

Object information





Blue boy's swimming trunks

These fashionable boy's trunks were sold in Marks and Spencer's under their St Michael 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: summer holidays, Butlins, learning to swim, competitions.



Bucket and Spade

This colourful, metal bucket and spade are from the 1950s. It shows children playing on the beach.

Suggested conversation starters: day trip to the beach, Scarborough, Bridlington, Whitby.



Black swimsuit

Black swimsuit by Jantzen, size 36. The Jantzen brand was established in the USA in the early twentieth century. Strapped one-piece swimsuits like this were popular in the 1950s.

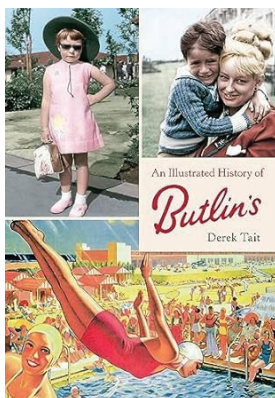
Suggested conversation starters: summer holidays, Butlins, learning to swim, competitions.



Brut travel pack

Brut was launched in 1964 by the American firm Fabergé Inc. And is still popular today. This Brut 33 Travel Pack includes mini versions of 'Splash on Lotion,' 'Balsam plus protein shampoo,' 'Creme Shave' and 'stick deodorant.'

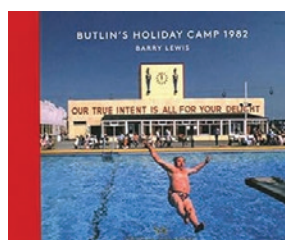
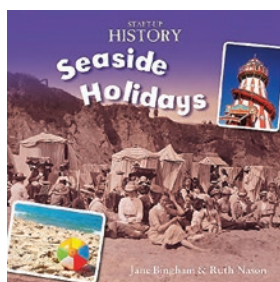
Suggested conversation starters: men's aftershaves, shaving, gifts.



Butlin's and holiday books

The first Butlin's Holiday Camp opening in Skegness in 1936 by Billy Butlin. It wasn't the first holiday camp the UK though; The Cunningham Young Men's Holiday Camp, opened in 1894 by Joseph and Elizabeth Cunningham on the Isle of Man. UK holiday camps began to decline in popularity in the 1980s when foreign travel became cheaper and European companies like Eurocamp and Eurosites built similar experiences but in warmer climates!

Suggested conversation starters: Holiday camps, holiday entertainment, pools and slides, weather.



Camera

This camera is made by AGFA – a Belgian-German company that was established in 1867. This model is from 1969.

Suggested conversation starters: new technologies, family albums.



Campervan model

Mobile homes, and campervans became popular holiday accommodation in the 1950s, giving people the opportunity to travel the length and breadth of the UK with home comforts.

Suggested conversation starters: camping, British weather, different types of holiday accommodation.



Flask

Lots of people take picnics to the beach whilst on holiday for a day out. It's always hard not to get sand in your sandwiches! This is a typical flask for hot drinks or soup from the 1970s.

Suggested conversation starters: picnics, countryside walks, what was your favourite drink or soup.



Instamatic Camera

Kodak introduced the Instamatic Camera in 1963. It used their own exclusive 126 film format. They were compact, simple and popular with holiday makers. Production of this style of camera and film stopped in 1988.

Suggested conversation starters: photo albums, competitions, film reels, getting them developed, move to digital cameras.



Jelly Shoes

Although shoes like this look everyday now, they were the height of fashion in the mid to late 20th Century with styles being made by designers like Jean-Paul Gaultier.

Suggested conversation starters: summer fashions.



Stylish Visor

These became very popular in the 1980s, especially for new activities like rollerblading and mini golf!

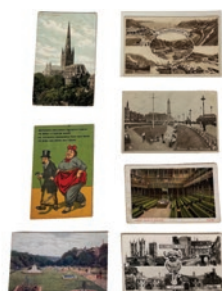
Suggester conversation starters: funny fashions, mini golf, rollerblading.



Punch and Judy puppets

Punch and Judy puppet shows have been entertaining British people since 1662. They were very popular entertaining children on seaside holidays in Victorian times.

Suggested Conversation Starters: Childhood holidays, seaside trips.



Postcards

Postcards were introduced in 1870. They are an informal way to keep in touch with friends and family when you are away on holiday and let them know how you are. They can include photos of locations or funny cartoons.

Suggested conversation starters: holidays, weather, advertising.



Sunglasses

Circular stylish sunglasses like these became popular in the 1960s, but we have similar ones at York Castle Museum which were made in the 1880s!

Suggested conversation starters: different eyewear and styles.



Travel Iron

This is a handy travel iron from the 1950s. Travellers would need to plug its power into the light socket whilst using it!

Suggested conversation starters: camping, packing essentials, what do you have to take with you? Tea bags?



Yellow Shorts

These snazzy boys swim shorts are from the 1980s. In the 19th century, people wore heavy woollen outfits. By the 1920s, one-piece suits became popular, and 1960s saw the rise of bikinis, and swimsuits continued to evolve in design and materials.

Suggested conversation starters: summer holidays, Butlins, learning to swim, competitions.



Yellow Terry Towelling Bikini

1970s yellow/orange two-piece bikini made from a terry towelling material. I wonder what it was like wearing this? It was sold in Marks and Spencer's under their St Michael brand.

Suggested conversation starters: summer holidays, Butlins, learning to swim, competitions.

You can see displays linked to holidays in the past in the following galleries at our venues:

York Castle Museum	1914: When the World Changed Forever, Secrets of Dress.
Yorkshire Museum	Fossil Gallery.
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.