

Discover the Eras: Picture the Past Through Time!

After reading 1725 in France and Italy (page 2), 1825 in Germany and Austria (page 4), and 1925 in the Americas (page 6), students will explore how daily life—transportation, fashion, and school—changed over 200 years. They’ll become **visual historians**, collecting images and facts from each time period to build a powerful, educational slideshow. Each “time stop” will show what people wore, how they traveled, and what school was like—bringing history to life.

Discover the Eras: Picture Life Across Three Centuries

- Research and gather 2–3 images for each time period (total 6–9 images):
 - 1725 in France and Italy—canals, carriages, Rococo fashion, Jesuit schools
 - 1825 in Germany and Austria—Danube riverboats, top hats, strict classrooms
 - 1925 in the Americas—Model T, flappers, chalkboard schoolroom
- Include at least one image each for transportation, fashion, and school per era.
- Add historical figures or events on a timeline slide:
 - 1725: Jean-Baptiste Greuze, Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot, Treaty of Vienna
 - 1825: Johann Strauss II, Erie Canal, first public railway
 - 1925: B.B. King, Celia Cruz, Oscar Peterson, *The Great Gatsby*

Build Your Slideshow: History Comes to Life

- Create a 7–10 slide presentation with these sections:
 - Title Slide (Name your project)
 - One slide for each era with pictures + captions
 - A slide comparing an element (transportation, fashion, or school) over time
 - Optional: Add a timeline slide with 1–2 global events per era
- Each caption should explain:
 - What the image shows
 - What it tells us about life in that time/place

Reflect: What Changed, What Stayed the Same?

- Ask students:
 - “Which time period would you want to live in—and why?”
 - “What changed most across these eras?”
 - “How did clothing and transportation reflect people’s values or technology?”
 - “How did school differ based on class, gender, or location?”
 - Bonus: Name your presentation like a documentary (e.g., *Three Windows into the Past*) and share it aloud or in groups.
- Have students complete the poll of the Autumn 2025: “If you could time travel, would you rather go back in time or forward to the future?” Visit kids.pianoinspires.com/submit to respond!

For more ideas to integrate historical storytelling, visual discovery, and time-traveling projects into your classroom, see Gwendolyn Mok’s article, “[A Unique Collection of Historical Keyboards](#)” in *Piano Magazine* (May 2014, Vol. 6, No. 3).

This resource is created for use with Piano Inspires Kids. Visit kids.pianoinspires.com for more information and activity ideas.