

Alive Activity 1

The Times They Are a Changing

Local Survey



Setting the Context

The teacher explains that Ireland has undergone massive cultural changes in the past 40 years and outlines some of the factors that affected these changes:

- » Environment
- » Increased Migration
- » Increase in Service Industry
- » Improved Communication
- » Improved access to education
- » Improved access to the media

The teacher then can discuss the above and decide to add to, or modify the factors listed with reference to their local community. The teacher can then pose a more complex question: How Different is Our Area Now in Comparison to 40 Years Ago?



Time

This activity should take you no longer than ten hours of research and preparation.



Research

The teacher organises the class to research in what ways life has changed in their local area in the past 40 years and to prepare to present their findings in another setting (to another class, a group of parents, local people, local authorities etc.) S/he explains that to find out what life was like 40 years ago they can use multiple sources

- » Visit a local library and read local newspapers from the 1960s, paying particular attention to advertising.
- » Find photographs from the 1960s of the area and compare them with recent photos to see what physical changes have taken place, particularly in relation to housing and shops.
- » Compare Census information from the 1960s with the latest figures available for the local area.
- » Design and collate a Questionnaire (or modify the sample questionnaire) to elicit information from older citizens.



Preparing Presentation

When all the information is collated and analysed students can present it either in a large chart or as a PowerPoint Presentation.



Sample Activities for Event Preparation

- » Decide on audience and design and send invitations
- » Organise for local press to be there
- » Prepare opening speeches
- » Decide on a chairperson and the running of order
- » Organise venue



Sample Activities for Event Preparation

- » Prepare refreshments
- » Question and Answer session
- » Give vote of thanks
- » Clean up



Potential Partner Activity

- » Host a video conference with your partner school on the issue of significant changes in your countries over the last forty years. You could also include your vision of what your country might be like in forty years time.
- » Create a short audio-tape of some of the voices of the people who remember Ireland 40 years ago and what they see as the changes. Send this to your partner school for use in their language class.

Sample Questionnaire – Changes in the Local Area

You and your Family

1. Please complete the following details about yourself.

Age Group		Gender	
40 - 59	60+	Male	Female

2. How many people ordinarily lived in your family home? (Please tick)

Mother	Father	Children			Other Relatives (Specify)
		1-2	3-4	5+	

3. Were your parents employed outside the home? (If yes, please tick)

Mother	Father

4. Did the family sit down together at mealtimes? (If yes, please tick)

Breakfast	Main Meal	Supper

5. When did you eat the main meal of the day (Dinner)? (Please tick)

Midday	Evening

6. How many days of the week did dinner usually consist of:

Traditional Irish Food	Pasta Dishes	Rice Dishes	Chinese Food	Fast Food/ Take Away	Convenience foods -Frozen

7. How many of each of the following did the family have?

Radio	TV		Record Player/Tape Recorder/Stereo system	Video	Car
	Black & White	Colour			

You and your Education

8. What level of education did you complete? (Please tick)

Primary	Children		Third Level
	Junior Cert	Leaving Cert	

9. Did children of other nationalities attend your school?

Yes	No

10. How did you usually get to school? (Please tick)

Walk	Cycle	Car	Bus

You and Leisure, Entertainment and Money

11. Did you have a part-time or holiday job while attending second-level school?

Yes	No

12. If yes, how much did you earn per week? (Please tick)

< €1	€1 – < €5	€5 – €10	Other

13. Where and how did you spend your leisure time?
Please indicate whether daily (D), weekly (W), monthly (M), never (N).

Sports	Shopping for clothes, DVDs etc	Listening to music/ watching TV	Dancing/ disco	Pubs	Other – please specify

14. Were teenagers well catered for in the local area when you were at school?

Yes	No

15. Are modern teenagers well catered for in your local area today?

Yes	No

16. In your opinion how does life for modern teenagers in your local area compare with life in your teens?
(Please tick)

Happier	Not as happy	About the same

Changes in your Local Area

17. What are the main changes you have seen in your local area since you were a teenager?

18. How has life improved in your local area since you were a teenager?

19. What has changed for the worst in your local area since you were a teenager?