

A boyhood home

1. Famous Places

Do you know these places?

1. Buckingham Palace
2. Windsor castle
3. Chatsworth House
4. Stonehenge
5. Brighton beach
6. The Cornish coast
7. The Lake District

- What have they got in common?
- Why do people visit them?
- What types of places or buildings are visited in your country?
- Have you ever visited a historic building or place? Where did you go?
- Have you been to somewhere unusual or far away?
- Have you visited the house where a famous person was born or the tomb of someone?
- What happens if lots of visitors go to these places?

2. Describing buildings

Look at the phrases below. They have been used to describe a place.

One of the Nation's treasures

Authentic

Historically perfect

Frozen in time

Researched and restored

Very special

In keeping with the period

The right period

Just as it was

- What type of place is being described here?
- How old do you think it is?
- What types of places could be called your 'Nation's treasures'?
- Who pays to restore and keep these treasures safe?
- Have any buildings in your town been restored recently?

3. The language of time

How do you say the following periods?

The 1950s

The 1800s

The 1650s

The 20th century

The 17th century

The 15th century

1945 - 1960

1700 - 1789

1300 – 1460

- Listen to your teacher and write the period that you hear.
- Check that you're correct.

4. A Boyhood Home: part 1

Read the text 'A Boyhood Home' on the next page and make notes under these headings:

- The type of building
- The location
- The period
- The person who lived there
- The organisation responsible for the restoration work

A Boyhood Home

Part 1

Menlove Avenue is an ordinary street in a typical English suburb on the outskirts of Liverpool. Number 251 is called 'Mendips'. It is a modest semi on the outside but inside is like taking a trip back in time. Inside you are in 1960 and you have to pay to visit this very modest, but very special home. It is believed to be one of the nation's treasures.

The National Trust thought it was a real treasure and spent thousands of pounds taking it back to its original state. Every part of the house was researched and restored and put back to the late 1950s. The wallpaper, the flooring, the lights, the furniture and the kitchen are all authentic. The décor is historically perfect. Even the garden is restored in keeping with the 1950s period. The bedroom where the famous occupant started to play his first guitar is frozen in time for all to see. The Elvis posters, the Brigitte Bardot magazine pictures and the bedspread are all from the right period.

It took months of research and thousands of pounds to get the house just as it was when he lived there. And they come to see it. At the last count, several thousand curious fans and tourists had squeezed in to this tiny home. This is all part of the work that the Trust knows well. This National charity, set up in 1895, works to protect buildings, land and coastline all around the UK. The aim is to preserve our heritage and make sure that the nation continues to enjoy it. This perfection to detail costs millions. The ticket money from 'Mendips' should pay to keep this boyhood home safe. Sometimes the money from visitors is not enough and the Trust looks to National Lottery money and private donations to keep castles, stately homes and sections of coastline from being destroyed or lost.

5. Guess who

Read the text again and try to guess:

- The type of person who might visit 'Mendips'.
- The name of the person who lived there.
- If the person is still alive.
- How old the person might be.
- Where the person might live now.

Would you like to live in a house that received lots of visitors?

6. Find out

Write 2 questions to find out more about 'Mendips' and its mystery occupant then ask your teacher the questions. Your teacher can only answer 'yes' or 'No'.

Read Part 2 of the text below and compare your answers in Task 5 to the text.

- Were you close?
- Would you visit 'Mendips'?
- Why? Why not?

How do you think the people living in the same street must feel about so many tourists coming?

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Part 2

Lennon lived at 'Mendips' for 16 years, from 1945 until 1963. He arrived as a five-year-old and left as a World-famous pop star. He lived there with his Aunt Mimi and Uncle George. Mimi didn't like the sounds of his guitar coming from the bedroom and told him, 'The guitar's all very well John, but you'll never make a living out of it'. When John became famous, he had her words framed and gave them as a present to his aunt to put on the wall at 'Mendips'.

He composed The Beatles' first UK Number One record in Mimi's bedroom. She remembered that he 'never had a pencil out of his hand'. He was always throwing away bits of paper with poems and lyrics on them. He even told Mimi to pick up the bits of paper because 'I'm going to be famous one day and they're going to be worth something'.

Today there is a huge interest in buying Beatles and Lennon memorabilia. It costs twelve pounds to visit his boyhood home, but his personal possessions and writings can cost thousands of pounds. Visitors to 'Mendips' range from school age right through to old age pensioners. The Director General of The National Trust sums up Lennon, John Lennon, as an 'icon of 20th century popular culture'.

7. Your childhood home

John Lennon moved to 'Mendips' when he was five.

- a. Which parts of the home were special to him?
- b. What memories does Mimi have of him at home?
- c. Where did you spend your childhood?

Make notes under the headings below:

- Location
- The people you lived with
- Parts of the house/flat
- Colours
- Furnishings
- Objects
- Your room
- Your favourite part of the home
- A memory associated with this home.

