

= Life Story Quest =

CONNECTING IN
CHALLENGING TIMES

Start the Quest!

Topic

5

Sweets and
Treats

As with our other senses, food can trigger a variety of feelings often good but sometimes not so good. But for this topic, we're focusing on sweets and treats!



Intro to the topic

In the past, sweet shops were a common sight in towns and street corners with their rows of giant jars of sugary treats in a myriad of colours to tempt sweet-toothed children. There are still a few around today though perhaps with our better understanding of the health issues associated with sugar, there is less demand.

Can you remember a few of your favourites sweets and treats? Humbugs? Aniseed balls? Wine Gums? How many can you remember?

Do you remember how much they cost and where you bought them, or were they cooked at home?

Were you a sharer or do you remember 'scrambles' where you'd throw a sweet into the air to a baying crowd of kids to avoid sharing them all!

Some types of sweets and treats are associated with particular places and holidays, like Blackpool rock or candy floss or toffee apples. Do you remember any special occasions and the associated treats?

For some people who may remember the war, sweets were even more of a luxury due to the lack of money, rationing and general scarcity. Do you recall the phrase 'Got any gum chum?' used by kids to pester American servicemen for chewing gum? Perhaps you remember your first taste of ice cream after the war? Or the return of fruit like bananas and oranges?



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Kids help and hints



What sweets or treats do you like today? Perhaps they are more healthy than the past sweets? Why not discuss them with your Story Quest Partner and see if you can both recognise any that you both enjoy.



Sweets are like fashion with many sweet names changing over time and many disappearing altogether.

During the war, many things were rationed due to shortages and other priorities. Some things were completely unavailable. Maybe ask your Story Quest partner if they can explain rationing - even if they aren't old enough to remember it directly, they will probably know something about it.

Did you also know that money and coins were different before something called decimalisation in 1971. Ask your Story Quest partner if they remember the types of pre-decimal coins that were used and how they were divided?

For our older payers, a more advanced topic is something called inflation which is where money loses its value over time. It means a pound in 1980 could be more than a pound today.

Maybe discuss with your Story Quest Partner what the value of certain things were in times past - like the cost of a car or house - you may be surprised at what you discover.



Just for fun!

Here's a simple riddle, see if you can work it out:
"What type of sugary treat is never on time?"
(Answer with the next topic sheet!)