



## Blackgang History Project!

Think you know all about Blackgang Chine?

### Student Introduction

What you will produce:

- ▶ A poster that will do two things. It will:
  - ✓ be a short history of Blackgang Chine
  - ✓ record what you did at Blackgang Chine.



Where will you get the information from?

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- ✓ Page 8 shows a map of Blackgang Chine that you could label
- ✓ Pages 9 & 10 shows the rides and the attractions at Blackgang today, as well as logos and images you may want to use!

### Questions and suggestions to guide your work

#### For the History

- ✓ Who started Blackgang Chine and which year did it open?
- ✓ Why was it opened then? Why there?
- ✓ In the past what did people do at Blackgang Chine?

#### On what you did

- ✓ Name the ride you enjoyed the most – cut out the image that shows it.
- ✓ Explain at little about what the ride involved.
- ✓ Say when the ride opened.
- ✓ What did you eat and drink?



## How to complete the task – tick off each part as you do it

### Part 1

- ☐ Cut out one Blackgang Chine image from page 10 and stick it on your sheet
- ☐ Write a few sentences about when Blackgang Chine began – if you can, explain why
- ☐ Cut out a picture of Blackgang in the past and stick it to your sheet
- ☐ Annotate the picture to explain what it shows about the park in the past.

### Part 2

- ☐ Begin by choosing the image of the part you enjoyed most
- ☐ Cut it out and stick it on to your large sheet of paper
- ☐ Annotate the picture with when the feature of Blackgang Chine opened – use the timeline
- ☐ Write a few sentences about what the feature is
- ☐ Explain why you enjoyed it.



## A Short History of Blackgang Chine

### Phase 1: The Start

In 1842 Alexander Dabell bought land at Blackgang 150m above the sea.

By the next year he had built paths so that people could enjoy the gardens and the view along the coast to The Needles and beyond. Steps were built so people could marvel at the chine from the beach. Only about 50 people lived in the area so it seemed wild and exotic.

Then Alexander Dabell heard that a whale had landed on the beach at the Needles. He bought it, sold the blubber and had the skeleton cleaned. The skeleton was then put together and



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Victoria built Osborne House for her family holidays.

This made the Island the perfect place to holiday and most of the kings and queens of Europe came at some point. Very quickly visiting Blackgang Chine became something everyone did when they came to the Isle of Wight. After 1865 railways made it quicker and cheaper to come to the Island, so more people visited and holiday towns like Sandown, Shanklin and Ventnor increased in size very quickly.

### Phase 3: After World War One

Unrest in Europe made travel dangerous so the Island was again a safe place to holiday, but because it was an island, it felt like going abroad. It was in the 1930s that Bruce Dabell used his brilliant imagination to add to Blackgang Chine all the things we have come to expect when we visit a theme park.

For example there were the funny mirrors, giant models and floodlights so that it could be enjoyed after dark. It was these ideas that shaped famous theme parks in America (like Disneyland!) that came later.

### Phase 4: The late Twentieth Century


In the 1960s most people were getting richer and buying things like cars. They could use them to go on holiday and ferries that you could drive on and drive off made the Isle of Wight easy and cheap to get to.

These were the boom years for Blackgang Chine and almost every year a new attraction opened: The Crooked House, Adventureland, Dinosaurland, Fairy Castle, Nurseryland, Frontierland and Smugglerland.

In the 1970s space exploration was a really big thing so there was even a flight simulator. Blackgang Chine is still owned by the Dabell family and today it is Simon who is guiding it to greater things.



## TIMELINE

NATIONAL AND LOCAL EVENTS	DATE	DEVELOPMENTS AT 
Chale Farm and 100 acres fell into the sea	1800	The population of the Blackgang area is about 40
	1805	
Population of the Isle of Wight 24 000	1810	
Ryde pier opened making travel to the Island easy	1815	
	1820	
	1825	
	1830	
The Clarendon and 2 more ships wrecked	1835	
St Catherine's lighthouse built	1840	Blackgang Chine opens
Queen Victoria built Osborne House	1845	Skeleton of whale built to walk through
3 ships wrecked nearby	1850	Gardens and shop developed
A period of economic boom, the rich got richer	1855	

