Activity 4.1



**Dear Diary**

The city became an increasingly fashionable destination as journey times from the capital decreased. Before 1680 it took 60 hours and by 1750 36 hours, but by the 1790s, John Palmer’s mail coaches - ‘flying machines’ - took just ten hours before the visitor’s arrival could be announced (for a payment) with a peal of bells from the Abbey. By this date there were around 150 coach services from London to Bath every week.

Once settled in, the visitor’s days followed a typical pattern. The spa was central to most morning activities including bathing, pumping (standing under the outlet of a large hand pump so that they had powerful jets of water directed at their shoulders), ingesting large volumes of water, having spa water enemas and consulting physicians. There were multiple baths, each with its own attributes, where people of all stations bathed together, much to the delight of the satirists who lampooned them in print and in drawings and printed pictures. There are reports and images of naked boys and dogs jumping in amongst the bathers. Named metal rings to hold on to were fixed in the walls for those fearful of total immersion and food was floated out on little wooden platters. Rowlandson and Nixon provide vivid vignettes of people all ‘boiling together in one kettle’.

Daily Life and Entertainment in Georgian Bath

Use this information, taken from the reverse side of the map, and the main map itself, to write a diary entry imagining a day in 17th C Bath with your family.

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| **Places to go** | **What you could do** |
| The spa | Morning could be spent bathing, pumping, consulting physicians. |
| Coffee Houses | Drink coffee. |
| Pump rooms | Drink spa water and mix with society, listen to the pump room band. |
| Upper Assembly Rooms (F6-7) | Play cards, gamble. |
| Luxury shops | Buy enamels, watches, jewels and fans. |
| Parades, especially the pavements of North Parade (H4) and the Royal Crescent (E7) | Go for a walk, parade in your best clothes to meet and talk to people. These pavements could get very crowded. |
| Apothecaries | Consult physicians and get medicines. |
| Pleasure parks | Walk and admire the flowers, take breakfast, in the evenings watch acrobats and fireworks, ride swings  and listen to music. |
| The streets of Bath | Take a ride in a Sedan Chair. |
| Orange Grove (H4-5) and Harrisons Walk (H4) | Places to be seen in, wearing your best clothes. |
| Theatre Royal (H4) | Watch a play, be seen. |