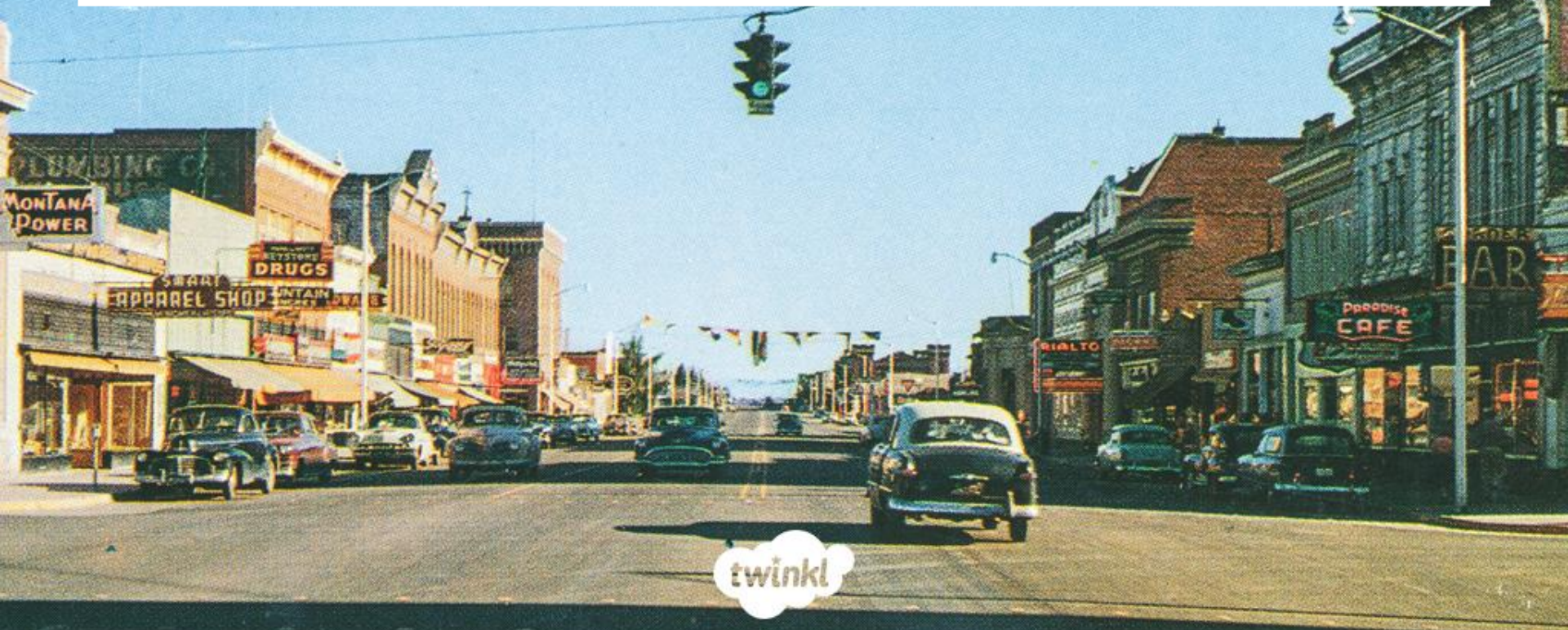


# Dancing Through the Decades

## Dancing in the 1950s



# Learning Objective

- To explore and experiment with historic dance styles from the 1950s to create a sequence for performance.

# Success Criteria

- To explore the movements of social dances performed in the 1950's discovering them practically in the body.
- To develop choreographic skills linking and using these set phrases to create dance sequences
- To perform a 1950s inspired dance sequence

