



## Study Sheets 1-9

# Past and Present: Clothing and Clothing Care

### Petticoat

Petticoats were worn underneath skirts for a few reasons: to keep people warm, to keep them 'modest' (to cover their legs and ankles) and to help create a certain shape for their outer skirts or dress. At times, they were also used to show that you were wealthy! Some dresses or skirts had splits or gaps at the front so petticoats could be seen underneath.

In the early 1800s, women wore many petticoats, in layers. As time went on, some petticoats were made with horsehair or had whalebone in them, so they were stiffer and held their shape better. By the mid-1850s, layers of petticoats were replaced with a crinoline, which looked like a cage with stiff hoops under the skirt to hold it into shape. Petticoats eventually fell out of fashion in the 1960s with the arrival of the mini skirt.

**How do you think it felt to wear lots of petticoats in summer?**

### Corset

A corset is used to hold a lady's body into a certain shape – to pull the waist in tight to make it look smaller. Whalebone or steel (metal) was used to make the corset stiff. Many people say that corsets were so tight that women could not breathe or caused them to faint, but they were adjustable, so perhaps these women were simply doing them up too tight.

**Do you think that it would feel comfortable to wear a corset?**

### Hat

Hats have been worn for thousands of years, worn for various reasons, including protection against weather, for special ceremonies or religions, for safety (like a hard hat) or as a fashion accessory.

Bonnet is another name for a ladies' hat. Often these had a ribbon to tie under the chin. In the first half of the 1800s, women wore bonnets that gradually became larger, decorated with ribbons, flowers and feathers. Many bonnets at that time had a brim only at the front, not at the back.

**Can you describe some hat styles today? What are the main reasons we wear hats now?**

### Gloves

Gloves have existed for thousands of years to keep hands warm or protected from harm.

They were knitted from wool or made from cloth or leather.

As time went on, gloves were made from other materials, like silk and were used for fashion or to show wealth (showing that someone did not need to work with their hands). It was also considered to be polite for women to wear gloves in public.

White gloves got dirty easily so people had to have several pairs that they could swap out throughout the day.

Thin white cotton gloves were also worn by servants, such as butlers or waiters.

**Can you think of some people who might wear gloves today? Why do they wear them?**

## **Jewellery**

Jewellery made from natural materials such as shells, stone and bone has been around for many thousands of years. Next, various metals were used to make jewelry. Some gemstones were believed to have magical powers to protect the wearer (some people still have this belief today). Jewellery was (and still is) also used to show wealth or status– richer people wore precious metals (like gold) and expensive gems (like diamonds).

In the last few centuries, factories have made it much easier to make jewellery and materials like plastics have made it more affordable.

Some modern jewellery looks very different to what was worn in the past, but other designs look very similar. Often, something that was worn thousands of years ago would not look out of place if it was worn today.

Some jewellery is kept as a precious ‘thing’ and handed down from one generation to the next.

**Does your family have any jewelry that has been passed down from your grandparents?**

## **Fur ‘stole’ (scarf)**

Furs were one of the earliest forms of clothing - people in very early times wore them to keep warm, or even as a status symbol (showing the importance of that person). People would often hunt the animal for food and then use the fur for clothing.

Furs were (and still are) also used as a fashion accessory or to show wealth. Furs can be made into jackets, as stoles/scarves or as a trim for boots or gloves.

**Today, many people wear fake fur instead of real fur. Why do you think this is?**

## **Clothing brush for dust and lint on clothes**

Clothes brushes were (and still are) use to brush dirt, dust, hair and lint off clothes, so they can be worn for longer without having to be washed.

**Do you think clothes brushes were more important in the past? Why?**

(Think about how easy it used to be to wash clothes, how many clothes people used to own and how dusty roads or dirty fireplaces used to make clothes harder to keep clean).

## **Sewing kit**

Sewing kits, used to make and mend clothes, were very important in the past, especially when new clothes were not easy to get hold of (for example, in early Australian colonies there were less shops, and ships bringing new supplies took months to arrive). New clothes were also very expensive, so people took the time to mend or adjust/re-use things rather than just throwing them out.

**Are there other ways that people can do their sewing today?**

## **Darning mushroom**

This unusual item was used in the past to mend socks, blankets, jumpers and other knitted items, that had holes in them. The hole was placed over the round part to hold it in place while the person darned (stitched) over the hole.

**When you have a hole in your sock, what do YOU do with it?**



### **Chamber pot**

A chamber pot was used for people who wanted to go to the toilet at night-time and did not want to go all the way to use the outside toilet. In the morning, it was emptied out.

Chamber pots have been used for thousands of years. Some have been found in ancient Egyptian and Roman sites. They have been made from metal (including silver and gold), ceramic and pottery.

