



Brandenburg Gate after the opening of the Wall, 1989
(Photo by Barbara Klemm)



Four zones of occupation, two German States and reunited Germany since 1989 – How has Germany changed since 1945? In which ways has division and unity of Germany has affected people? How did young people experience these historic events and how do you personally relate to that?

Discover for yourself!

Map on the last page

Contents

1 Life in post-war Germany

2 17 June 1953

3 The Berlin Wall is built

4 "Rock'n'Roll Baby"

5 "If you're going to San Francisco..."

6 Between Sesame Street and skateboard

7 The path to reunification

8 Escape to Germany



1

Life in post-war Germany

The Second World War in Europe ends in May 1945. Germany has lost the war and is divided into four zones of occupation.



- a** Look at the four flags on the wall and the black-and-white photo beneath them.

Who do you think used the flags and on what occasion?

.....

.....

.....

Take a look around and consider: why were the flags handmade?

.....

.....

.....

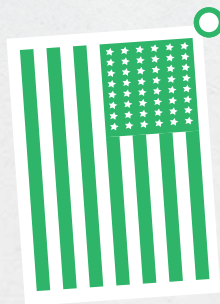
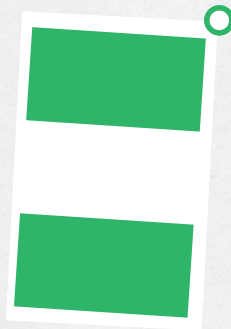
b Match the flags of the four occupying powers to the respective countries.

USSR
☐

Great Britain
☐

USA
☐

France
☐



- c Look around and choose an object which tells you that the Second World War is over. Give your reasons for choosing it and draw your object here below.

.....

.....

.....

.....

Object:



- d Have another look around. What impact does the exhibition have on you? Circle the words that express your impressions and add your own comments.



DARK

QUIET

BRIGHT

LARGE

CONFUSING

SAD

DRAB

ORDERLY

CHAOTIC

NOISY

COLOURFUL





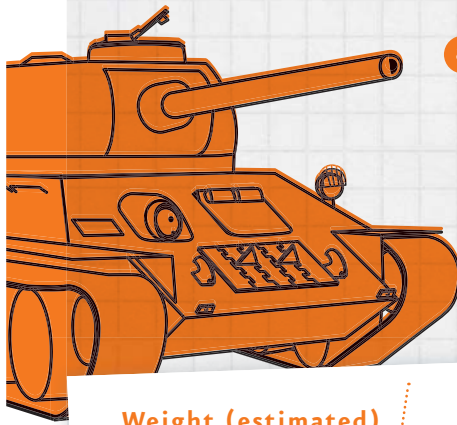
2

➔ 17 June 1953

In 1949, two German States are born out of the four zones of occupation: the Federal Republic of Germany in the West and the GDR in the East.



Just four years later, on 17 June 1953, hundreds of thousands of people in the GDR demonstrate against Communist dictatorship. Soviet T-34 tanks put an end to the demonstrations.



- a** Fill in the object card. You can walk up to the tank, touch it or compare it with your own size.

Weight (estimated)

.....

Height (estimated)

.....

Components

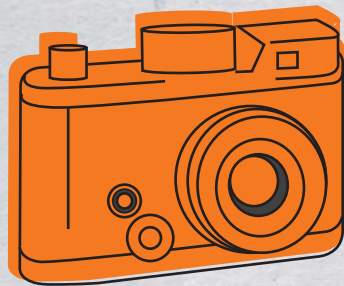
.....

Original parts

.....



- b** Journalists are not allowed to report freely in the GDR. Find the camera with which a West German journalist secretly takes photos of the events. How does he conceal it?



Lichtspielhaus



3

**The Berlin Wall
is built**

To close off the only remaining escape route to the West, those in power in the GDR build a wall through the centre of Berlin in August 1961. Anyone now attempting to escape is risking his or her life.



- a** Take a look at the blue-tinted photo of the three escapees and that of the border guards building the Wall. What do you think is going through their minds? Complete the text in the speech bubbles:

What will happen if...

I don't know...





- b** The Synowzik family also fled to the West. After escaping through the sewers from East to West Berlin, they pose outside the airport before flying to the Federal Republic of Germany.



What impression do the people in the photo make on you? How much luggage are they taking with them for their new life in the West?

Give your evaluation on the scale below:

The scale is a vertical line with 11 horizontal tick marks. At the top, a white box contains the text "a lot". At the bottom, a white box contains the text "little". To the left of the scale, there are two purple suitcases. The entire scale is set against a background of light-colored wood grain. In the bottom right corner, there is a blue triangular area with a white box containing a circle of stars and a right-pointing arrow.





Since the 1950s, a lot of young people have quite a different taste in fashion and music to their parents. That causes trouble...

- a** List three items of clothing or other things which young people argue about with their parents nowadays.

- b** At the media station in the corner next to the ice cream parlour select the chapter "Eigensinn. Jugendliche und ihre Kleider"/"Stubbornness. Young people and their clothes". Select the film "Jung sein – chic sein"/"being young – being chic". Check whether the statements are true or false.

