, light a candle with the fragrance of grass or outdoors or encourage your learners to look at, feel and smell fresh grass. To give the feeling of running through the hills, as appropriate, give learners a switch-accessible fan (using PowerLink) or, for battery-operated fans, use a switch battery adaptor (available from www.inclusive.co.uk). Support your learners to feel the wind on their faces and bodies as the track plays.

Slide 7:

Disneyland in California opened for all the world to see

Sensory Activities

Depending on their age, give each learner a Disney toy or model or some Mickey Mouse ears (make your own with your learners). Have a parade with your learners and/or staff dressed up as Disney characters. Wave glow sticks as the characters go past. Play Disney music in the background.

Slide 8:

And in the 1950s they introduced colour TV

Sensory Activities

Project the clip from *The Wizard of Oz* onto a large screen. As this is playing, gently move past your learners, waving silk scarves or dancing with coloured ribbons.

OR

With your learners sitting in a circle, support them to waft a brightly coloured parachute. Gradually introduce coloured objects of different shapes and sizes. Encourage your learners to waft the parachute to make the objects bounce.

Slide 9:

Aged just 25 Princess Elizabeth became Queen

Sensory Activities

Introduce perfume (because a Queen smells nice) and a crown. Younger learners could wear something the Queen might wear.

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Slide 10:

And in the 1950s we met Barbie, the prettiest doll you've ever seen!

Sensory Activities

Encourage your learners to explore dolls, such as Barbie and Ken (for male and female learners). Put some aftershave on a cotton wool ball to represent Ken or perfume to represent Barbie. Younger learners could wear something Barbie/Ken might wear.

Slide 11:

In the 1950s people liked to eat grapefruit and fruit in a cup

Sensory Activities

Depending on their individual needs, encourage each learner to taste, feel or smell two or more of these items: grapefruit, fruit in a cup, frozen melon balls

Slide 12:

Or melon ball cocktails – if you'd like one, put your hand up!

Sensory Activities

Using crushed ice and a range of fruit juices (be aware of allergies), give your learners opportunities to experience tasting very cold fruit drinks. Through this activity, your learners may show a preference or communicate if they would like more.

Slide 13:

So the 1950s were busy with lots of things happening every year.

What was your favourite sensory experience? We'd all like to hear!

Sensory Activities

Give your learners a choice of two experiences from Sections 1–12.

This will work best if you provide one preferred and one non-preferred item. If appropriate, give each learner time to indicate their preference and allow them time to enjoy and experience it.