In the Victorian era (1800s), ceramic chamber pots with flowers on them were very popular. This was a way to make them seem more respectable.

Over the last 150 years, homes began to be built with an inside toilet. Flushing toilets were introduced too. It depended on where people lived (which country they lived in, and if they lived in a big city or on a farm) as to when they first got indoor, flushing toilets.

**If you lived 150 years ago, who in your family would have been the one that emptied out the chamber pots? Describe what that job would have been like.**

### **Wash bowl /wash basin**

In the past, when there were no taps inside the house, water would have been collected from a well or rainwater tank outside. A bowl or basin filled with water may have been kept inside the house and used multiple times throughout the day before it was changed. They were usually on a wooden bench called a washstand and came with a jug which the water was poured from.

It was only in the mid-1800s that doctors discovered the importance of washing your hands to prevent the spread of germs, but it took a long time for many people to fully understand and accept this idea.

**Why do people no longer use wash bowls?**

### **Soap**

Soap has been used for at least 2000 years. It was initially made from animal fat and ashes and was used as a medicine or for cleaning wool and cotton.

In the past, soap was a luxury and only used by rich people. Before running water was available in homes, people did not wash their bodies or their clothes as much as we do today. As time went on, a lower priced soap was available, so more people began using it in their bathing. Perfumes or scents were added to soaps as they began to be used more widely.

**What different types of soap do we use today?**

### **Comb**

Combs have been used for thousands of years and are used to clean, detangle and style hair, or worn in the hair as an accessory to hold it in place.

Early combs were made of wood, ivory (animal tusks) or animal bone. They were most likely used to remove head lice and dirt.

Modern combs are often made from plastic or metal.

**Do you use a hair brush or a comb? What is it made from?**

## **Hair trimmer**

Manual hair clippers like this one were invented in the mid-1800s. The handles were squeezed together to cut hair close and fast. They are still used in some hairdressers and barbers today to trim moustaches and beards.

Electric clippers have mostly taken over the manual ones nowadays.

**What other modern devices do hairdressers use today?**

## **Medicine bottle**

This medicine bottle is made from glass, with the product name actually embossed into the glass itself. This bottle's lid may have been a glass stopper or a cork. Many modern medicines are stored in plastic bottles, and most have a paper label.

**Can you think of other changes that have been made to make medicines safer from young children? What has been added to make it easier for adults to give medicine to their child?**



## Study Sheets 16-20

# Past and Present: Kitchen

### Fork and spoon

Before cutlery was used, people simply used their fingers to eat their food.

Knives and spoons have been used for much longer than forks. The first spoons came from nature, like small sea-shells attached to a stick. Cutting tools, often made from sharp pieces of stone or bone, were important in these early times to cut food that was hunted for or collected.

Forks were invented over a thousand years ago. For a long time, forks had two prongs or tines instead of four. They were mainly used to hold or toast food. By the mid-1800s, forks had two extra tines so that it was easier to scoop and hold the food in place. Forks then looked pretty much the same as they do today, and most people in regular households used them.

Stainless steel was a material used for cutlery from the early 1900s and this material was sturdy, affordable and had no metallic taste.

**Can you think of some ways that some knives, forks and spoons have been changed since the historical ones in this photo?**

### Tea set

Tea cups have been used for centuries in China, Japan and other parts of Asia. The cups resembled a small bowl, and these are still used in Asia today. Europeans later added handles as they liked to drink their tea hotter.

We do not know exactly when saucers were also added but they became popular from the 1700s. They were used to pass and balance the tea cup. Pouring the tea into the saucer to cool it down, and then sipping it from the saucer was popular until the 20th century. Do you know anyone who does this?

Tea sets now come in a range of shapes and sizes, but many traditional sets still look a lot like they did 200 years ago.

**Can you think of some different materials that people drink tea and coffee out of today?**

### Tea cosy

A tea cosy was placed over a teapot to keep it warm. Some were knitted and others were made with fabric and stuffed with padding.

Tea cosies were used in England and Australia from the mid-1800s. At that time, afternoon tea parties became popular, and as people got busy chatting, the tea would go cold. The nicely decorated tea cosy was used to keep it hot.

**Do you know anyone who uses a tea cosy?**

## **Butter pat**

In the past, butter was made by hand from cow's milk. First, the cream was separated from the milk and then churned (a churn is any type of container used to mix the cream until it thickened to form butter. People's hands would make the butter melt so wooden 'pats' were used to mould the churned butter into shape as the 'buttermilk' was pressed out (the grooves help the liquid to drain away) and salt was mixed in.

