

Resource 2

Look at the resource below, where two people share their experiences of the playgrounds they used as children.

After WWII, many urban areas in Britain saw a rise in makeshift adventure playgrounds. Children would play in the bomb sites, which had created open spaces, using whatever materials they could find. They would build, create games and make fires. These adventure playgrounds were originally known as junk playgrounds.

The playground near me has changed so much since I was a girl. In the 1980s, there was a slide, swings, a seesaw and a roundabout. There was no protective flooring like now and some of the equipment definitely had sharp bits (I remember tearing my skirt on the slide!). I still go to the playground now but I take my own children! It has some very interesting, brightly coloured equipment, there is even some gym equipment. Everything has a spongy, soft landing.

Samantha



How do you think playgrounds in the past are different from/the same as today?

I was a child during the 1960s and grew up in Birmingham. We had an adventure playground round the corner from where I lived. I spent as much time as I could there with my friends. We used tools to build dens, runways and huts, we lit fires and cooked and we created our own garden. We had an adult called a playworker, who supervised us and often joined in and helped with our creations! There was also a playing field nearby that had swings and a slide but I loved the adventure playground best.

Howard



Pictured above: colourful play equipment you might find in a playground today.