



THE BLACKPOOL TOWER TEACHER'S TOOLKIT



A plan for an inspirational and educational visit to
The Blackpool Tower Ballroom.



www.theblackpooltower.com

DEAR TEACHER

We have created this Teacher's Toolkit to inspire students during their visit to The Blackpool Tower Ballroom.

No preparation is required; all resources are provided in this handy document which can be downloaded prior to your visit.

Included are suggested conversation topics and lessons for your classroom to prepare for the trip and continue the learning after.

The resources are designed for Key Stage 2, covering a range of subjects, however they are easily adaptable to Key Stage 1 learning with a few tweaks to suit your class level.

If you are visiting the Circus or the Tower Eye too, you can download our full toolkit with activities for all our attractions!

If you've not yet booked your visit, head online to www.theblackpooltower.com to see the trip options available, prices and booking options.

Once you have booked, if you have any questions regarding the toolkit activities or the logistics of your visit please email The Blackpool Tower:

guestservices.theblackpooltower@merlinentertainments.biz

The worksheets are included at the end of this document. If you are unable to print the student's worksheets prior to the visit, we'd be happy to print these for you on arrival.

We are looking forward to seeing you and your class soon!

The following activities have been created in collaboration with the award-winning education agency [Shapes For Schools](http://www.shapesforschools.com).

www.shapesforschools.com



DANCE THROUGH TIME IN THE BLACKPOOL TOWER BALLROOM



SUBJECT: HISTORY

Topics covered:

Local and National History; Continuity and Change; Perspectives through time; Chronological events from 1894 to the modern day.

Curriculum objectives:

Students will...

- Imagine the Ballroom through the ages, from its opening in 1894 through to the modern day.
- Put important local and national events in chronological order and consider their impact.
- Write from the perspective of another person from a different historical period or time.
- Consider how attitudes and ideas have changed through time.

SUGGESTED PRE-VISIT DISCUSSION POINTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Note down anything you already know about the Blackpool Tower Ballroom. What emotions do you feel about visiting? Predict five things you will see or feel when you enter the Blackpool Tower Ballroom for the first time.
- Choose a favourite dance and practice the steps together as a class, for example the Waltz, the Jive, or the Foxtrot!
- Create your own dance-moves and write a short set of instructions to teach someone else how to do it. You might want to practice your new moves on the famous dance-floor when you visit...



DURING YOUR VISIT



PART ONE: BECOME A BALLROOM DETECTIVE

Look around... what can you see? Answer the questions below.

Teachers can choose to hand out the Ballroom Detective worksheet with the questions on, or ask the questions to create a group discussion.



- What is the inscription above the Ballroom stage?
Answer: Bid me discourse, I will enchant thine ear
- How many years did Reginald Dixon MBE serve as an organist at The Blackpool Tower Ballroom? Answer 40 years
- Look up! How many chandeliers can you see? Answer: 14
- Can you find the names of 16 composers around the Ballroom?
Answer: Grieg, Balfe, Auber, Bach, Wagner, Gounod, Handel, Verdi, Liszt, Suppé, Chopin, Mozart, Haydn, Elgar, Weber, Bizet
- What do you think are the measurements of the Ballroom floor?
a. 120 feet by 102 feet; b. 50 feet by 38 feet; or c. 2,000 feet by 1,850 feet? Answer: a. 120 feet by 102 feet
- How many separate blocks of mahogany do you think have been used?
a. 100,500; b. 12,008; or c. 30,602? Answer: c. 30,602

PART TWO: COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY

Download the accompanying worksheets.

TASK 1:

When you enter the ballroom, take in the scene around you. How does it feel to be in this historic building? Imagine a discussion between two dancers in the ballroom. What might they be talking about? What are the important local and national issues of the day?

TASK 2:

Look at the accompanying Blackpool Tower Ballroom worksheet. On this worksheet you will find a list of important events and dates since the Ballroom first opened in 1894. Organise them in chronological order on the timeline provided.

