

Dossier Blackpool

Ce dossier comprend 3 documents :

- Document 1 : *Blackpool, the development of a tourist destination*
- Document 2 : Graphique, *Numbers of tourist visitors*
- Document 3 : Extrait de *Notes from a Small Island*, Bill Bryson
- Document 4 : Article *Should Blackpool be a World Heritage Site ?* Anthony Rostron

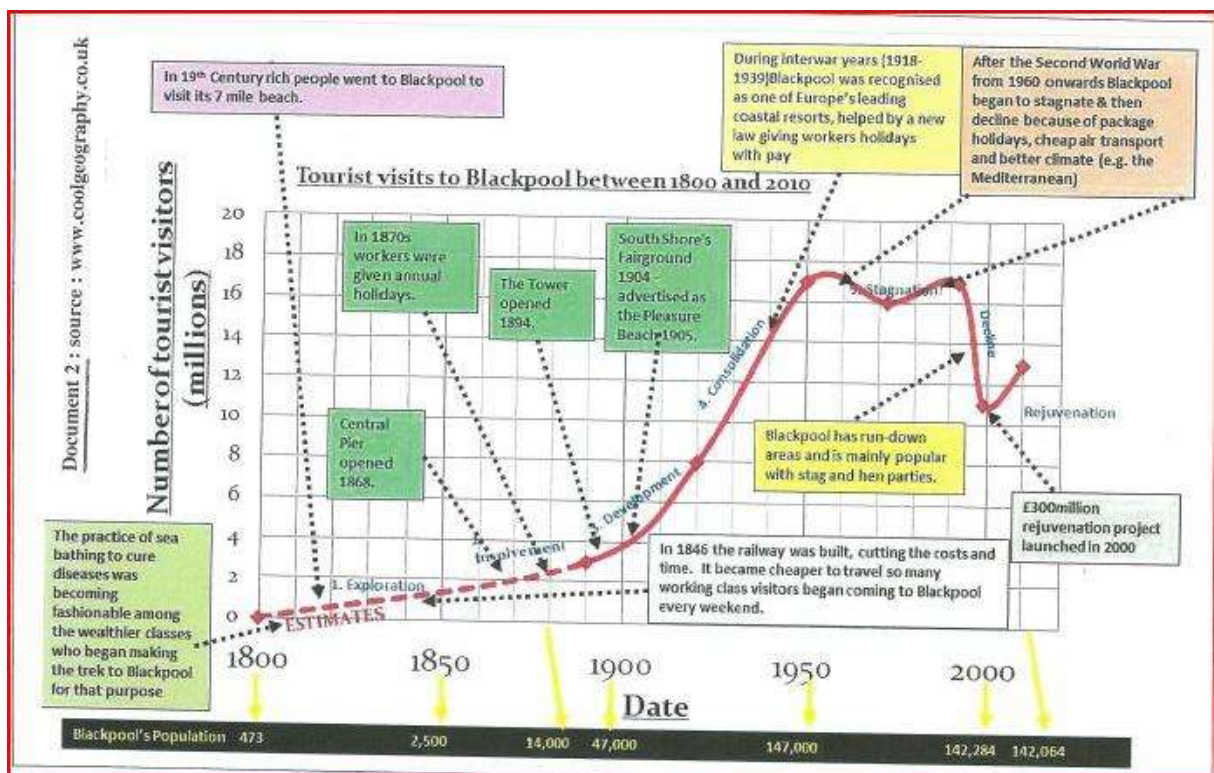
Document 1 :

Vidéo (2'58) : Blackpool, the development of a tourist destination

Source : www.classroomvideo.co.uk

A consulter en annexe

Document 2 :



Document 3

Chapter twenty-two

5 BLACKPOOL - And I don't care how many times you hear this, it never stops being amazing - attracts more visitors every year than Greece and has more holiday beds than the whole of Portugal. It consumes more chips per capita than anywhere else on the planet. (It gets through 40 acres of potatoes a day). It has the largest concentration of roller-coasters in Europe. It has the continent's second most popular tourist attraction, the 42-acre Pleasure Beach, whose 6.5 million annual visitors are exceeded in number only by those going to the Vatican. It has the most famous illuminations. And on Friday and Saturday nights it has more public toilets than anywhere else in Britain; elsewhere they call them doorways.

10 Whatever you may think of the place, it does what it does very well - or if not very well at least very successfully. In the past twenty years, in a period during which the number of Britons taking traditional seaside holidays has declined by a fifth, Blackpool has increased its visitor numbers by 7 per cent and built tourism into a £250-million-a-year industry - no small achievement when you consider the British climate, the fact that Blackpool is ugly, dirty and a long way from anywhere, that its sea is an open toilet, and its attractions nearly all cheap, provincial and dire.

15 It was the illuminations that had brought me there. I had been hearing and reading about them for so long that I was genuinely keen to see them. So, after securing a room in a modest guesthouse, on a back street, I hastened to the front in a sense of expectation. Well, all I can say is that Blackpool's illuminations are nothing if not splendid, and they are not splendid. There is, of course, always a danger of disappointment when you finally encounter something you have wanted to see for a long time, but in terms of letdown, it would be hard to exceed Blackpool's light show. I thought there would be lasers sweeping the sky, strobe lights tattooing the clouds and other gasp-making dazzlements. Instead there was just a rumbling procession of all trans decorated as rocket ships or Christmas crackers, and several miles of paltry decorations on lampposts. I suppose if you had never seen electricity in action, it would be pretty breathtaking, but I'm not even sure of that. It all just seemed tacky and inadequate on rather a grand scale, like Blackpool itself.

Bill Bryson, *Notes from a Small Island*, 1995

Document 4

Blackpool Central Pier by Anthony Rostron

Should Blackpool be a World Heritage Site?

Wednesday, January 5, 2011
10:30 AM

Blackpool is still the public's favourite seaside resort, but does it deserve World Heritage Status? Words by Paul Mackenzie

5 Blackpool's iconic tower, piers and beach have been recognisable symbols of the British holiday for generations. The resort is synonymous with fresh air and fun; fish and chip and donkey rides on the sand - all good, wholesome family entertainment. But there is another Blackpool; a town soiled by boorish drunks, cheap thrills and tacky
sideshows. Visit at a weekend and the atmosphere can veer from mildly unsettling to
deeply threatening.

And now council leaders want to see Blackpool ranked alongside Egypt's pyramids, the Taj Mahal and Moscow's Red Square.

10 They have applied for Blackpool to be given World Heritage Status, which would help them bid for conservation funds as well as making redevelopment more difficult and boosting tourism.

Few would argue that Blackpool - once the jewel of the UK's tourism industry - has lost some of its lustre, but in spite of the all too obvious problems there's no doubting the town still has a special place in the nation's heart.

15 Although annual visitor numbers have fallen they still exceed 10 million - that's 25 per cent more than go to Brighton, the resort which came second to Blackpool in a poll to find the UK's favourite seaside resort.

20 And in recent years efforts have been made to make Blackpool even more popular, with a new sea wall, artworks along the promenade and a multi-million pound new town centre shopping complex.

Blackpool is one of 38 sites competing to be on the government's shortlist of 10 to be put forward to the United Nations cultural organisation Unesco next year. Among the other proposed sites are York, the Forth Bridge, Jodrell Bank observatory in Cheshire and the entire Lake District.

25 As Tourism and Heritage Minister John Penrose said: The list certainly doesn't lack variety but what all 38 sites have in common is a wow factor and a cultural resonance.

What do you think?

Does Blackpool deserve World Heritage Status? Vote in our poll or add your comments below.