



## Model Village Timeline!

How and why did the popularity of model villages grow over time?

TASK - What you do:

- ▶ Cut out the boxes that tell the history of Godshill Model Village (below) and stick them underneath the right part of the timeline (on page 2). You can then see how the attraction's development relates to other historical events.
- ▶ Then, discuss and answer the questions on page 3.

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The first model village opened at Bekonscot in 1929, just to the west of London. There was a garden railway to take you round.

The next important step in model villages took place at Bourton-on-the-Water in 1930. This contained a totally accurate model of all the buildings.

In the 1930s five more model villages had been built, taking the total to seven by the time World War Two began in 1939.

World War Two and the shortages that followed meant that there was not many developments in the 1940s.

In the 1950s people were better off and had money for holidays. So tourist attractions were developed all over the Island.

In 1952 Mr Dams bought the vicarage in Godshill and began his model village in the garden.

When the model village was first built it showed only old Shanklin, St. Blasius Church and Shanklin Chine.

In 1969 Godshill Model Village was sold to Mr Thwaites and he added many models to show the village of Godshill itself.

The next turning point in model villages happened at Godshill. From 1971 trees and bushes were grown to the right size.

In 2004 Mr Thwaite's daughter Penny took over the running of the model village with her husband Stuart Dyer.





## Timeline - key questions to consider:

1. What do you notice about when most the developments at Godshill Model Village took place?

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2. What does this tell you about the development of tourism on the island?

