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Learning and Educational Archive Resources from Northumberland

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE TRANSPORT INDUSTRY, 1964-1970

REFERENCE: BRO 1944/1/5594/43, BRO 1944/1/4033/10| SUGGESTED AGE GROUPS: KS2, KS3, KS4, LIFELONG LEARNERS |TOPIC AREAS: ENVIRONMENTAL PORTRAITURE, PHOTOGRAPHY, TRANSPORT

BERWICK PHOTO CENTRE

Originally founded in 1951 as the Photo-News Service, the Photo Centre in Berwick was a staple of town life for over 65 years as a family-run press agency and photo studio.

Their premises at 17 Bridge Street had a well-equipped studio above the shop where commercial photography took place. The business also covered newsworthy events in the area and recorded family occasions and celebrations, marking milestones in the lives of several generations of townspeople.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE TRANSPORT INDUSTRY

The first image (BRO 1944/1/45594/43) shows Annie Weatherburn, the cleaner at Berwick Bus Station. It was taken in December 1970, shortly before she retired.

On 15th June 1964, the last passenger train travelled the route from Berwick to St Boswells, a journey of about 80 minutes which included stops at Tweedmouth and Kelso for the engine to change ends. This second image (BRO 1944/1/4033/10) shows Berwick train guard, James Fullerton laying a detonator on the train line to commemorate the train's departure for the last time.

TRANSPORT IN BERWICK

Throughout the centuries Berwick has been a transport hub and centre for those travelling between England and Scotland and further afield. Initially it was an important port, linking the town with London, Edinburgh, and the continent, importing and exporting goods including wool and salmon. It was also a stopping off point on the Great North Road for coaches where horses were changed, and passengers could stay in its coaching inns.

In the 19th century the reliance on travel by boat and horse was replaced by mechanisation and the railways – a quick and convenient way to travel all over the country. The Railway first reached Berwick in 1846 and the completion of the Royal Border Bridge in 1850 was the last link in a continuous line between London and Edinburgh. The Berwick to Kelso Railway line was opened in 1849 and extended to St Boswells in 1851. After leaving Berwick, it went to Tweedmouth on the south bank of the River Tweed and then travelled west along the border. At this time, Tweedmouth was a main junction where many men were employed. Berwick is still a major station on the main East Coast London to Edinburgh railway line.

As well as the railways, Berwick was and still is a hub for bus transport – local routes within the town and surrounding communities and further afield to Edinburgh and Newcastle. Bus travel in Berwick was transformed in 1928 with the opening of the Royal Tweed Bridge. This brought vehicles directly into the

Town Centre without having to go across the narrow old Berwick Bridge. This resulted in the building of a central bus station in Berwick by 1937, just opposite the Golden Square end of the bridge and on the main shopping street. It was to remain a main feature of Berwick's landscape until it was demolished in 1998.

ENVIRONMENTAL PORTRAITURE

An environmental portrait is a photograph of someone on their usual environment, for example at home, in their workplace, or in an area that typically shows as aspect of the subject's everyday life. The essence of environmental portraiture is to capture the subject in the context of their surroundings. The surroundings or background of the portrait is a key element as this is used to give further information about the person being photographed. The subject is often shown undertaking their usual tasks, such as doing an element of their job.

OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

EARLY PHOTOGRAPHY

Science Museum website, page about history of photography: https://www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/objects-and-stories/history-photography

British Library website, page about invention of photograph (Henry Fox Talbot): https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/invention-of-photography

Bodleian website, biography of Henry Fox Talbot: https://talbot.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/talbot/biography/

PHOTOCENTRE

Portrait of a Town exhibition: https://www.photocentreberwick.co.uk/portrait-of-a-town/work-and-industry

Photocentre workshop resources: https://www.photocentreberwick.co.uk/learning

ENVIRONMENTAL PORTRAITURE

Headshot London blog, What is Portraiture? - https://www.headshotlondon.co.uk/blog/what-is-a-portrait-photography/

History of Photography, Portraits - https://notquiteinfocus.com/2014/10/16/a-brief-history-of-photography-part-11-early-portrait-photography/

Tate, Portraiture - https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/p/portrait

How portrait photography evolved over time – https://www.scancafe.com/blog/the-evolution-of-portrait-photography

INDUSTRY IN BERWICK

North Northumberland's industrial heritage - http://www.berwickfriends.org.uk/history/north-northumberlands-industrial-heritage/

Railways in Berwick and North Northumberland - http://www.berwickfriends.org.uk/history/north-northumberlands-industrial-heritage/railways-in-berwick-and-north-northumberland/

History of buses in Berwick - http://www.berwickfriends.org.uk/history/berwick-buses/

ARTIST BANK – ENVIRONMENTAL PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHERS

AUGUST SANDER

Described as "the most important German portrait photographer of the early twentieth century", August Sander spent his life documenting his fellow countrymen in straightforward, dignified portraits picturing farmers, merchants, civil servants, intellectuals, gypsies, and the insane so that they could be seen.

