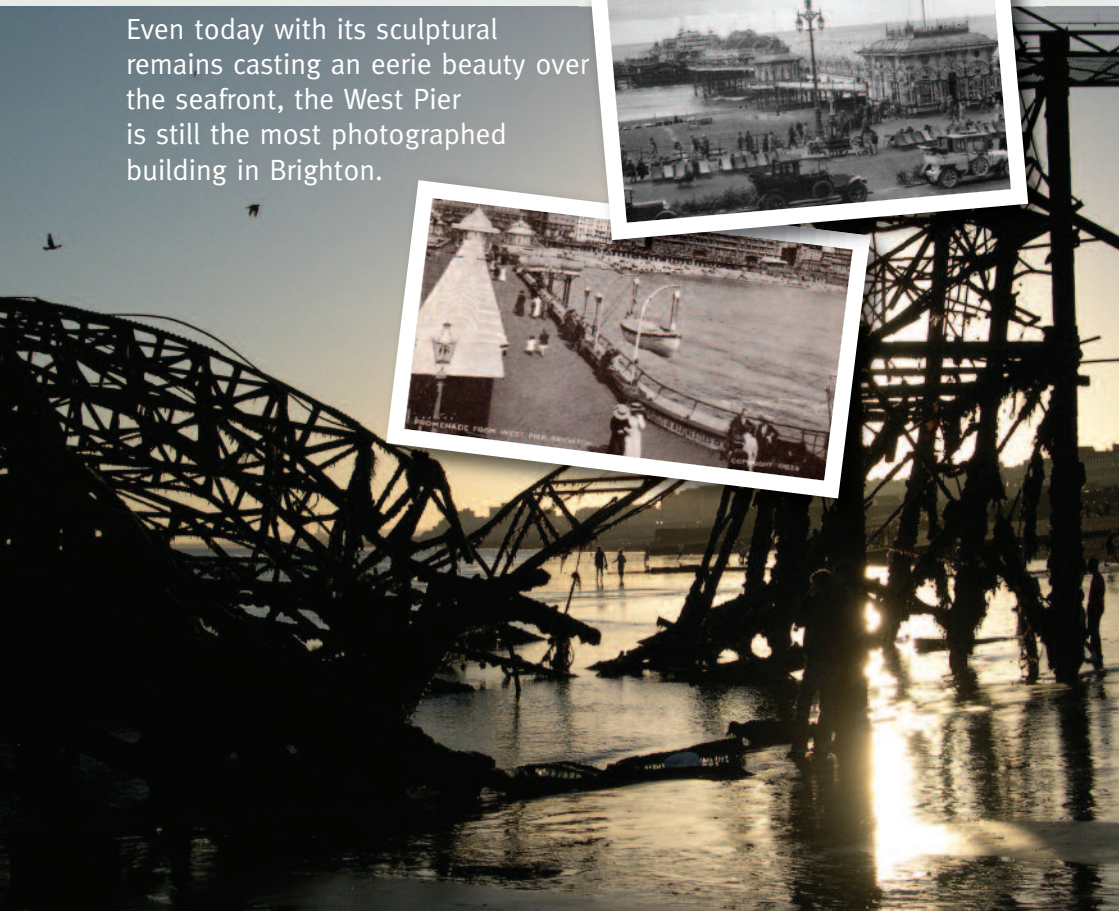


THE WEST PIER

ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS

For almost a century and a half the West Pier has been Britain's most iconic pier. Renowned for its wonderful architectural style, it has been visited and enjoyed by millions.

Even today with its sculptural remains casting an eerie beauty over the seafront, the West Pier is still the most photographed building in Brighton.



The West Pier Trust would like to work with schools. We can provide talks, tours and activities at the West Pier site during the summer term or on school premises at any time of the year. These can be tailored to your needs and the requirements of the National Curriculum. The activities can fit History, Geography, Science and English. The starting point will always be the West Pier but the range of topics include

- **social and architectural history of the pier and Brighton**
- **Victorian engineering**
- **the development of seaside towns, leisure and tourism**
- **designing a pier**
- **natural history of the pier**
- **the future and a new West Pier**
- **the i360**
- **the pier as a stimulus for creative writing**

Site visits take in the West Pier arch at the Fishing Museum, which houses a collection of pier artefacts.

Sessions will be led by experienced local historians and costs will be kept to a minimum, to cover expenses only.

We are offering a free one hour taster session for teachers with refreshments. To book your place, for more information, and to discuss how the activities could be made to work for you, call Rachel Clark on 01273 321499.



The West Pier

Opening in 1866 as a simple promenade pier, by the early twentieth century with the addition of a theatre and concert hall, the West Pier had become a thriving centre of seaside entertainment. By the late 1920's the fully developed pier was enjoying its glamorous heyday.

With the outbreak of the second world war, and the changed circumstances of its aftermath, the fortunes of the West Pier began to decline. As the fashion for foreign holidays took hold in the 50's and 60's, the neglected pier fell into disrepair. Declared unsafe, the grand old lady was closed to the public in 1975.

Almost immediately the battle to restore the pier to its former glory began. However, it wasn't until 1998, with the granting of a major Lottery award, that that goal seemed achievable. Sadly, hopes of restoration were dashed when the pier was destroyed by fire in 2003.

Today, while a new pier remains the goal, exciting plans for a complementary structure on the site have been approved and welcomed by the city. Designed by the architects responsible for the London Eye, a 150m observation tower - the i360 - soon will rise from the root end of the old pier. A fitting twenty-first century tribute to its magnificent predecessor.



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