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Road to Chale fell into the sea	1885	
8 ships wrecked nearby	1890	
Railway line to Whitwell and Ventnor opened	1895	
Marconi made the first radio broadcast from Niton	1900	
Population of the Isle of Wight 85 000	1905	
	1910	Path to beach washed away
World War One	1915	
	1920	
Road from Niton fell into the sea	1925	
	1930	Funny Mirrors and Charity Gnome Garden
	1935	Chine floodlights
World War Two	1940	
	1945	
'The Albatross' wrecked nearby	1950	Model Village and Smugglers Cave
	1955	Museum rebuilt
Drive on drive off ferries to the island began	1960	Water Gardens and Maze planted
	1965	Crooked House and Fern Stream
	1970	Adventureland, Dinosaurland, Fairy Castle
	1975	Frontierland, Smugglerland, Jungleland
Main road to Blackgang Chine fell into the sea	1980	Blackgang Sawmill, relocation of many features
	1985	Fort Buffalo assault course, new road and car park
Cliffs fell into the sea revealing dinosaur bones	1990	Lost Valley landscaped
	1995	
Population of the Isle of Wight 117 000	2000	
	2005	
	2010	
	2015	Valley of the Dodos, Restricted Area 5 opened

# History of Blackgang Chine

- 1842 Land bought by Alexander Dabell.
- 1843 Paths made to allow the visitors to explore the chine and get to the sea 150m below.
- 1844 The skeleton of a whale was put together for people to walk through.
- 1860s Gardens made bigger and more beautiful.
- 1886 Erosion caused the coast road to Chale and Niton fall into the sea.



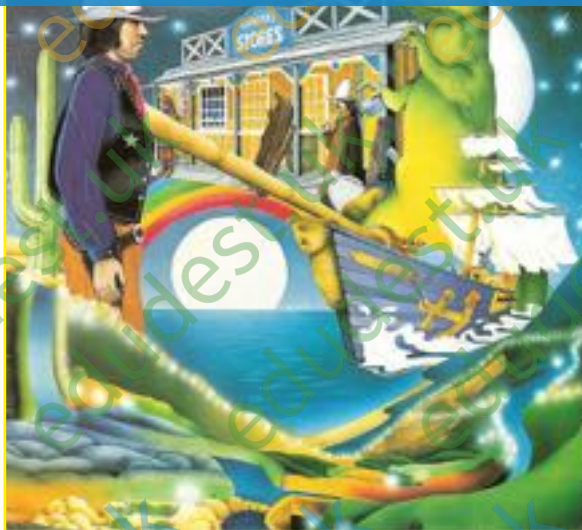
1928 The road that passed the

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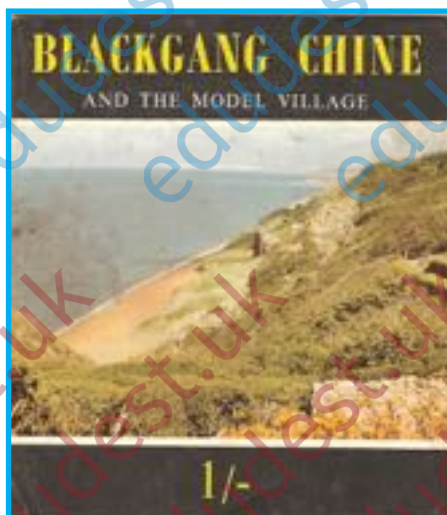
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- 1963 Maze planted.
- 1972 Dinosaurland opened.
- 1974 Nurseryland opened.
- 1976 Frontierland opened.
- 2012 Valley of the Dodos opened.
- 2013 Blackgang Chine celebrated its 170th Birthday.
- 2014 Restricted Area 5 opened.





## Key words

### Dinosaur

Animals that lived on earth millions of years before humans. We find their bones when cliffs fall into the sea.

### Chine

An Isle of Wight word for a deep and narrow valley made over thousands of years by a small stream.

### Wrecker

Men who put lights on the cliffs making them look like light houses. This confused ships' captains, who

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So there was lots of money to be made from smuggling tea and sugar into the country without paying tax. Lonely places like Blackgang Chine were ideal for doing this in secret.

### Pirate

Men who used their boat to steal from other boats at sea. Sometimes they just stole the cargo, other times killed the crew by making them 'walk the plank'.