Example environmental portraiture images: Berlin Coal Carrier, 1929; Young Farmer, 1912-13; Farmer Working in the Fields, c.1930

ARNOLD NEWMAN

Newman was credited with popularising environmental portraiture, a style that captures subjects in their surroundings and uses significant details to communicate their profession and personality. His environmental portraits mainly consisted of artists and politicians. He was also known for his carefully composed abstract still life images.

Example environmental portraiture images: Igor Stravinsky, 1946; Pablo Picasso, 1954; Andy Warhol, 1973

ALFRED EISENSTAEDT

German-born American photographer is best known for his candid black-and-white shots of celebrities, politicians, and captivating street shots.

Example environmental portraiture images: Gondolas, Venice, 1947; George Bernard Shaw at Typewriter, 1932; General Electric Turbine Plant, 1948

JIMMY NELSON

British photographer Jimmy Nelson focuses on taking environmental portraits of indigenous people from tribes that are about to disappear.

Environmental portraiture portfolio: https://www.jimmynelson.com/

LEARNING ACTIVITIES: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE TRANSPORT INDUSTRY, 1964-1970

TOPIC: ENVIRONMENTAL PORTRAITURE, TRANSPORT

SUBJECT AREAS: PHOTOGRAPHY, ART & DESIGN, GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, LITERACY, SCIENCE

Background	Activity	Resources
Throughout the centuries Berwick has been a transport hub and centre for those travelling between England and Scotland and further afield. Initially it was an important port, linking the town with London, Edinburgh, and the continent, importing and exporting goods including wool and salmon. It was also a stopping off point on the Great North Road for coaches where horses were changed, and passengers could stay in its coaching inns.	**See:** Which transport industries are shown in these photographs? **See:** Why does Berwick's geographical location mean that historically it has been a main transport hub? **See:** How was Berwick used as a transport hub for imports, exports, and trade? **See:** What types of goods were traded via Berwick? **Think:** What were the main industries in Britain during the mid-20th century? **Think:** How do these industries differ from what came before them? **Think:** What are the main industries in Britain today? **Think:** How important were rail and bus services during the 1960s and 1970s? **Think:** What were the main modes of transport in Britain during the 1960s and 1970s?	http://www.busweb.co.uk/the-history-of-the-bus/ http://www.rail.co.uk/british-railway-history/british-rail/ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761929/Historyoftransport.pdf https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/ex/sustainablecitiescollective/benefits-high-speed-rail/151136/

	Think: What are the main modes of transport in Britain today? **Think:** How quick and easy do you think public transport was in Britain during the mid-20th century?	
	Do: Research your local area. What was the dominant industry in your area during the mid-20th century? **Do:** Research what the dominant industries are in your area today. **Do:** In groups discuss what you think the dominant industry will be in your area 30 years from now. **Do:** Imagine you are living 30 years in the future. Think about the industrial past of your area, along with its natural environment and transport connections. Make a proposal for a new industry in the area. **Do:** Think about your local area. How accessible is public transport? Make a list of the public transport available in your area. **Do:** Research your local area during the 1960s and 1970s. How has public transport changed since then? **Do:** Script a scene based on one of the photographs. The scene should end with performers freeze framed in the pose of the photograph. **Do:** Come up with an idea for an environmentally friendly high speed public transport that could be introduced in the UK.	
	See: What is an environmental portrait photograph?	

An environmental portrait is a photograph of someone in their usual environment, for example at home, in their workplace, or in an area that typically shows as aspect of the subject's everyday life. The essence of environmental portraiture is to capture the subject in the context of their surroundings. The surroundings or background of the portrait is a key element as this is used to give further information about the person being photographed. The subject is often shown undertaking their usual tasks, such as doing an element of their job.	**See:** What are the main characteristics of an environmental portrait? **See:** What is shown in each of these photographs? --- **Think:** What can you learn about the subjects in each of these photographs? **Think:** What do you think the purpose of these photographs is? **Think:** Are the photographs candid or posed? **Think:** What equipment and techniques do you think were used to take these photographs? **Think:** Do you think these photographs are good examples of environmental portraiture? --- **Do:** Choose an industry in your local area. Create a series of environmental portraits focusing on that industry. **Do:** How would you photograph subjects differently depending on the industry or environment they are in? Design a series of shoots planning how you would capture subjects in different environments. **Do:** Shadow someone for the day in the style of Sophie Calle, this could be a friend or family member for example. Produce a series of environmental portraits showing someone in the different day to day aspects of their life. **Do:** Think about how different palettes of colours, shades and tones are associated with different industries, professions, and	https://medium.com/@pixelmagazine/color-theory-for-photographers-an-introduction-ae23296fda6d https://digital-photography-school.com/limited-color-palette-strong-images/ https://photographycourse.net/environmental-portraits/ https://fstoppers.com/education/closer-look-high-key-and-low-key-photography-547770 https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/sophie-calle-2692

environments. Create a mood board showing ranges of colours, shades and tones in environmental portraits.

Do: Using your mood board, annotate and analyse which palettes are associated with which industries, environments, and professions.

Do: Experiment with taking photographs using different colour, shade, and tone palettes.

Do: Experiment with taking high key and low key images.

Do: Create your own environmental portraiture series working in your own style with your own theme, using palettes of colour, shade and tone to express the environment, industry or profession.