**Have you ever tried to make your own butter, or perhaps even seen cream being whipped?**

## **Cream container**

Before plastic containers were widely used, many products used to be sold in containers made from ceramics. These containers may have been reused because they were so sturdy.

Because natural materials were limited, people started to try to find new materials. One of the first real plastics invented was Bakelite, which was first created just over 100 years ago.

Nowadays different types of plastic have been created and are used a lot in packaging, but because it takes so long to break down it can be harmful to the environment. Many people are returning to packaging made from paper or glass or using recycled or reusable containers.

**Can you think of an example where you can avoid using plastic packaging?**



### Laundry

People used to beat or rub their clothes on rocks as they washed in the rivers. Washboards were used a lot in the past and can be made of wood, metal or glass. Washing in a big tub by hand could take hours to complete, especially if you had a big family.

In the early 1900s, electrical washers began to appear and they improved over the last 100 years. Modern washing machines have all sorts of functions so that different types of clothes are washed in different ways to keep them looking as good as new.

**Check out a washing machine at home (or a laundromat) to see all of the modern functions that they have.**

### Wooden pegs

Up to the 1700s, laundry was mainly hung on bushes, branches or lines to dry without pegs.

In the early 1800s, a wooden peg had two prongs but no moving parts.

These pegs were also used by children to make dolls to play with - they look like little people.

In the mid-1800s, inventors began to experiment with different designs with small metal springs or coils inside so that they opened and closed. Over time, more pegs were made of plastic, although people who want eco-friendly pegs can find ones made of wood or metal.

There is now a 'smart peg', made of plastics, which sends messages from your line to your phone to let you know when your sheets are dry, and if it is going to rain.

**What kind of pegs do you have at home?**

### Iron

Irons like this one (called a flat iron), were used since the 1600s, up until the mid-1900s. They were made of cast iron and heated up over the fire or on the stove top. A family might have more than one iron, so that one could be used while the other one was heating up.

Other irons could be filled with hot coals or a lump of metal that was heated in the fire.

Next, irons were heated by fuels like kerosene, ethanol, whale oil or gas (fed through pipes in the house).

Electric irons were first invented in the 1880s but were not used widely until the 1900s when homes got electricity. Steam irons were used from the mid-1900s.

**If you have an iron at home, check it out to see all the features on it (ask an adult to help).**



## Study Sheets 24-28

# Past and Present: Lighting and Home

### Candle

Fire has been used to create light for thousands of years. Stalks from plants were sometimes lit with a flame and carried about like a natural torch. The earliest candles may have been reeds dipped in animal fat or bee's wax. Later, candles were made using tallow (fat) whale oil or paraffin wax. In the late 1800s, candles were used less as oil and kerosene lamps became available.

Different types of light were used at the same time and it very much depended on how rich a family was, and when various types of power were available where they lived.

**Describe some situations where candles are still used today.**

### Kerosene lamp

The earliest lamps or lanterns were made by filling natural containers, like shells, with animal fats and pieces of plant.

Later, lanterns that used oils (such as whale oil) were made from clay and metal, and a glass tube chimney was invented that made it safer to carry and less likely to blow out. As whale oil started to run out, other kinds of oil (made from coal) and gas- powered lanterns. Electric lights were first used in the late 1800s but usually only for public places and street lights. Most Australian homes did not have electric lights until well into the 1900s.

Over time, lights have become easier to use and more energy efficient.

**How many ways can you make light in your home?**

### Fireplace shovel

Fireplaces have been used in homes for centuries – to keep people warm and to cook food.

By the mid-1800s, fireplaces were also decorated with fancy mantles (shelves) and tiles all around them. To keep the area safe and clean, a range of tools, like this shovel, were used.

Fireplaces and their tools still exist today, but with the invention of heaters and air conditioners, they are less common in homes.

**Do you know anyone who has a fireplace?**

### Bag of tools

Most of the tools used in this bag, like the clamp, are still used in woodworking today. In the past, it would have been much more common for people to know how to use these tools and make their own furniture and other items, or to mend things around the home.

**Can you work out what the clamp was used for? Would it still be used today?**



## **Dustpan and broom**

Brooms have been used for centuries. Originally made at home from branches and straw, hay or small twigs, broom factories were making them in the 1800s.

This dustpan and brush may have been made for dusting crumbs off the table. It is possibly silver-plated and the brush may be made from animal hair.

Nowadays we not only have a wide range of dustpans, we also have vacuum cleaners in a variety of sizes, which help clear the crumbs away.

**What is your broom at home made from? Does it have a 'fancy' design like this one with the lady wearing a big skirt?**



## Study Sheet 29

# Past and Present: Money

Before Australia had its own mints (places where money is made) around 1910, the money used in Australia was made in England.

