

# Hands on History at Home

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## Happy Snappers

Explore your surroundings in a different way and create your own perfect portrait

Nowadays almost anyone can be a photographer using only their **mobile phone**. But imagine a time when taking photos was very rare and very difficult. In fact, imagine if there was **just one photo** of you in existence!

**What would you like it to show you doing?**

**What would you wear?**

**Would you be on your own or with friends?**

**How old would you want to be in the photo?**



This is William's wife, Margaret. Can you see what she's leaning on?

One of the buildings at the Museum is a **Daylight Photography Studio** which belonged to Edwardian photographer **William Hayes** in **1902**. It has a darkroom and finishing studio too.

William would photograph people in their **finest clothing** against romantic or exotic **backdrops** to make them **look important**. As photos were still quite **rare**, people would be proud of the pictures he took.



Here is William's camera

## Now it's your turn... Create a photography studio in your house

First, look around for **the perfect place** to take a portrait photo. This will be your **backdrop**:

Is there a curtain which looks like you're at the theatre?  
Could you stand in front of a picture as though you're in a far-away place?  
What about a patterned wall paper?

If you're getting someone else to take your picture, decide carefully what outfit you will wear – will you **dress up in a costume** or **wear your smartest clothes**?

Do you need any **props**? Hats were often signs of status or importance. Do you have anything to hold to help you create the right impression?



This photo recreates the one of Margaret (above). Could you find a famous picture to copy?