

What were seaside holidays  
like in the past?

**Today we are learning:**

What seaside holidays were like 100 years ago.

Seaside holidays became very popular during Victorian times because new steam trains made getting to the seaside easy and cheap. Today we will be finding out what seaside holidays were like when they were most popular around 100 years ago.



Have a look at the photographs on the next slides. Can you be a history detective and spot clues that tell you what seaside holidays were like in the past?

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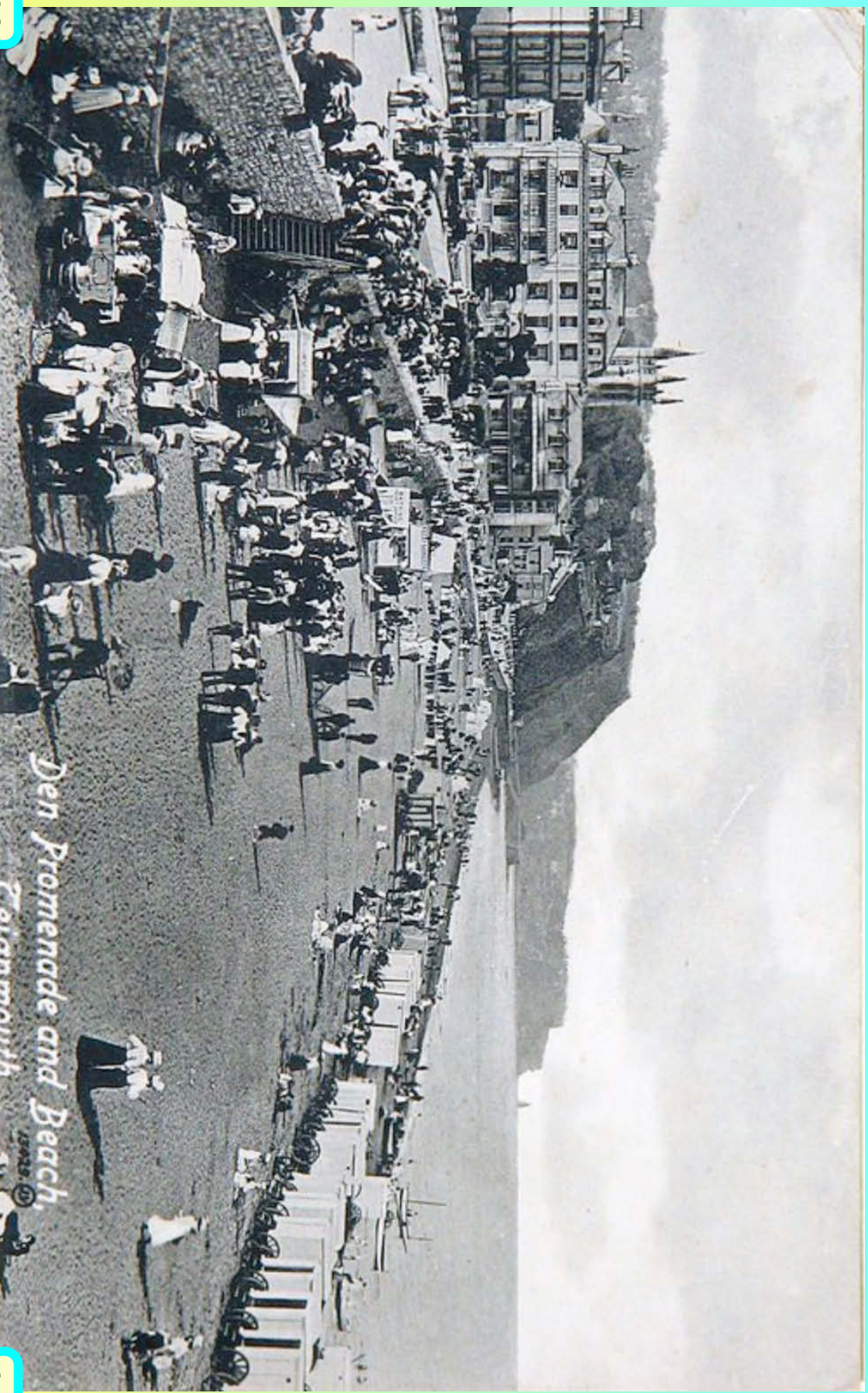


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*Den Promenade and Beach.*  
*Palanmouth*  
1892