### Theme Park

A place where things are built to attract and entertain tourists. It will be easy to get to and have places to eat.

### Regatta

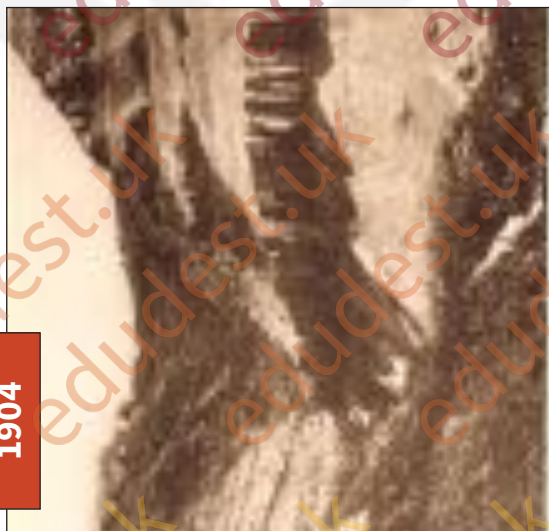
An event by the sea that includes boat or yacht races.

### Charabanc

An early form of bus, usually used for pleasure trips.

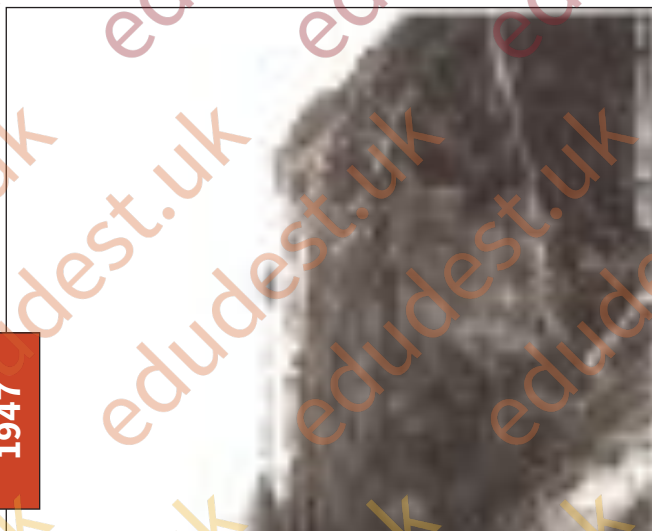


1904



GOOSE TO THE ENTRANCE 1904

1947



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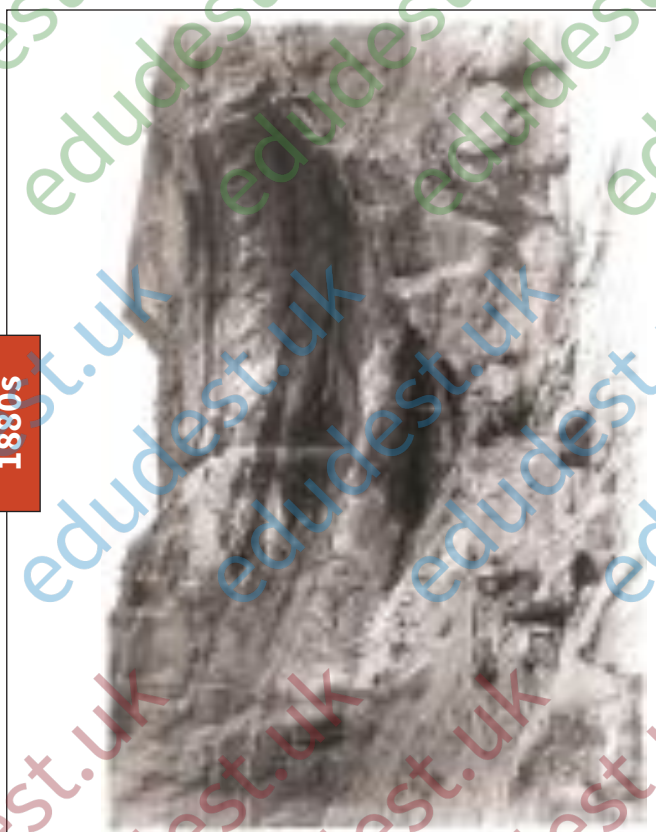
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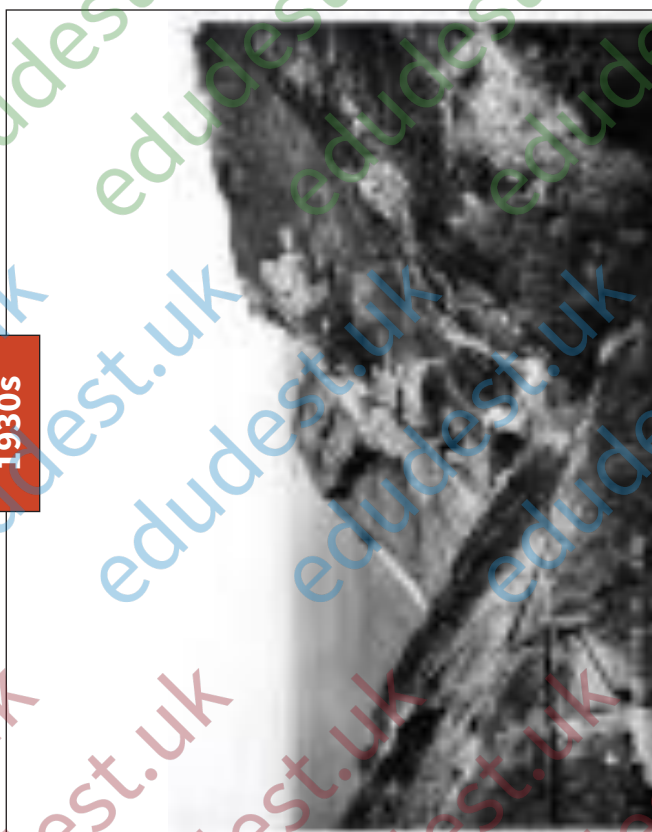
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How the chine has changed at Blangang

