



## **The East Midlands Oral History Archive (EMOHA)**

### **KS3/KS4 Oral History Resources for the Classroom**

#### **About oral history**

Oral history can be defined as the recording, preservation and interpretation of historical information, based on the personal experiences and opinions of the speaker. It may take the form of eye-witness evidence about the past, but can include folklore, myths, songs and stories passed down over the years by word of mouth. While it is an invaluable way of preserving the knowledge and understanding of older people, it can also involve interviewing younger generations.

#### **What is the value of oral history?**

Oral history is a very subjective and personal form of evidence. It can give a voice to individuals and groups who are sometimes marginalised in 'conventional' histories. The value we place on oral history will depend on our own perceptions of what or who history is about and what it is for – but arguably, it can offer unique opportunities and insights. It can provide new information and alternative explanations which are potentially of enormous value. The spoken word can convey feelings and emotions with an immediacy and an impact that the written word cannot match as well as preserving a record of local dialects and accents. Oral history allows the historian to ask questions of his or her informant – to be present at the creation of a historical source, rather than relying solely on those created by others. Oral History is also an interdisciplinary resource and can be used to support learning and inspire creativity across many subject areas, including English and creative arts subjects.

#### **About the East Midlands Oral History Archive (EMOHA)**

The East Midlands Oral History Archive was originally funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to establish the first large-scale archive of oral history recordings for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The recordings are currently being catalogued to make them more accessible. EMOHA generates new oral history recordings through its own programme of interviewing and provides advice, training and support for community groups, museums and

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heritage organisations, students and other individuals who are interested in developing their own projects.

EMOHA is based in the Centre for Urban History at the University of Leicester and is also supported by Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council via the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.

### Oral history resources available online

<p><b>Dora's Story</b> <b>COMING IN AUTUMN 2023</b></p>	<p>Dora Northern (nee Schutte) was interviewed in 2004. She was born in Berlin in Germany in 1923 and lived in the city until the end of the Second World War. In 1950, she married an Englishman and settled in Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire where she ran a tailoring business.</p> <p>This resource offers a way in to Dora's life story through a series of extracts from the original interview. Dora talks about growing up and attending school under the Nazi regime, witnessing the disappearance of Jewish neighbours, attending the 1936 Berlin Olympics and the outbreak of World War Two in 1939. She gives us an insight into the opinions, beliefs and behaviours of a young woman during a turbulent period of 20th century history.</p> <p>This resource will be made available as a series of AV clips with full transcripts and suggested activities for Key Stage 3 and will be accessible through EMOHA's learning web pages which will go live over the summer.</p>	<p>Life in Nazi Germany</p> <p>Migration and movement</p>
<p><b>Pandemic</b> <b>COMING IN AUTUMN 2023</b></p>	<p>This learning package will feature extracts from oral histories recorded in the 1980s in which people reflect on their memories of the influenza pandemic of 1918-1920. These will be set alongside contemporary</p>	<p>Health in post war Britain</p>

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	<p>accounts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Full transcripts and suggested learning activities will be included in the resource.</p> <p>The resource will be accessible through EMOHA's learning web pages which will go live over the summer.</p>	
<p><b>Migration Stories</b></p>	<p>The Migration Stories project ran from 2010-12 and recorded stories of moving into the East Midlands from elsewhere in the UK and further afield since the end of the Second World War. The project worked with people from a wide variety of groups and communities who moved to find jobs or education, were fleeing persecution or war, or decided to make the East Midlands a place for retirement.</p> <p>A number of these oral histories are available to view on YouTube.</p> <p>From Kampala to Leicester:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euUvGzuSBwk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euUvGzuSBwk</a></p> <p>Thringstone miners from Scotland:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMadnQaR5zM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMadnQaR5zM</a></p> <p>Moving to the sea at Mablethorpe:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNqpdjfbqol">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNqpdjfbqol</a></p> <p>Malawi to Northampton:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voLurG14VEk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voLurG14VEk</a></p> <p>Coming to Skegness:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqSgx1x7VoA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqSgx1x7VoA</a></p>	<p>Migration and movement</p> <p>Post War Britain</p>

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<b>Migration: coming to Britain</b>  <b>COMING IN SUMMER 2023</b>	<p>This learning package will feature a series of audio clips with text and suggested classroom activities for Key Stage 3. The clips, which last from around one to two minutes, are extracted from longer interviews with people who have moved to Leicester from places including the Caribbean (in the 1950s), East Africa (in the 1970s) and the Baltic States. Some interviewees made their homes in Leicester after being held here as Prisoners of War during World War Two. There are also extracts from interviews with people who migrated to England from Ireland and Wales.</p> <p>Alongside AV clips, a guide for teachers will offer full transcriptions and suggested ways of working with oral history in the classroom. The resource will be accessible through EMOHA's learning web pages which will go live over the summer.</p>	Migration and movement
		Post war Britain
<b>Memories of the Korean War</b>	<p>Members of the Leicester branch of the British Korean Veterans' Association talk about their memories of the Korean War.</p> <p>You can view the video on YouTube:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KMmuTVeLEI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KMmuTVeLEI</a></p>	War and conflict
		Post war Britain
<b>The Post War History of Leicester 1945-1962</b>	<p>This website looks at what happened in Leicester in the post war period up to the early 1960s. It uses the memories of local people, along with other sources, to give a flavour of what life was like in an era before the Internet, mobile phones, and global communication.</p>	Post War Britain

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	<a href="https://leicester.omeka.net/exhibits/show/pstwar/intro">https://leicester.omeka.net/exhibits/show/pstwar/intro</a>	
<b>First World War Remembered</b>	<p>In the 1980s and 1990s oral history projects across Leicestershire made around 300 recordings with people who lived through World War One either as children or adults. These memories have been edited with the help and support of Leicester Museums Service. They cover the start of the war, life on the Home Front, absence and death and the aftermath of the war.</p> <p><a href="https://le.ac.uk/emoha/themes/first-world-war">https://le.ac.uk/emoha/themes/first-world-war</a></p>	World War One

**Contact Dr Helen Foster**

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