

BRITAIN IN THE EARLY 1900s

A time of change?

Britain in the early 1900s is often described as a time of change. In this exercise you are going to study a range of sources to see whether there is any evidence to support this view.

1. Carefully study *Pendlebury Colliery* (1901) and *Tram Ride into Halifax* (1902). These scenes are from the early 1900s, but it would be easy to mistake them for scenes from a much earlier period. Explain why.
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2. Now examine *Panoramic View of the Morecambe Sea Front* (1901), *University Procession on Degree Day, Birmingham* (1901) and *Leeds Athletic and Cycling Club Carnival* (1902). What evidence is there in these films that life in the early 1900s has moved on since Victorian times? Look for evidence of:
 - ▶ opportunities for the middle classes
 - ▶ leisure time and spending money
 - ▶ transport technology.★ ★ ★
3. Now study more films – *Manchester Street Scene* (1901), *Electric Tram Rides from Forster Square, Bradford* (1902) and *Jamaica Street, Glasgow* (1901). Look out for features which are still around today, such as:
 - ▶ surfaced roads
 - ▶ lighting
 - ▶ shops and businesses
 - ▶ public transport
 - ▶ electricity
 - ▶ telephones.★ ★ ★
4. Finally, write a paragraph or create a cloud diagram with the title: ‘How modern was Britain in the early 1900s?’ Make sure you list the ways in which Britain was both modern and not modern at this time.