



THE VILLAGE OF HORNÍ VYSOKÉ'S TRANSFORMATION

Educational goal: By comparing photographs, students consider the transformations in a border village. The differences that they record bring them towards an interest in the causes of these changes (the expulsion of the Sudeten Germans, modernization).

Key words: *consequences of the World War II, countryside, modernization, continuity and change, questioning*

Instructions for individual slides:

Notes:

1 LOOKING AT THE PHOTOGRAPH (5 minutes)

Look at the photographs using the magnifying glass, and read the descriptions.

2 ANALYZING THE PHOTOGRAPHS (5 minutes)

Mark concrete spots on the photographs and describe them in detail. Where there were changes, mark in red; when it stayed the same, mark in blue.

In the older photograph, students might notice numerous elements that are missing from the newer image: the store, the car, a gas station, the writing, a tree, people, advertisements, etc. The writing provides interesting information: "Karlik's Gasthaus" (Karlik's Guesthouse), the sign saying "„Verkauf Molkerei, täglich frische Vollmilch, Buttermilch, Rahm, Teebutter" ("For sale: dairy products, whole milk fresh daily, buttermilk, sour cream, butter"), or the sign on the left, "Gemischwaren - Franz Karlik" ("General store - Franz Karlik").

3 INTERPRETING THE PHOTOS (15 minutes)

The analysis of the photographs connects to an interpretation of the changes noted and the emphasis on their historical causes: ❶ Think about what led to the changes that you found. Write down what events could have influenced this change and why. ❷ From the photographs, figure out how the buildings' functions and life changed in the village.

By pointing out differences in the photo, the teacher can stimulate further questions: Why did the place in the photograph change so drastically? Where is it? Does its geographical location have something to do with its transformation?

Using the internet, students can find out that Horní Vysoké is a small village in the touristically significant Central Bohemian Highlands region. The pub with accommodation for guests and the shop with miscellaneous goods were normal for similar villages before WWII, while the gas station is rarity. Taking photos was an extraordinary event in that period, which is why the whole family gathered outside the building. After the expulsion of the German-speaking population in 1945, visitors to the village considerably decreased, and later urbanization also had something to do with the population decrease. Instead of a village, the area has now become a weekend retreat for cottage owners from the city.

Further ways to draw on this material

Using their own photographs (for example, family photos) or postcards, students can do similar comparisons of places in their region.