6 DOCUMENTARY TV time travellers

Aims: To practise vocabulary for items in the home and free-time activities.

Time: 90 minutes

Materials: One copy of the worksheet for each student.

Procedure:

1 Ask students to imagine they have a time machine which will take them to any period of time in the past. Tell them to discuss in groups which period they would like to travel to and think about how life might be different. Encourage them to think about different aspects of society, e.g. buildings, transport, work, fashion, music, technology, etc. and to decide on the top three areas of life they think have changed the most. Make sure students understand the terms *dining area* (n) and *DIY* (n).

KEY
Students' own answers

2 Explain to students that they are going to watch a video about a family who are spending a week living like people did in the past. Ask them to look at the photo at the top of the page and say which decade they think the family is living in. Elicit ideas, encouraging students to give reasons for their answers. Then draw their attention to exercise 2. Play the video and ask students to answer the question: *What do the family do for fun?*

KEY
They do DIY, play games, listen to music, play football

3 Give students time to read the questions and answer them from memory. Then play the video again and ask them to check or write their answers. They then compare their answers in pairs.

KEY
1 1970
2 yellow
3 They put paper on the walls.
4 play games
5 B
6 women
7 They're happy.

4 Ask students to think what their homes were like when they were younger. Model with an example, e.g. *It's 1985. There is only one TV in my flat. We listen to music on a hi-fi system because we haven't got Spotify.*

5 Ask students to draw a picture or plan of how they remember their home as a child, including any electronic appliances. You could ask them to bring in old photos from home. Ask them to describe their pictures to their partner, comparing each other's homes.

KEY
Students' own answers

6 This activity follows on from the warm-up activity. Tell students to imagine they are time travelling into the past. In groups, students choose a year or decade that they want to visit and then write a list of questions they are going to answer about their trip, e.g. *What do people do in their free time? What do their homes look like? What things are different from now?*

7 When groups have a set of questions, students work individually to write an email to a friend describing what life is like in their chosen period, making sure they answer the questions, and using the list of prompts to help them. If there is time, ask them to swap their emails and correct each other's work.

KEY
Students' own answers

EXTRA ACTIVITY Reality TV episode

Time: 2 lessons

Explain to students that the family in the video are taking part in a reality TV show where they go back in time to experience life in the past. Students are going to plan a new episode of the show. However, instead of going back in time they are going to travel to the future to see what life is like. In groups, students choose a year in the future and decide what aspects of life to focus on, e.g. fashion, food, leisure, music, home decoration, transport. They can do online research during the planning stage to help them, but they'll need to use their imagination, too. In the following lesson, groups share their information and create a proposal for their episode, outlining what the family do and experience. They then present their proposal to the class. Encourage students to use visuals and multimedia in their presentations.

Video script

Narrator This is the Irwin family from London. They are time travellers for a week, trying life from 1940 to 1980. Today they're travelling back to 1970. Their clothes are very colourful. Mrs Irwin is wearing an amazing yellow coat.

Mrs Irwin Oh wow.

N This is their house in 1970.

Mrs I Nice dining area.

N In the 1970s the colours were also very bright in homes. In the 1970s, people liked doing DIY in their free time, putting paint or paper on the walls. The Irwins decide to add more colour to their house.

Mrs I How's it going boys?

Mr Irwin Nearly there.

Mrs I It's looking good! Reminds me of the West Indies.

N There was no internet in the 1970s, so the children play games. But what's this? They have a new radio cassette player. People used them to record music.
Now it's 1980. The Irwins have lots of new things: a hi-fi system and a colour TV. They also have a car. They go to buy American takeaway food.

Tiana Hi guys! Dinner! Look what we got!

N This was new and very popular in the 1980s. There were lots of new things in the 1980s. This is a VCR, a video cassette recorder. People recorded television programmes on them. Now it's time for some exercise, in 1980s football shirts and shorts. In the 1980s, things were different. Football wasn't a popular sport for women.
The Irwins say goodbye to the past with a small party. They enjoyed living in the past and learned a lot. But they were all happy to go back to their normal lives.

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