

Goal
 You get to know another student in
 the partner class.
 You learn a little about everyday life
 in the GDR and in your partner's home
 country.

Language Learning Goal
 You can exchange ideas and express
 your feelings.

FROM A BYGONE ERA



Can you imagine what everyday life was like in socialist East Germany before the two German states were reunited in 1990?

With a partner, you'll watch old video recordings of daily life during different decades and exchange reactions. The short films are in an open memory box: <https://open-memory-box.de/>.



During the exchange, you will also get to know your partner better.

OPEN MEMORY BOX / ANTI-ARCHIVE ARCHIVE STORIES / INFO

SEARCH

ALL 40S 50S 60S 70S 80S 90S

LANDSCAPE 079-28	RIVER 049-03	CAR RACING 127-02	WATER 107-04	HELICOPTER 056-03
TOWER 114-06	VIEW 123-08	WINTER 101-15	WEDDING 134-05	HOLIDAY HOME 168-14
LANDSCAPE 110-01	GIFTS 009-41	DRINK COFFEE 007-02	TRADITIONAL CLOTHING 131-02	BEACH 131-07

<https://open-memory-box.de/>

<https://open-memory-box.de/stories/my-biggest-dream>



1 

Before you meet up with your partner, think about the following questions. You can also exchange ideas with the students in your own class.

How do you imagine everyday life in the socialist GDR?



<https://open-memory-box.de/stories/my-biggest-dream>

What would have been unique about life in the GDR?
How would it have been different from where you currently live?

How were videos filmed before cellphone cameras became prevalent?

Have you seen film recordings of past decades? How did they look?

If the act of filming was still as special and difficult today as it was in the past, what kinds of things would you film?



2

You will now meet with a student from the partner class. Schedule the meeting in a video chat app with screen sharing functionality, such as Zoom. Then go to the following website: <https://open-memory-box.de/>. Here you'll find the short videos on your assigned topics. Watch at least six of the films on your topic together and exchange ideas using the following key questions:

- What are your immediate emotional reactions to the films?
- What differences between past and present do you notice?
- Can you tell whether the short video was shot in a capitalist or socialist country?
- What in the videos seemed like it was very typically German? What would have been different if the videos had been filmed in the U.S.?
- How do the people look? In what situations do they find themselves?
- What are the similarities between the videos?

3

Select two videos that you find especially interesting and that you think reflect life in a former socialist country well. Paste the link to the videos online and leave a short comment that includes both of your names and your reasons for choosing the video.

4

Watch 2 or 3 of the other groups' videos and comment on them.