Jeans were worn mainly by older people.

true

false

To make their jeans fit as tightly as possible, girls wore them in the bath.

true

false

- c** Listen to a song of your choice on the jukebox. What do you feel, hear and think while you are listening? You can also dance along with the music!

My song choice:

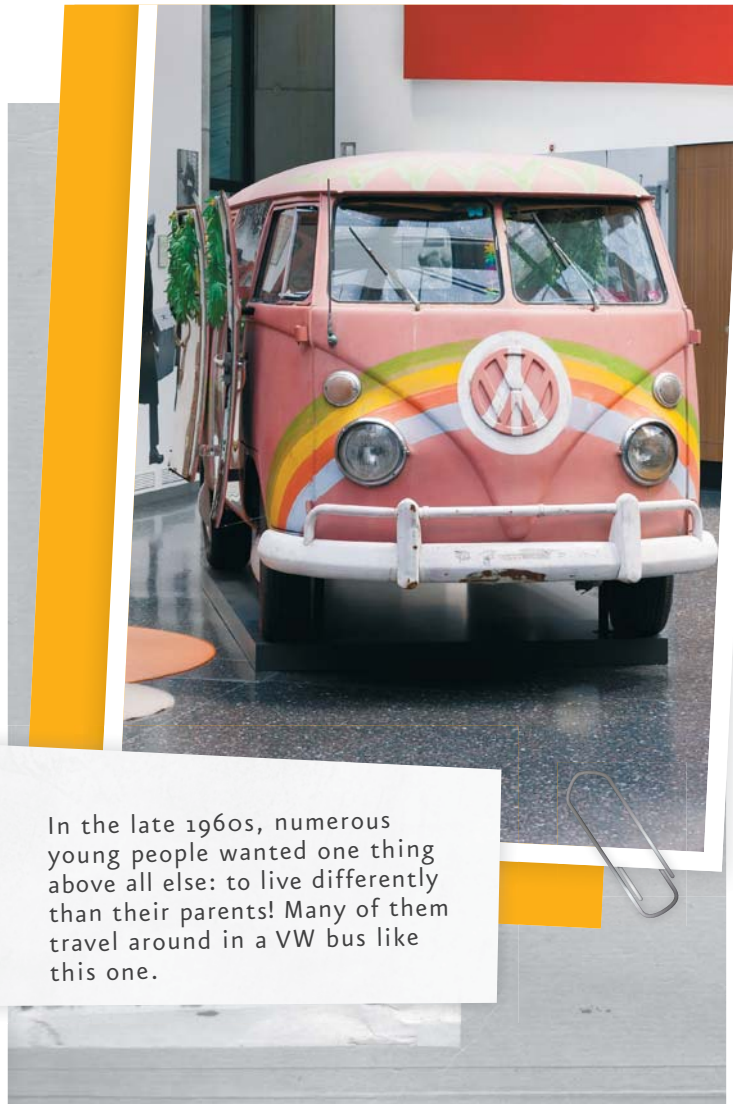
strong wild guitar
old-fashioned
hot loud to dance
boring individuality
bass strange good mood
Rock 'n' Roll
freedom percussion



5

**"If you're going to
San Francisco..."**

Peace



In the late 1960s, numerous young people wanted one thing above all else: to live differently than their parents! Many of them travel around in a VW bus like this one.

- a** Imagine you are an exhibition curator and would like to purchase this bus for your museum. Look around the bus for the following information:

Name:

What is in the interior?

Dimensions (estimated):

Painted motifs:

- b** Fashion, music and being different sets the tone for the 68 generation. We are displaying lots of photos, clothing and newspapers. If you could design this part of the exhibition, how would it look:

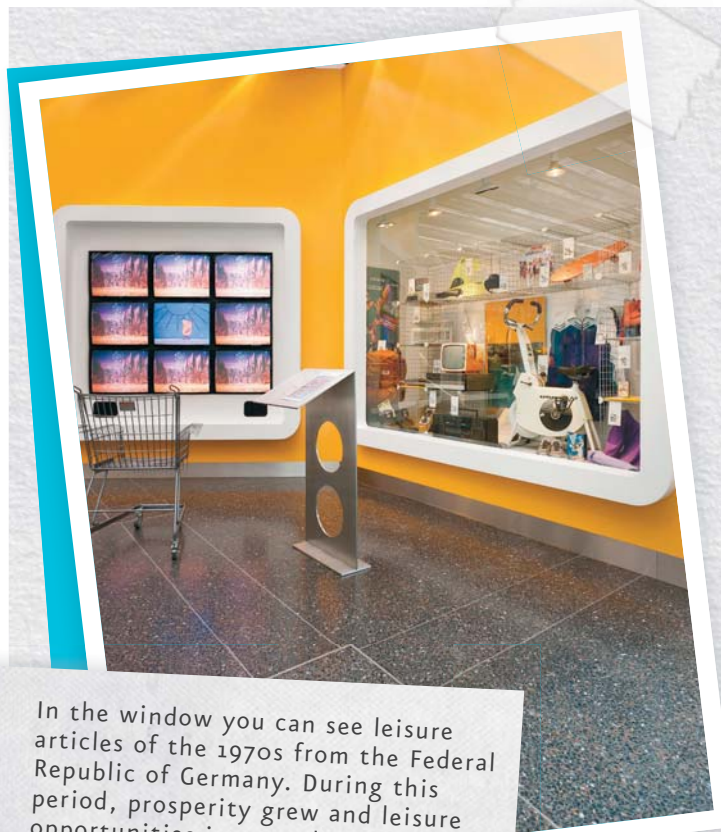
Draw your ideas below!