Ask each other about your childhood home or a place you lived in when you were younger.

8. All about John Lennon

Yoko Ono bought 'Mendips' and gave it to The National Trust as a present. Yoko Ono was John's second wife. She believes that John was 'the most remarkable man that ever walked'.

1. What do you know about John Lennon and The Beatles?
2. Your teacher will give you a text about John Lennon. Read his life story and make questions to find the missing information.
3. Ask your partner questions to find the missing information.

John Lennon's life - STUDENT A

Early years

In 1940 Lennon was born in Liverpool on [] Only child of Fred and Julia Lennon.

1945: Parents separated and John goes to live with his mother's sister Mimi at 'Mendips'.

1956: Started his own group a skiffle group called 'The Quarry Men'. [] bought him his first guitar.

1956: [] and added two art school friends to his band, Stu Sutcliffe and Pete Best.

1957: Paul McCartney joined 'The Quarry men' and George Harrison joined in 1958.

1958: The group changed their name to 'The Beatles' and got work in Hamburg

1961: [] left the group.

1961: Back in Liverpool the group got a manager, a local businessman called Brian Epstein. The group got a recording contract with [] and replaced Pete Best with a new drummer, Ringo Starr.

Beatlemania and fame

1963: They had their first number one in the UK chart with 'Please, Please Me' Beatlemania was born.

[] John had his first child, Julian, with wife Cynthia.

1964: The Beatles toured the USA and were a huge success. In the mid-60s, The Beatles were the world's biggest band. Lennon and McCartney were very skilled songwriters.

1967: Their career was at its height, and they released their psychedelic classic album []. Brian Epstein, their manager, died of an overdose.

A solo career

1967: John left Cynthia for the avant-garde artist Yoko Ono.

1969: John married [] and released his famous single 'Give peace a chance'.

1970: The Beatles split up and John started a solo career. He became involved in political causes with Yoko Ono and staged a series of 'bed-ins' in protest for []

1971: Lennon's most productive year and he released his most successful solo albums 'Plastic Ono band' and 'Imagine'. He moved to New York.

1973: Lennon split for a while from Yoko Ono and had a drugs and alcohol problem

1974: John was reunited with Yoko.

[] they had a son called Sean

1975-80: John took a 5-year break from work to bring up his son because he hadn't spent much time with his first son Julian.

1980: John released the album 'Double fantasy' and it went to number one in many countries.

1980: John was shot dead outside his home in New York, near Central Park. The assassin was []

John Lennon's life - STUDENT B

Early years

In 19[] Lennon was born in Liverpool on October 9th. Only child of Fred and [] Lennon.

1946: Parents separated and John goes to live with his mother's sister Mimi at 'Mendips'.

[] Started his own group, a skiffle group called 'The Quarry Men'. Aunt Mimi bought him his first guitar.

1956: He left school and went to Art college and added two art school friends to his band, Stu Sutcliffe and Pete Best.

1959: Paul McCartney joined 'The Quarry men' and George Harrison joined in []

1960: The group changed their name to 'The Beatles' and got work in []

1961: Sutcliffe left the group.

1961: Back in Liverpool the group got a manager, a local businessman called []. The group got a recording contract with EMI and replaced Pete Best with a new drummer, Ringo Starr.

Beatlemania and fame

[] They had their first number one in the UK chart with 'Please, Please Me' Beatlemania was born.

1963: John had his first child, Julian, with wife Cynthia.

1964: The Beatles toured [] and were a huge success. In the mid-60s The Beatles were the world's biggest band. Lennon and McCartney were very skilled songwriters.

1967: Their career was at its height and they released their psychedelic classic album 'Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band'. Brian Epstein, their manager, died of []

A solo career

[] John left Cynthia for the avant-garde artist Yoko Ono.

1969: John married Yoko and released his famous single 'Give peace a chance'.

1970: The Beatles [] and John started a solo career. He became involved in political causes with Yoko Ono and staged a series of 'bed-ins' in protest for World peace.

1971: Lennon's most productive year and he released his most successful solo albums 'Plastic Ono band' and 'Imagine'. He moved to []

1973: Lennon split for a while from Yoko Ono and had a drugs and alcohol problem

[] John was reunited with Yoko.

1976: On John's birthday they had a son called Sean.

1975-80 John took a 5-year break from work to bring up his son because he hadn't spent much time with his first son Julian.

1980 John released the album [] and it went to number one in many countries.

1980 John was shot dead outside [] The assassin was a crazy fan.

9. Icons

The National Trust say that John Lennon is an icon for the 20th century popular culture.

- Write a definition for the word icon.
- Name three icons of popular culture worldwide.
- Choose the three most important icons of popular culture in your country.
- Decide which factors make a person an icon.
- Choose one person and describe why they are important.