

School bags then and now

Here are some things that you might have found in a 1950s school bag and in a modern school bag.



Questions

1. Which items might you find in a 1950s school bag?



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2. Which items might you find in a school bag today?



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3. What other things might you find in a school bag today that you would not find in a school bag from the 1950s?



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School bags then and now

Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

Copies of the worksheet.

Using the worksheet

This activity gives students a chance to see, graphically, the difference between what a student might bring to school in the 1950s and today. This is not meant to be a factual account of exactly what could be found in a school bag, but more of a point of departure for discussion.

The 1950s bag would have had pens with nibs and ink, as well as pencils, because ballpoint pens were expensive and rarely used. Of course, a slingshot would probably not be allowed in school, much as a phone might not be today, but it gives students the idea of what kids in the 1950s would have had access to. A yo-yo might have been allowed in school. They were a popular toy, and kids today rarely play with them.

'The Eagle' was the most popular comic in the 1950s. There were no magazines about pop music.

Younger students

You may want students to make a survey of what things everyone in the class has in their bag or backpacks. You may also like to explain that school rules in the 1950s were often more strict about what could and couldn't be brought into school.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Identify items that a student might use in the 1950s.
- Compare items used at school in the 1950s with items used today.
- Understand that students in the 1950s had access to different learning materials than students today.

Older students

Students might like to take a survey of what things students have in their bags or backpacks.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Identify items that a student might use in the 1950s.
- Compare items used at school in the 1950s with items used today.
- Understand that students in the 1950s had access to different learning materials than students today.