

### Learning objectives:

- To consider change over time
- To compare what typical streets were like then and now

### Key vocabulary

streets, back streets, washing line, coal bunker, outside toilet, tin bath, yard, chimney pots, terraced houses

Generate a discussion with the children about their street. Consider types of houses – detached/semi-detached/terraced/bungalow. Do their houses have gardens? Both back and front? Conservatories/Orangeries/Extensions? Lots of parked cars in the street? Chimney pots on the rooftops? Wooden or plastic window frames?

Use the PowerPoint to look at street scenes that Norman painted. What are the people in this street/community doing? Discuss

Norman once said:

***‘If you see a street and it’s not terribly interesting, you don’t draw it. But then something happens. Some interesting people come in or a couple of dogs start fighting or some kids start playing with skipping ropes, and suddenly it enlivens the place and I want to draw it’***

Focus on the different characters in the scene to ask questions such as: How might he/she be feeling? How do we know? What might he/she be saying? Where might he/she/they be going? Are there any/many cars? Why not? Look at the characters’ clothes – the women in their full pinnies, men in flat caps, dark suits.

Look closely at one of Norman Cornish’s street scenes. Choose one where there is a lot going on. Compile a list of simple sentences (6 or 8 perhaps) about what the characters are doing.

Pupils could work in pairs or small groups and given two characters to mime from the street image. Once ready, they can mime for the other groups who have to guess what action they are miming and which character they are in the painting.

- Playing Jump Rope
- Booling a hoop
- Gossiping in the street
- Hanging out washing
- Climbing steps to the railway station
- Pushing a pram along the street

These sentences are just ideas. You can select or the children can select their own sentences based on the street scene/scenes you are looking at.

You could use two different street scenes so that there is more choice of action to mime.

Once all groups are engaged in miming their character actions, film them. This really will help bring the streets back then to life!



There are also opportunities to investigate old photographs of streets in the 50s/60s. The Norman Cornish Trail has an app which features street scenes. Examples such as these can be used as a good starting point for discussion and for comparison. Walk the Norman Cornish Trail at Spennymoor and compare the street now to what it was like back then. What's the same? What has changed?

### Plenary

Recap on learning and compare streets now to streets back in Norman Cornish's paintings and in his particular 'slice of life'.