Until 1966, Australian money was divided into pounds (the coins were called sovereigns) (£) shillings (s. or /-) and pennies (d.). There were 12 pence in a shilling and 20 shillings in a pound. Various coins made up these amounts, like farthings (1/4 of a penny), sixpence (equal to six pennies), florins (equal to two shillings) and crowns (1/4 of a pound). These coins were made of copper, bronze, silver and gold.

In the mid-1800s most people would earn much LESS than ONE POUND a WEEK.

On Valentines Day, 1966, Australia changed to decimal currency (dollars and cents). Did you know that the dollar was going to be called the 'royal'?

The largest coin ever made, was made in Perth in 2012!

**Have a look at some modern coins. What information can you find on them?**

Transport is the moving of people and objects from one place to another.



## Study Sheet 30

# Past and Present: Transport

One of the earliest forms of transport was on water, most likely canoes dug out of logs or simple rafts. Next came boats and ships what were first powered by rowing, wind, then steam and then fuel engines.

On land, before different types of transport were invented, people moved from place to place on foot. In some countries, animals such as horses or camels were tamed and ridden. With the invention of the wheel, people created chariots, wagons and carts pulled by animals to carry themselves and their goods. Bicycles, trains and cars changed how we power transport and how far we can go.

Air travel started in 1783 with the first hot air balloon flight and in the early 1900s with airplanes. Now there are space vessels that have travelled to the moon and beyond.

### **How many different forms of transport have you been on?**

Early navigation relied on landmarks and stars and knowing winds, with songs and stories being told to help people find their way.



## Study Sheet 31

# Past and Present: Navigation

The invention of tools like the compass, the astrolabe, back-staff/cross staff and sextant gradually made navigation easier and better over time and maps were created as new areas were explored.

We now have technology that uses satellites in space to tell us exactly where we are and highly accurate maps that help us find our way without getting lost (or shipwrecked)

**At home, ask an adult to show you a map on their phone or on a computer.**

People communicate in lots of different ways. Communication through speech has been around for thousands and thousands of years.



## Study Sheets 32-33

# Past and Present: Communication

Writing first developed in the form of pictures, then symbols and then various alphabets were created. People communicated by drawing, painting or writing on rocks, caves and early forms of paper.

Mail delivery services have been around for about 500 years. It used to take a lot longer for mail to arrive if you had to wait for a letter to come from overseas.

Newspapers have been around since the 1600s, and the first Australian newspapers appeared in the 1800s.

In the late 1800s, telephones were invented.

Radios were used by people from the 1920s onwards, and in the 1940s, television was invented.

Now we communicate with all of these things – mail, newspapers, telephone (including mobile phones), radio, television and also email and the internet, which has allowed us to get messages from all over the world in just a matter of seconds!

**Can you describe all the different things we can do using a mobile phone? What would a person from 100 years ago think of this amazing device?**

### Quill and ink pot for writing

The earliest pens were most likely 'reed pens' – a thin reed from a river was dipped in ink to write with.

Next came quills – bird feathers dipped in ink. These were used for hundreds of years.

Metal nibs were used in pens from around the 1820s, but they still had to be constantly dipped in ink.

In the late 1800s, people finally invented a pen that stored the ink inside it. This was called a fountain pen.

In the 1900s, pens were invented with a little rolling ball inside it, which helped the ink to flow smoothly out of the pen.

Pens today come in thousands of colours and designs that glow, sparkle, smell, highlight and even draw on computer tablets!

**Do you have any fancy or interesting pens? Describe them!**



## Study Sheets 34-35

# Past and Present: Entertainment

Many simple toys have been around for hundreds or even thousands of years. However, most children in the past only ever owned a few toys. They were hard to make or expensive to buy, and children had to work much more helping around the home so there was less time to play.

**Playing cards** have been around for centuries. The design that we see today has not changed much in the past few hundred years. There are many different games that can be played with a standard pack of cards, with new games being invented all the time.

**Knucklebones** were often the ankle bone of an animal like a sheep or small stones, knucklebones games have been played in some form for thousands of years. People in different countries play different types of throwing and catching games with the small items.

**Marbles** have been played for thousands of years, with clay balls or small stones. Glass marbles first appeared in the 1800s. Marble games were very popular in Australia, especially in the late 1800s and the 1900s. They were small (easy to carry) and not that expensive to buy.

**Skipping ropes** may have been played in Ancient Egypt and in China. In Europe, skipping ropes were played with since the 1600s.

**Quoits** or ring toss have been played for around 200 years. Before that, people played similar games with items such as horseshoes. Deck quoits, made from rope, were popular on long ship journeys.

**Can you think of some other games and toys that might have been around for a long time? Ask your parents and grandparents what games they played when they were at school.**