

# BACK TO THE FUTURE THE MUSICAL



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

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

*The start of the musical is set in 1985. Marty McFly is a teenager with grand ambitions to be a musician. His friend Doctor Emmett Brown has invented a time machine, from a DeLorean. Marty ends up travelling back in time to 1955 and meets his mother and father when they were at school. He has to get back to 1985, but also has to 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 on stage?

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 them?

# 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 (Section 1: p.19)
- 3) Let them read, highlight and discuss the contextual information of the handout for 10 minutes.
- 4) We are going to play 'Eighties or Fifties'. The teacher reads out the following statements and students must stand up and say either 'eighties' or 'fifties', depending on which decade they think it applies to.

**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?

Young culture emerged in diners, coffee shops and dances



Original London Cast

## FACT 4 – EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?

Fast food became popular, especially burgers and hot dogs



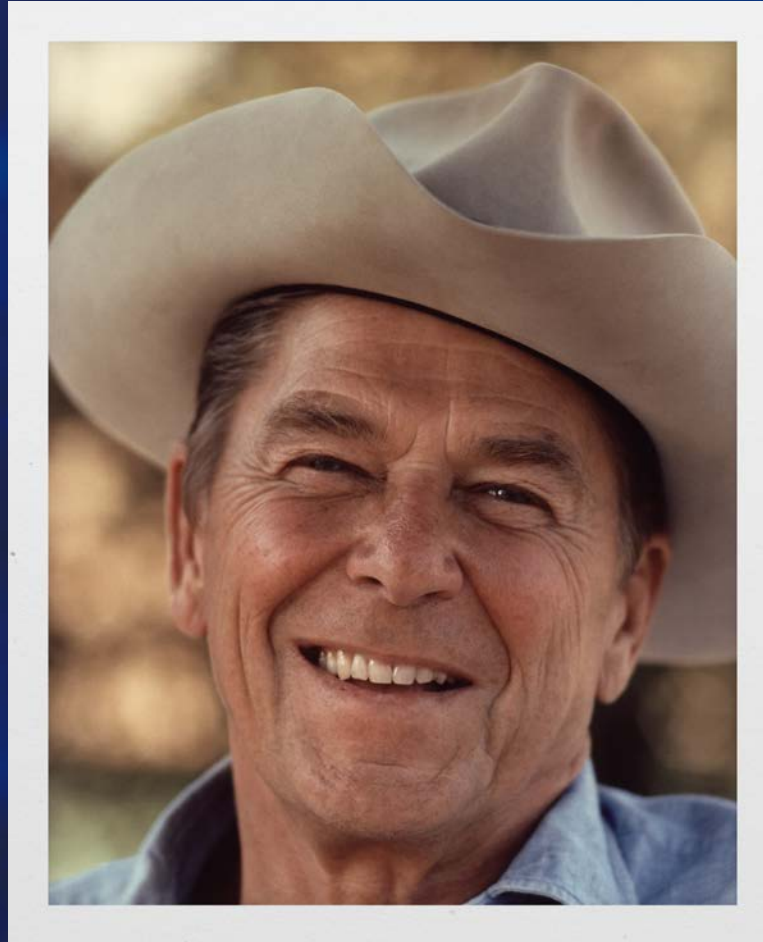
## FACT 5 – EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?

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



## FACT 6 – EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?

Ronald Reagan was president of the USA



## FACT 7 – EIGHTIES OR FIFTIES?

Prom dances became popular within American high schools



Original London Cast

## 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?



Original London Cast

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**Mousetrap**  
theatreprojects

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



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