

# How has life in Britain changed since 1948?

## Learning Objective:

To find out about some of the main events of the 1970s and to investigate what life was like in Britain during this period.

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We have found out  
what life was like in the  
1950s and 1960s. What do you  
think life would have been  
like in the 1970s?

Think, pair, share your ideas.

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# What ideas did you come up with?

Ideas:



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Can you match these events with the correct date?

First microwave oven sold

1970

Newsround started

1971

First VHS video recorder sold

1972

First walkman sold

1974

British currency changed to decimal system

1978

The jumbo jet entered commercial service

1979

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# Were you right?

First microwave oven sold

1974

Newsround started

1972

First VHS video recorder sold

1978

First walkman sold

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British currency changed to decimal system

1971

The jumbo jet entered commercial service

1970 microwave

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The 1970s in Britain was a period when lots of people wanted liberation. Women campaigned for equal pay for doing the same job as men. They also wanted men to do an equal share of the housework so that women could have an equal chance of having a good career.

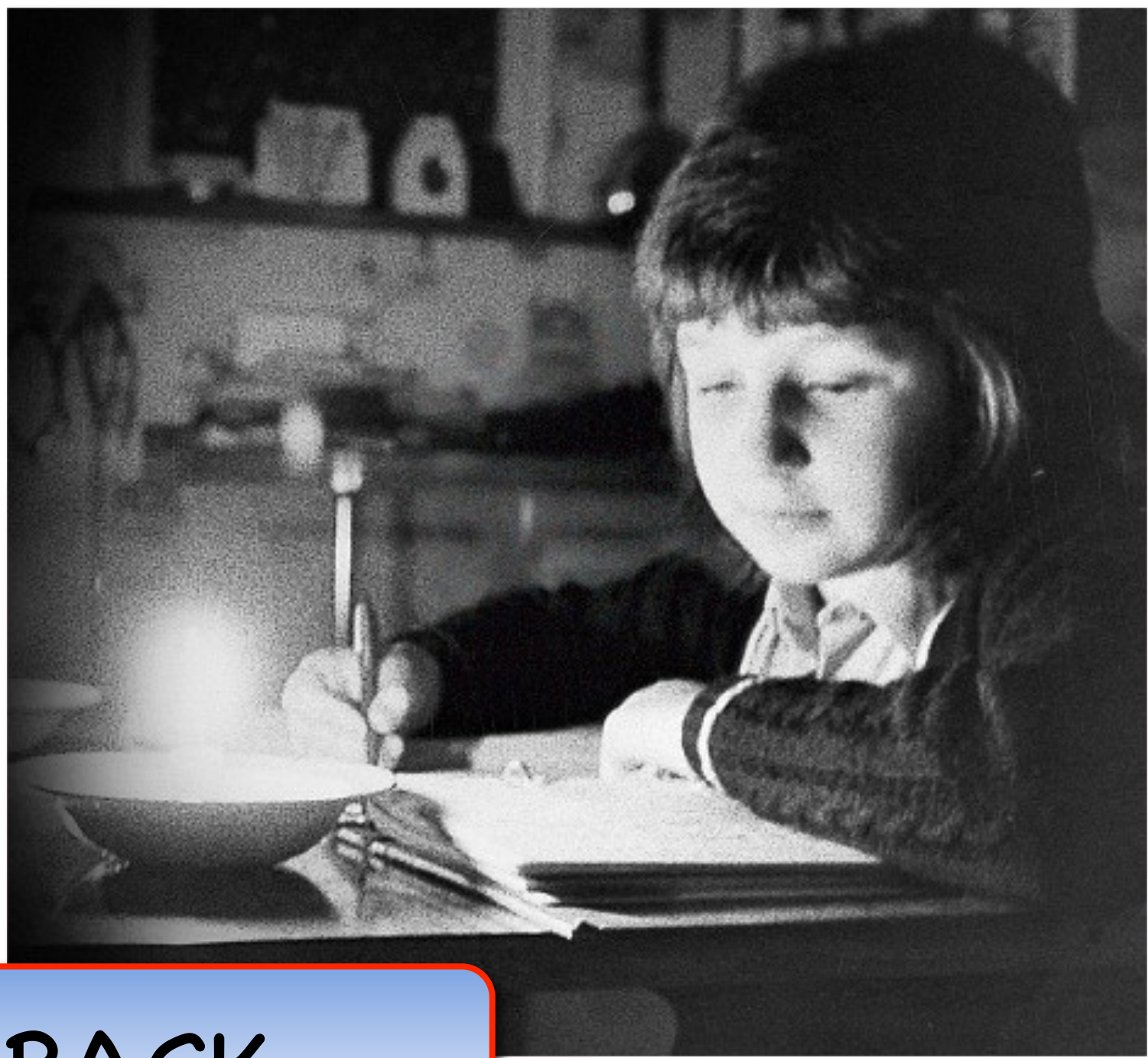


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But what most people remember about the 1970s in Britain were the economic problems the country faced. Rising inflation led the government to try and reduce people's wages. This led to lots of strike action, particularly by miners. This meant that there wasn't enough coal being produced to meet the country's power needs. In 1972, a three day working week was imposed to try and save electricity.



There were frequent power cuts in people's homes. People had to have candles on hand and lots of families had to cook on camping stoves.

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By the end of the 1970s, people like dustbin men and grave diggers were also on strike. This was called the 'winter of discontent'. In Liverpool, piles of coffins stacked up as grave diggers refused to work until disputes over pay had been settled. Rubbish piled up in cities around the country. ITV was forced to go off-air for five months.



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But despite the economical problems of the 1970s there was also lots of positive events. In 1977, for example, the whole country celebrated the Queen's Silver Jubilee with street parties.

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There were lots of advances in medicine too. Greater understanding of how babies are made led to more possibilities for people who could not have babies naturally. In 1978, the first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, was born.

New scanning equipment, such as CAT scans, also allowed doctors to scan images of the body so they could see what was going on inside.

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Advances in women's rights became evident when in 1979 Margaret Thatcher became the UK's first female Prime Minister.



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Another positive change for Britain was the discovery of oil in the North Sea. Before this, the country had to rely on oil supplies from other countries. This discovery meant that Britain's oil consumption could be mined from the North Sea without the need to pay lots of money to other companies. The Queen started the flow of oil in 1975 when she pressed a gold button at a special ceremony.



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