TASK 3:

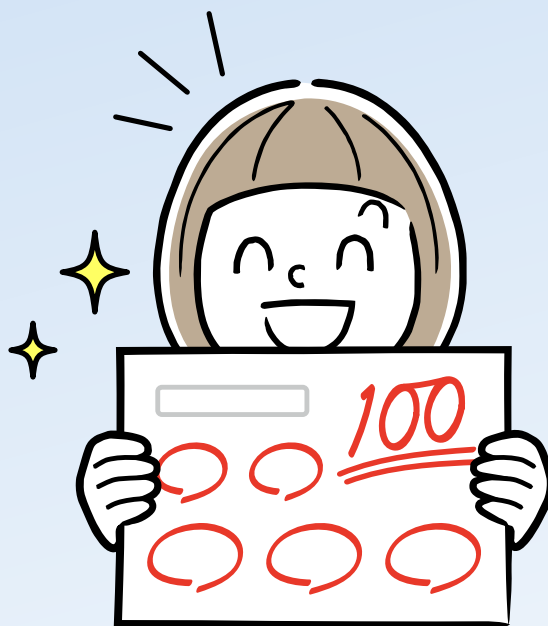
Now, go back in time; imagine two dancers speaking to each other in the ballroom on one of the dates from your timeline. What might they have been talking about? What were the important local and national issues of the day?



SUGGESTED POST-VISIT DISCUSSION POINTS AND ACTIVITIES



- As a class, create newspaper headlines for The Blackpool Gazette documenting the different historical events that you noted on your timelines.
- Sketch and label the different features of the Ballroom.
- Create a social media post advertising a trip to the modern-day Blackpool Tower Ballroom. Include a striking visual and details of why it is such an exciting place to visit.
- Among the Ballroom's one-time strict rules were: "Gentlemen may not dance unless with a lady" and "disorderly conduct means immediate expulsion." Write a list of ballroom rules for 2023.
- Imagine that the beautiful Wurlitzer organ is up for sale. Write a description of it to entice someone to buy it.





THE BLACKPOOL TOWER BALLROOM

BALLROOM DETECTIVE WORKSHEET

Look around... what can you see?
Answer the questions below.

WHAT IS THE INSCRIPTION ABOVE THE BALLROOM STAGE?

HOW MANY YEARS DID REGINALD DIXON MBE SERVE AS AN ORGANIST AT THE BLACKPOOL TOWER BALLROOM?

LOOK UP! HOW MANY CHANDELIERS CAN YOU SEE?

CAN YOU FIND THE NAMES OF 16 COMPOSERS AROUND THE BALLROOM?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MEASUREMENTS OF THE BALLROOM FLOOR?

HOW MANY SEPARATE BLOCKS OF MAHOGANY DO YOU THINK HAVE BEEN USED?



THE BLACKPOOL TOWER BALLROOM

BALLROOM WORKSHEET TASK 1

Imagine a discussion between two dancers in the ballroom. What might they be talking about? What are the important local and national issues of today in Blackpool and all over the world which might be discussed?

A large, empty speech bubble with a purple outline, intended for Dancer 1's first response.

DANCER 1

A large, empty speech bubble with a blue outline, intended for Dancer 2's first response.

DANCER 2

A large, empty speech bubble with a purple outline, intended for Dancer 1's second response.

DANCER 1

A large, empty speech bubble with a blue outline, intended for Dancer 2's second response.

DANCER 2

A large, empty speech bubble with a purple outline, intended for Dancer 1's third response.

DANCER 1

A large, empty speech bubble with a blue outline, intended for Dancer 2's third response.

DANCER 2

A large, empty speech bubble with a purple outline, intended for Dancer 1's fourth response.

DANCER 1

A large, empty speech bubble with a blue outline, intended for Dancer 2's fourth response.