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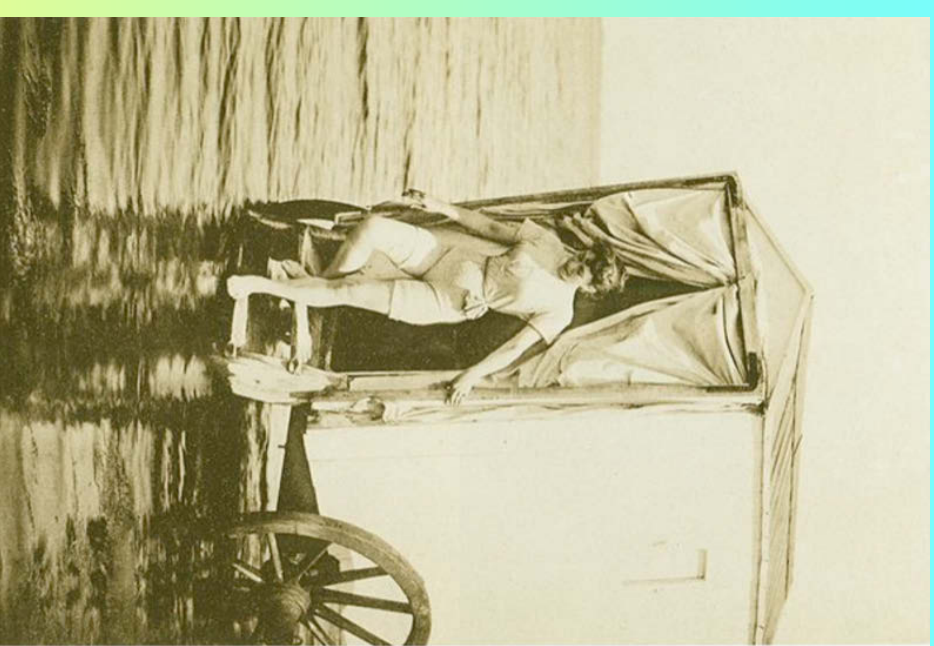
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In Victorian times, it was considered rude to show too much of your body.

For this reason, people didn't wear swimming costumes like we have today but ones that covered much more of their bodies. Bathing machines were little huts that could be rolled into the water. Women (and sometimes men) would get changed in the bathing machine and then step into the water without anyone having to see them in their swimming costume.



A woman stepping out of a bathing machine in her swimming costume.

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Although lots of people did change into bathing costumes, lots of people stayed fully dressed while they were on the beach. Can you spot the bathing machines in this picture?



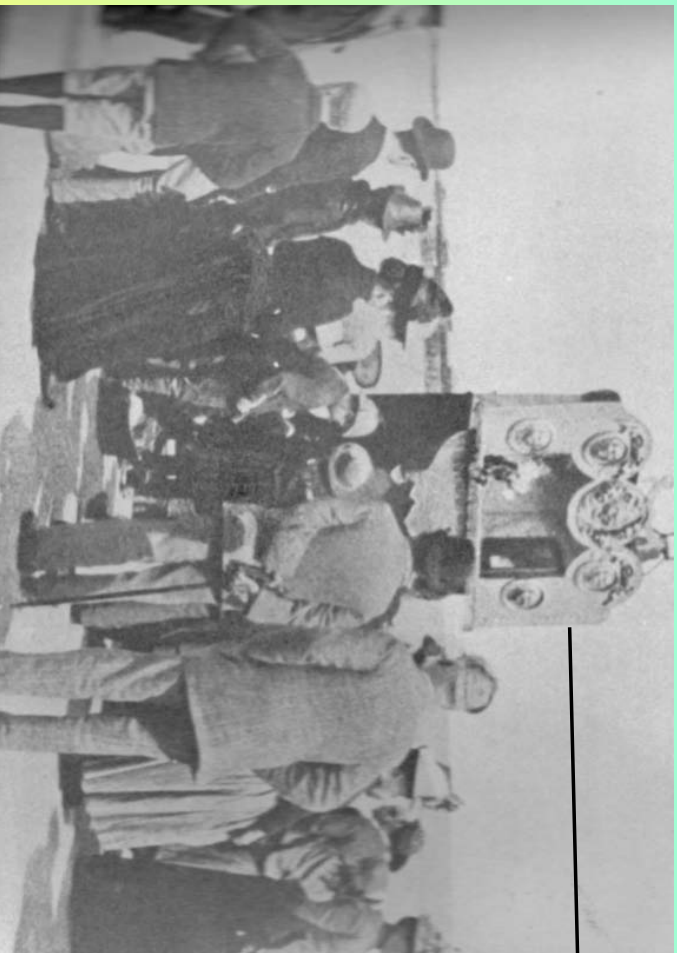
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There were lots of fun things to do at the beach. Punch and Judy shows were extremely popular. This picture shows a crowd of people watching the Punch and Judy puppets on the beach.



Have you ever seen a Punch and Judy show? What was it like?

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There were also brass bands, carousels to ride, boat trips and lots of other entertainers, like jugglers and magicians.



This picture shows a group of people listening to the brass band on the stage.

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Donkey rides were very popular too. Children also loved building sandcastles, digging big holes and playing in the sea. There were also rock pools to explore and animals and plants to spot that children who lived in the cities never saw at home.

A very fashionable thing to do was take a walk along the promenade. People stopped on the way to see the entertainment and to eat food that they could carry with them, such as fish and chips, ice-cream, cockles and jellied eels.



Jellied eels...a tasty seaside snack!

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How many of the things that people did  
on a seaside holiday 100 years ago do we  
do at the beach today?



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