



FACTSHEET 1

A Changing World and Changing Lives

Angie Gibson has just started work at the John Lewis store in Oxford Street, London. Her lifestyle isn't much different from most 21-year-old girls these days. But what was the world like when her mum, granny and great-granny first started working at John Lewis?

- What kind of clothes did they wear?
- Which new inventions made the headlines?
- What music did they listen to?
- Which films were popular at the cinema?
- Which political events changed their lives?

Write the correct date next to all the sentences below.

Use these statements about Angie Gibson's great-granny, granny and mum as clues to help you:

1923 is the year Beryl Riley started work at John Lewis

1948 is the year Maria Davis started work at John Lewis

1979 is the year Shelly Gibson started work at John Lewis

Margaret Thatcher becomes Britain's first ever woman prime minister.

French designer Christian Dior launches the 'New Look' – ankle length skirts with narrow waists, worn with high heels.

A tiny, but revolutionary stereo system called the Sony Walkman is launched in Japan.

The first special shopping centre (mall) opens in America with 150 stores and parking for 5,500 cars.

The percentage of married women who work doubles to 30%; women now have a dual role - wage earners and home-makers.

French designer "Coco" Chanel says even sweaters can be chic (fashionable).

The first Euro-MPs are elected to the European parliament in Strasbourg, France.

Fashionable stockings are produced using a new man-made material, nylon; a new clothes fastener called Velcro goes on sale.

Wimbledon champion Chris Evert turns heads with her fashionable short dresses; the first air-cushioned trainer is developed by Nike.

The new Polaroid camera proves very popular.

Mahatma Gandhi, the father of Indian independence, is shot dead by one of his countrymen at a prayer meeting in New Delhi.

Women's wages are 50 per cent lower than men's.

Lord Carnarvon dies from an insect bite at the Tutankhamun dig in Egypt, causing rumours that the tomb is cursed.

Gene Kelly stars as D'Artagnan in the film The Three Musketeers.

The first long-playing vinyl records (LPs) goes on sale to the general public.

A catchy song called the Charleston starts a new dance craze.

A gardening programme becomes the first pre-recorded video tape for sale in Britain.

Women's wages are 74.8% of men's.

British Rail opens the first Intercity 125 high-speed train service, from London to Bristol.

French tennis star Suzanne Lenglen wins Wimbledon for the fifth consecutive time and starts a new fashion with her daring loose-fitting dress.

Scrabble, the word game invented by architect Alfred Mosher Butts, is launched in America.

Movie star Clara Bow's "bob" hairstyle is popular among young girls.

Elton John becomes the first rock star from the West to tour Russia; music from the film Saturday Night Fever dominates the pop charts and the dance-floors.

King George VI opens the Olympic Games in London.

A system for transmitting text between computers, called teletext, is introduced by IBM.

Most girls in Britain leave school at just 14.

Prince Albert, Duke of York, marries fashionable commoner Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon at Westminster Abbey.

Former punk rockers create the theatrical 'New Romantics' look – ruffled shirts, satin trousers, high-heeled boots and floppy haircuts.

The first ever FA Cup Final at Wembley; Bolton 2 West Ham 0.

In the USA, Richard and Maurice McDonald open a drive-in hamburger café.

When you have matched all the events above with the correct dates, choose another year. For example, the year your mum (or granny) left school, started work, or got married.

Look for information about your chosen year in library books, magazines and on the internet. Then ask your mum/granny about the clothes she wore, the music she listened to, new inventions, etc.

When you have enough information, write a short story about your mum's/granny's life as a girl or young lady.