DANCER 2



THE BLACKPOOL TOWER BALLROOM

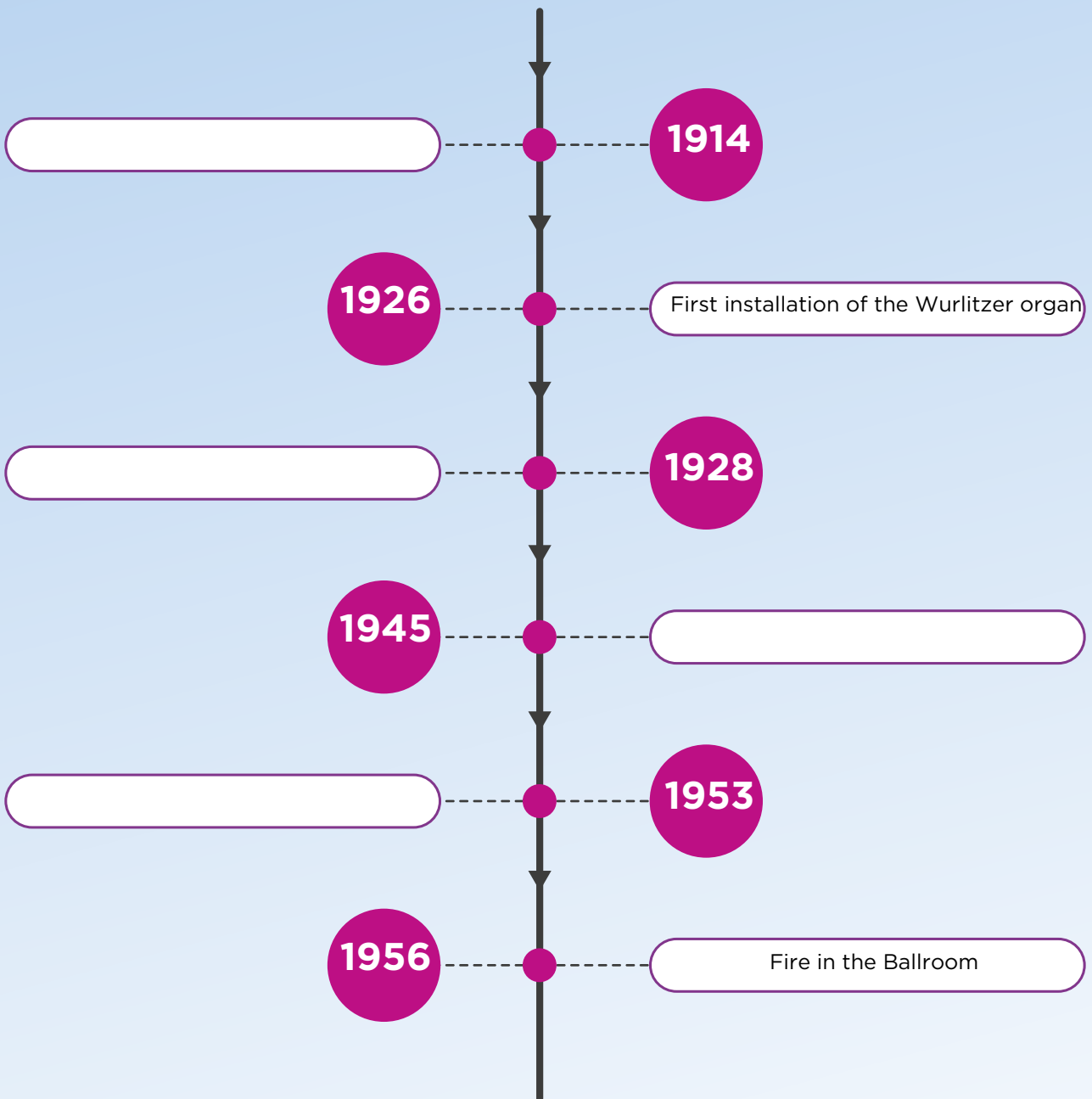
BALLROOM WORKSHEET TASK 2

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

Since it opened in 1894, The Blackpool Tower Ballroom has welcomed visitors through many different important events in history. Some of these events are listed below; can you place them in chronological order on The Blackpool Tower Ballroom Timeline?

- World War One begins
- All women gain the right to vote
- The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II
- World War Two ends

1894 - THE BALLROOM OPENS



Add any other dates and events that you think are important.



THE BLACKPOOL TOWER BALLROOM

BALLROOM WORKSHEET TASK 3

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

Choose one of the events on the timeline and imagine a conversation between two dancers at The Blackpool Tower Ballroom. What would they be saying to each other? How would they be feeling? What would the mood and atmosphere be like in the ballroom?

Date chosen:

DANCER 1

DANCER 2

DANCER 1

DANCER 2

DANCER 1

DANCER 2

DANCER 1

DANCER 2



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