



museum without walls

MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

PHOTO STUDY

Education

Teacher Ideas

Photographs can illustrate very clearly how some things have changed and others stayed the same over time. If we look closely at the clothes people are wearing, their hairstyle, belongings and what they are doing we can come to conclusions about transport, fashion, occupations, buildings, technology or the environment.

However, photographs do not always give a complete picture of the past. In the days of early photography people had to hold an expression for a long time and it was hard to hold a smile, so people looked serious, mean or bored.

Photographers often photographed what they wanted people to see or what they thought was important. The ordinary lives people lived weren't considered worthwhile so we don't have photos of women washing with the washboard or kids playing marbles.



After discussing the questions in the photo study your class might want to imagine what ordinary things they could photograph that would show something about their life for somebody in the future.

Pinjarra Rd

These two photos are taken from about the same spot around 40-50 years apart.

In the top photo there is a white building on the right hand side. This is the Rangers Office, but it used to be the Agricultural Hall.

1. Can you find the same building in the bottom photo? Circle it.
2. Spot the difference:
How has the street changed?

3. Spot the sameness:
How has the street stayed the same?

4. What might be the reasons for the changes you can see?

5. What is something that you would see now that is not shown in the top photo?

6. Can you see evidence of things that may have been invented between the old photo and the newer photo?

7. In the old photo, on the left hand side there is a white low fence with bushes. What do you think is behind the trees?



Eastern Foreshore

These three photographs show how the Eastern foreshore has always been a popular place for recreation.

1. Order the three photos in order from the oldest photo to the most modern. How did you decide which was the oldest?

2. a) What are people doing in the oldest photo?

- b) Would you be allowed to do that now? Why/why not?

3. There were no BBQs in those days, how do you think they would do their cooking?

4. How did you choose the order of the second and third photo?

5. What is something in the most modern photo that is not in the first photo?
What does that tell us about how the world has changed?

6. Do people still swim in the water by the jetties and the old bridge?

7. Would you swim at the foreshore? Why/Why not?

8. The girl has brought down her beach ball. Beach Balls were popular and modern toys in the 1960s. What would you bring to the foreshore?

What would your family do if they spent the day down at the foreshore?



Pleasant Grove School and Dalrymple's School

The top photo shows the school, teacher and students of the Pleasant Grove School in 1912. The bottom photo shows the school photo outside Dalrymple's School in 1916, situated near the old bridge in Mandurah (now part of the Mandurah Community Museum).

1. What's the first thing that strikes you about these photos?

2. What does each photo tell you about (dot points only)

a) the size of the school?

b) the students?

c) the buildings?

3. Do the photos show primary or secondary schools?

4. Why do you think there were so few students in each school?

5. Why do you think there are more students in Dalrymple's School in Mandurah than at Pleasant Grove?

6. The photos were taken about the same time. Why do you think Dalrymple's School was made of brick while Pleasant Grove was made out of wood and tin?

7. What is the tank on the side of Pleasant Grove School used for?

8. What are some of the differences and similarities between these photos and your class/school photos?



Other observations students might be encouraged to make:

- Population
- Fashion
- Difference between Pleasant Grove (bush setting) and Mandurah (town)
- School age – what age would students have left school