1880s



1930s



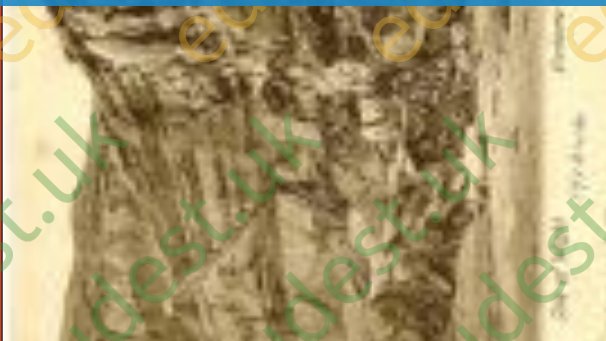


## Twentieth Century

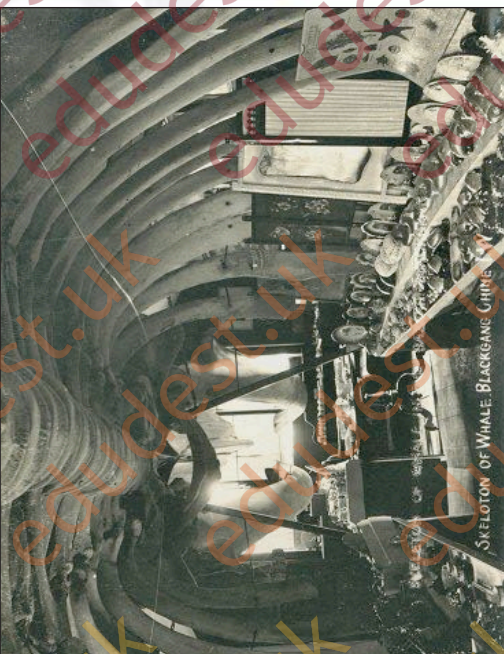
### 1911 - The regatta on the beach



### 1910s - Last path to beach



### 1910s - Whalers for sale inside the whale's skeleton



### 1922 - People travelling to Blackgang Chine



### 1934 - The restaurant



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**NURSERYLAND**



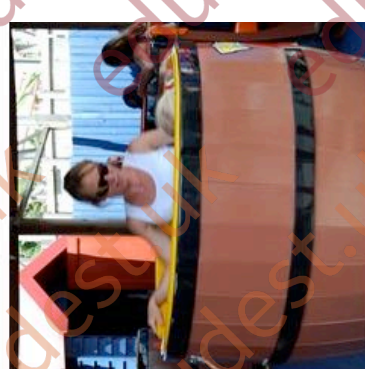
**LAND**



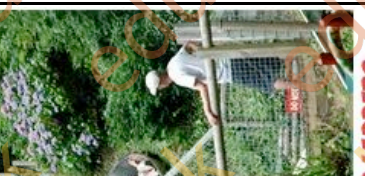
**JONAH'S WHALE**



**MANSION**



**PIRATE'S BARREL**



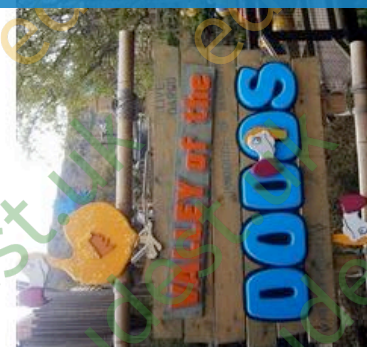
