

Object information





Beaded necklace and costume jewellery

Wearing necklaces like these long beads were popular in the 1950s/60s. They would look elegant alongside a woman's outfit.

Suggested conversation starters: accessories, what you kept in your handbag, family heirlooms and hand-me-downs.



Beaded Purse

This beautiful, beaded purse is from the 1920s and would have been used by a fashion-conscious woman. Fashion in the 1920s underwent modernisation post-World War One. Women began wearing loose, less restrictive clothing and beaded purses like this one may have been used by a lady dressing in the 'flapper' style, which included a bobbed haircut and short dresses.

Suggested conversation starters: accessories, what you kept in your handbag, family heirlooms and hand-me-downs.



Childs Snake Buckle belt

This type of belt fastening is called a snake fastening due to the S shape that slots together to fasten the elastic belt. They are popular for children in the 1920s – 1960s

Suggested conversation starters: favourite clothes as a child and as an adult.



Driving gloves

Driving gloves were worn to help drivers grip the steering wheel. They were usually made of leather and were an essential accessory for a driver in the past.

Suggested conversation starters: accessories, what you kept in your handbag, family heirlooms and hand-me-downs.



Fab 1975 Annual

This annual celebrates everything popular in the year 1975, including fashion, music and not forgetting the haircuts!

Suggested conversation starters: favourite music, seventies trends, popular hairstyles of the past!



Girls dress

This colourful, flowery, puff sleeve patterned dress is a typical young girls summer dress.

Suggested conversation starters: favourite clothes as a child and as an adult.



Large knickers

Large knickers like these are sometimes called bloomers. Bloomers were larger than these knickers and came about in Victorian times to be worn under dresses and were controversial as they exposed a woman's ankle!

Suggested conversation starters: funny fashions, bygone trends.



Men's silk dressing gown

This is a silk, fancy men's dressing gown/robe. It has a stitched pattern. It could also be a smoking jacket. Robes like this were popular in the 1920s.

Suggested conversation starters: comfy clothes, sleepovers, relaxation.



Men's ties

Wide, colourful men's neck ties like these are usually called 'Kipper' ties and these funky styles were popular in the 1970s/80s.

Suggested conversation starters: work uniforms and dress codes, weddings and special events.



Paisley dress

The pattern on this dress is the popular Paisley style that originated in Persia and became popular in the UK in the 1800s. The name comes from the Scottish town called Paisley that reproduced the design using jacquard looms.

Suggested conversation starters: changing fashions through the decades.



Pink psychedelic dress

This beaded mini dress was popular in the 1960s. Once seen as provocative and rebellious, dresses like this symbolised a growing female independence as women broke away from traditional gender rules and rejected the clothing previously worn by their mothers. The bright colours are typical of the 60's 'Psychedelic' era.

Suggested conversation starters: changing fashions through the decades.



Platform shoes

These wooden, wedge heeled platform shoes were made by Hiltons. Platform shoes like this became popular in the 1960s. Both men and women wore chunky heels like this. This style is still fashionable today.

Suggested conversation starters: changing fashions through the decades, uncomfortable fashions.



Rain hat

This unusual plastic rain bonnet is from the 1960s. Women would have carried this around and wore it to protect their hairstyle when it started to rain.

Suggested conversation starters: British weather, countryside and seaside trips.



Spectacles and case

Blue, large, stylish spectacles complete with blue case. Did you know that spectacles were invented in Italy in the 13th Century!

Suggested conversation starters: NHS glasses, different eyewear, sunglasses.



Train design knitted jumper

A child's knitted jumper with a train design. This jumper is for a child aged 3–4 years old and was sold in Marks and Spencer's under their St Michel brand. The St Michael trademark was introduced in 1928 as a guarantee of quality and value. Marks and Spencer's stopped using the brand in the year 2000.

Suggested conversation starters: childhood favourites, cartoon characters.



Tweed trilby hat

The trilby hat is characterised by its narrow brim, indented crown, and a slightly upturned back. Hats like this gained popularity in the early twentieth century. Tweed hats are associated with working men.

Suggested conversation starters: changing fashions, tradition of wearing hats.



Velvet Peaked Hat

Hats like these are often called a Bakerboy or Newsboy hat because of their resemblance to the traditional style that working boys wore in the early twentieth century. They are usually made up of 8 panels sewn together, with a button on top. This one is made from Velvet.

Suggested conversation starters: changing fashions, tradition of wearing hats.



Yellow Dress

This pretty yellow dress is from the 1950s. Fashions became more colourful in the 50s after the Second World War.

Suggested conversation starters: changing fashions through the decades.

You can see various fashions through time in the following galleries at our venues:

York Castle Museum

1960s, Secrets of Dress, 1914: When the World Changed Forever, Victorian Street.

York Art Gallery

Burton Gallery.

Alongside these objects, you'll find our Collection Cards that feature images of items from our museums and galleries, with prompts, questions, and facts to spark more conversations.