



wild dog

**Wild Dog Books
Teachers' Notes**

Home: Then & Now

Synopsis

People have been living in houses and making them their homes for thousands of years. Home is the place where we spend most of our lives. It is where we sleep, eat and play. It is where we grow from an infant to an adult. It is where we raise a family. Home is more than just a building: it can be a place of refuge and comfort where we go to escape from the rest of the world. The homes of today are very different from those of the past. Welcome to the fascinating world of *Homes: Then and Now*.

Writing style

Home: Then & Now has been designed with the needs of early readers and reluctant readers in mind. Running along the top of each page is a simple, succinct idea, which is then supported by more detailed text underneath. The information conveyed by the text has a natural and understandable flow, and the large format images relate directly to the text, so young readers have multiple entry points to engaging with the information.

Photographic style

The *Then & Now* series uses an artful layout that compares the past with the present in a way that children will readily understand. On the left-hand-side are historical images that, along with illustrating the concepts of the past, beautifully illuminate what life was like for our ancestors; on the right-hand-side are modern examples of those same concepts. These photographs also have the advantage that the image is static, giving the reader the opportunity to explore the image and look at the subject matter and its features in detail. The photographs are also strongly composed and clearly printed with bright strong colours to increase the appeal to visual readers. Readers can explore how photographs are used to convey messages.

Study notes

Themes:

- Descriptive words
- Home
- Family life & relationships
- The notion of change over time
- Changing technology
- Changes in society
- Past versus present
- History

Curriculum link: Literacy

Before reading *Home: Then & Now*:

- Brainstorm what students think about home.
- What is their first response when they look at the cover of the book?

- What is life like in their home today? What do they think home would have been like in the past?

While reading *Home: Then & Now*:

- Ask the students to take turns reading a paragraph aloud to the rest of the class. Where appropriate, ask the students what they think certain words may mean.
- Ask the students to keep a table list of the concepts and features that are important to homes. In one column list the concept as it was in the past, and in the second column put the concept as it is in the present. In the third column, write how and why these concepts have changed over time.

After reading *Home: Then & Now*:

- Ask the students to reflect on the words they would use to describe homes and the words that have been used in the book. Ask them to draw up a list of words that can be used to describe homes.

Curriculum Theme: Critical and Creative Thinking

After reading *Home: Then & Now* ask the students the following questions:

- What is a home?
- Is there a difference between a house and a home?
- Why is home important?
- What are some of the major concepts/elements of home?
- How have these concepts/elements changed over time, and why?
- How might these concepts/elements change in the future?
- What are their favourite aspects of home?
- What are their least favourite aspects of home?

Curriculum link: ICT Capability

After reading *Home: Then & Now*:

- Organise the class into small groups. Assign each group a single room in a house i.e. kitchen, bedroom, living room etc. Ask them to research online and find out what examples of their room looked like in the year 1850, 1900, 1950 and 2000/today. Each group should answer the following questions for each time period: What are the defining features of that room? How was the room used, and by whom? What objects are in it? Are these objects the same in other time periods? How have they changed? How has their room changed over time?
- Ask the children to look for and print images relating to their room from the four different time periods. Specifically, look for objects commonly found in their room.
- Ask each group to create a poster collage. Ask them to attach the images they found and to write a short sentence detailing what their room is, how it is used, what its defining features/objects are and how the room/its defining objects changed over time. All members of the group then take turns presenting their findings to the rest of the class.

Curriculum Theme: Personal and Social Capability

After reading *Home: Then & Now*:

- Organise the class into two groups. In one group, ask the students to work as a team to construct a word finder puzzle. Ask each student to suggest an appropriate word about home using words they have learned from the book (e.g. canvas, prefabricated, outhouse etc.). Once completed, print copies for the other group to complete.
- In the second group, students should work as a team to create a trivia bingo game. Ask each student to suggest a fact they found surprising or interesting. Combine these facts into a game for the whole class.

Find out more

- <http://www.myplace.edu.au/default.asp>
- <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/houses.html>
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/395078/housing-through-the-centuries/>
- <http://www.historyforkids.net/roman-houses.html>
- <http://www.historyforkids.net/greek-homes.html>
- <http://www.historyforkids.net/egyptian-houses.html>

Marketing and promotion

Home: Then & Now is the latest title in a series looking at everyday objects and places, and examining how they have changed over time. Past titles include *Transport*, *Toys & Games* and *Schools*, while future titles such as *Jobs* and *Fashion* are planned.