**D LADDERS**

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**VALLEY OF THE DODOS**



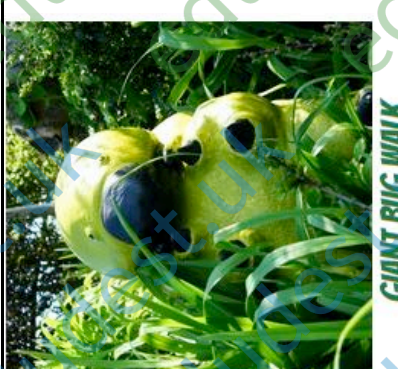
**THE CROOKED HOUSE**



**WATER FORCE**



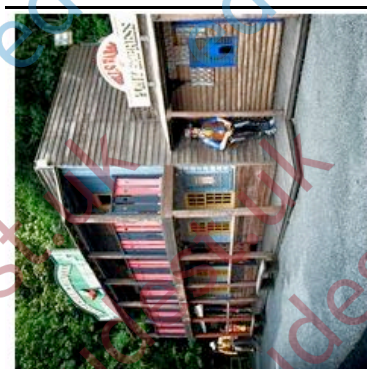
**PIRATE COVE**



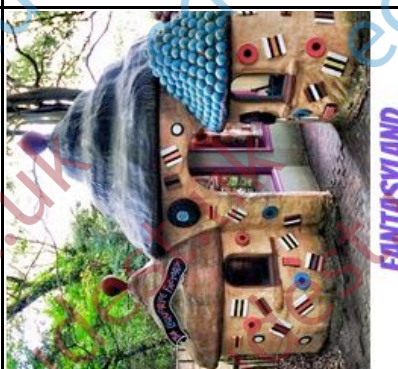
**GIANT BUG WALK**



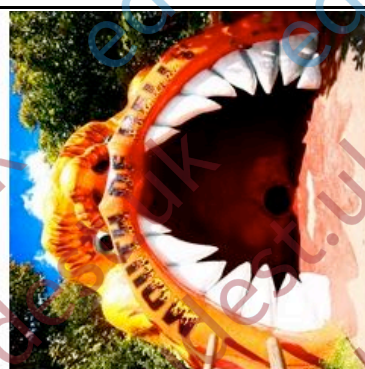
**CLIFF HANGER**



**COWBOY TOWN**

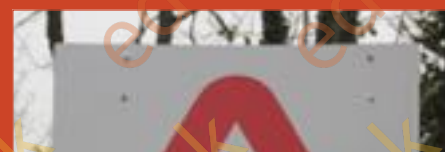


**FANTASYLAND**



**HELL'S MOUTH**



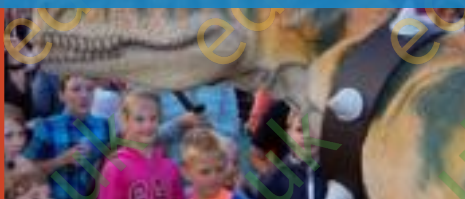
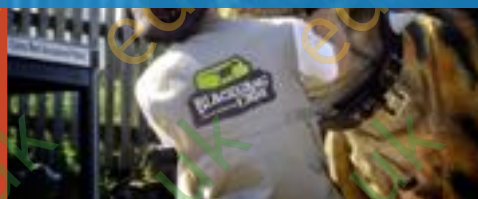


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