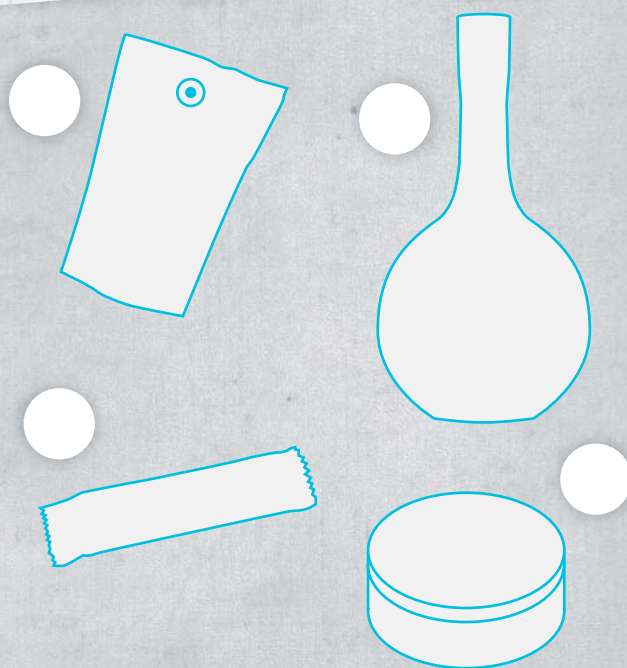
6

**Between Sesame Street
and skateboard**



In the window you can see leisure articles of the 1970s from the Federal Republic of Germany. During this period, prosperity grew and leisure opportunities increased.

- a** The monitors show scenes from TV programmes and commercials from the 1970s. Find out what the four products are and write their names on them.



Which of these products do you know?
Mark the products you know.

b Look at the window. Are there things from back then which you would like to use?

Name two:

1.

2.

None, because...

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



c Imagine that forty years from now we want to fill a display case with leisure articles from your time. What things do young people use today that you think should be shown in a museum? Name at least three!

headphones

smartphones

skateboards





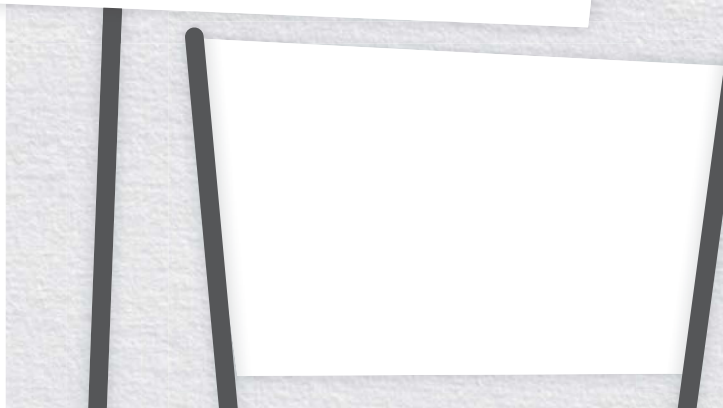
7

The path to
reunification

In autumn 1989, hundreds of thousands of people demonstrate for peace and democracy. Before the borders are opened and the Wall tumbles on 9 November 1989, thousands of people flee illegally from the GDR to the West.



a Demonstrators in the GDR demand the freedom to travel, free elections and the punishment of SED party officials. For what cause would you march through the streets? Design your own banners here:



b The Berlin Wall comes down on 9 November 1989. Watch the film scenes showing people at the Berlin Wall on that day. How do you feel? Put a circle around the words that describe your impressions and add your own adjectives:

ANGRY

DISBELIEVING

CALM

GLAD

RELAXED

HAPPY

FEARFUL



8 Escape to Germany



In 2015, around 890,000 people flee terror and poverty in Africa as well as the civil war in Syria. They travel to Germany via the Mediterranean and the Balkans.



- a** Ali Abdo, a cartoonist and illustrator from Syria, processes the experience of his flight to Germany in his cartoons. You can find one of them framed here in the exhibition. Interpret the cartoon (Welcome refugee, thank you Germany).

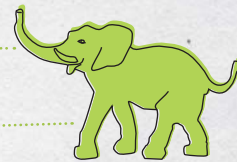
What do you see?



How does he portray the dangers of his flight?

Why is Germany important to him?

- b What does a young boy take with him on the dangerous journey? You can find the object in the display case.



What object would you take with you if you had to flee?



**Thank you for your visit. Please come again
with your school class or your family!**

We offer:

- Guided tours through our permanent exhibition and selected temporary exhibitions
- The print guide "Tracing history: Ever more diverse – Germany as a country of immigration" for school pupils aged 10 to 16

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