

# BACK TO THE FUTURE THE MUSICAL



**Lesson Objective: To explore the social and cultural context of *Back to the Future The Musical*.**

## **Read the following short synopsis of Back to the Future The Musical.**

*The musical begins in 1985. Teenager Marty McFly has grand ambitions to become a musician. His friend Doctor Emmett Brown has invented a time machine using a DeLorean. Marty accidentally travels back in time to 1955 and meets his parents when they were in high school. He must get back to 1985 but also must make sure that his parents fall in love, or "the consequences will be disastrous." Will he make it back to the future? Only Doc Brown can help...*

# **THINK/PAIR/SHARE**

**What are you expecting to see onstage?**

**What do you think are the main themes of  
the musical?**

# **KEY THEMES OF *BACK TO THE FUTURE THE MUSICAL***

**Ambition**

**Re-writing history**

**Failure before success**

**Courage and self-belief**

**The power of love**

# MEET THE CHARACTERS



**MARTY MCFLY**



**DOC BROWN**



**LORRAINE BAINES**



**GEORGE MCFLY**



**GOLDIE WILSON**



**BIFF TANNEN**

**Discussion Task - What are your first impressions? What adjectives would you use to describe the characters?**

# EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?

**1) Divide the class into two groups.**

**2) Give one half of the class the Back to the Eighties Handout (Section 1: p.18) and the other half of the class Back to the Fifties Handout (Section 1: p.19)**

**3) Let them read, highlight and discuss the contextual information of the handout for 10 minutes.**

**4) The teacher will read out the following statements and students must stand up and say either “eighties” or “fifties,” depending on which decade they think the statement applies to. The teacher begins the activity by saying, “We are going to play ‘Eighties or Fifties.’ I’ll show you an image and read a statement, then you stand and say either “eighties” or “fifties” depending on which decade you think is correct.**

**ARE YOU READY?**

# FACT 1 - EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?

People started to watch television in black and white.



## FACT 2 - EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?

The decade when skateboarding became part of popular culture.





# FACT 3 - EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?

Youth culture emerged in diners, coffee shops and dances.



## FACT 4 - EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?

Fast food became popular, especially burgers and hot dogs.



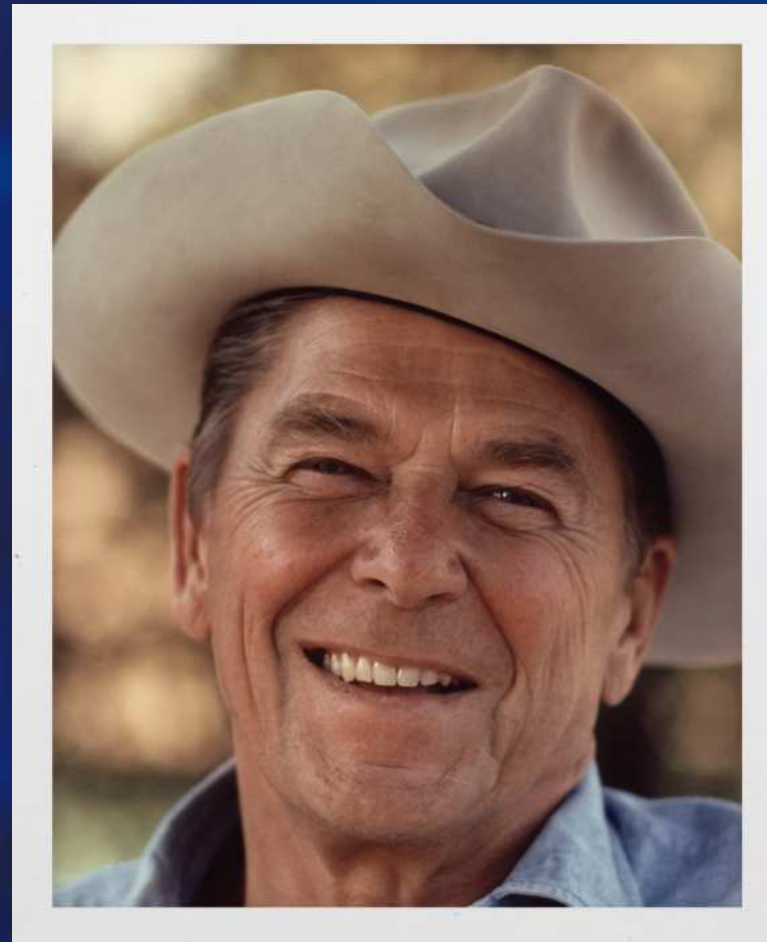
# FACT 5 - EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?

The decade when the Rubik's Cube™ reached its height of mainstream popularity.



## **FACT 6 - EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?**

**Ronald Reagan was president of the United States of America.**



# FACT 7 - EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?

Prom dances became popular within American high schools.



## **FACT 8 - EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?**

**The emergence of youth culture and rock 'n' roll.**



## FACT 9 - EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?

Advancements in technology led to the invention of the CD player, the mobile phone, and the video recorder (VCR).



## **FACT 10 - EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?**



**In this decade, the gender roles for men and women were clearly defined.**

**Couples wed early. The average age of American women at marriage was 20.**



What are you most looking forward to when you see the show?



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**Mousetrap**  
theatreprojects

Commissioned by  
**Mousetrap Theatre Projects**  
[www.mousetrap.org.uk](http://www.mousetrap.org.uk)



**WE TEACH DRAMA**

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Photo Credit: Matthew Murphy & Evan Zimmerman