# Contents

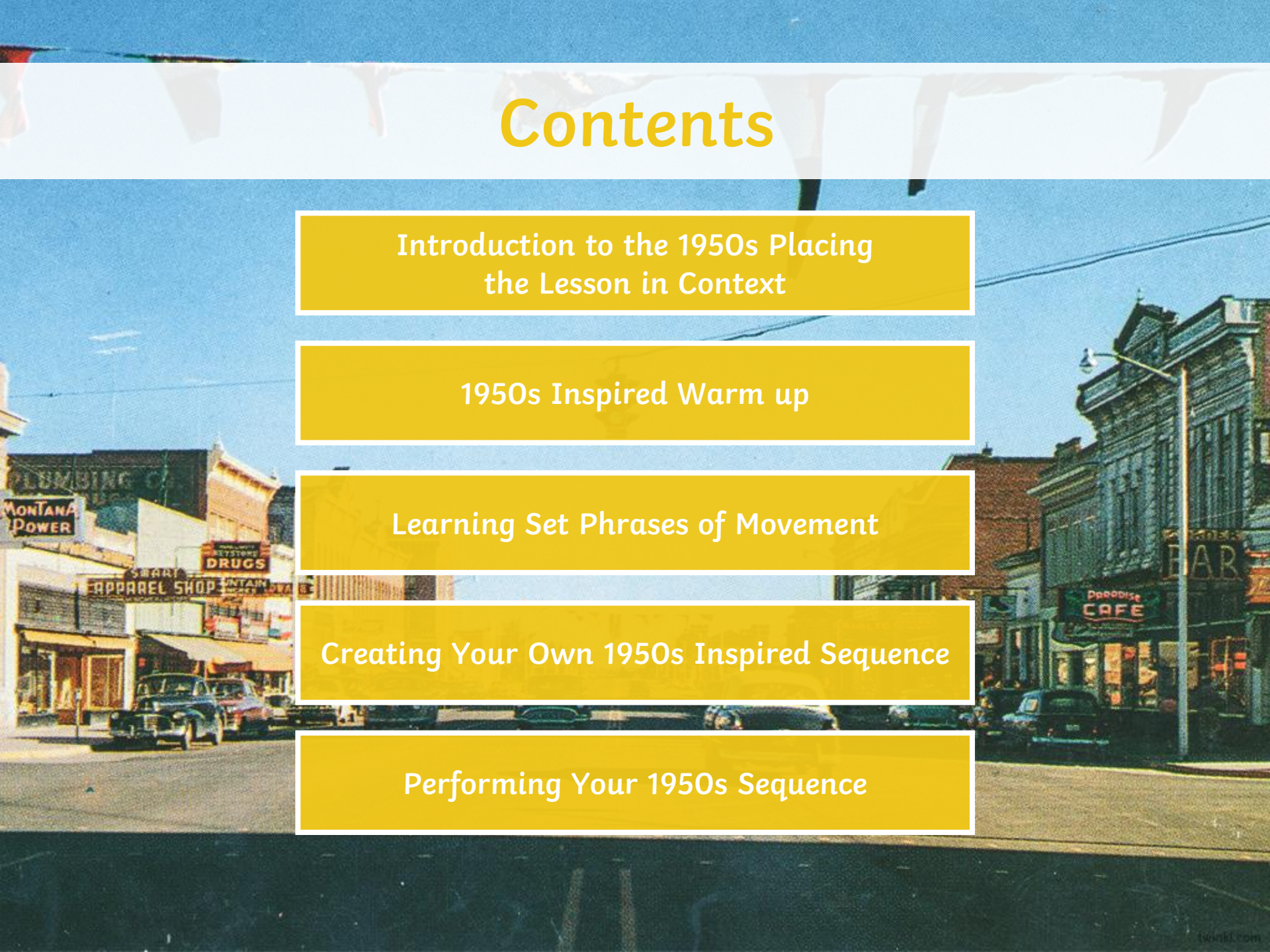
Introduction to the 1950s Placing  
the Lesson in Context

1950s Inspired Warm up

Learning Set Phrases of Movement

Creating Your Own 1950s Inspired Sequence

Performing Your 1950s Sequence



# Introduction to 1960s: The Timeline



**1950:** The average UK annual wage is £100 (that's a year!).

**1953:** Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

To celebrate the coronation, everyone was allowed an extra pound of sugar and four ounces of margarine.

**1953:** The summit of Mount Everest was reached for the first time by Edmund Hilary and Tenzing Norgay.

**1955:** 'Rock around the clock' reaches number 1 in the UK music chart.

**1955:** Cod fish fingers are introduced in Britain.

**1955:** Winston Churchill retires as Prime Minister aged 80.

**1959:** Britain's first motorway, the M1, between Birmingham and London is opened.

The 1950s also saw the introduction of fish fingers, electric fires and washing machines.



# Introduction to 1950s Movies



Singing in the Rain

Lady and the Tramp (Disney)

Rebel without a Cause

Ben Hur

Some Like It Hot

Gentlemen prefer Blondes

An American in Paris

From Here to Eternity

Roman Holiday

The King and I

Cinderella (Disney)



# Introduction to 1950s Pop Stars



Elvis Presley

The Everly Brothers

Tony Bennett

Chuck Berry

Little Richard

Jerry Lee Lewis

Bo Diddley

Fats Domino

Eddie Cochran

Buddy Holly

Richie Valens

Johnny Cash



# 1950s Fashion



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# The Hand Jive



Name of 'Dance move'	The movements
Slap thighs	Both hands slap thighs twice at the same time
Clap hands	Clap hands in front of the body twice
Scissor action	Right hand on top of left, twice Left hand on top of right, twice
Fist bumps	Bump fist right on top twice then left on top twice
Hitch hiker	Thumb of right hand gestures over right shoulder twice. Repeat on other side
The hand circles (you can add this in)	Right hand on left elbow, circle left fist with finger pointing repeat other side
Steps from 'Grease'	Step together step, other side, step together step together, step together, step. Arms 'guns' and 'Cowboy Lasso'.

# Learn the Moves with the Video

Link: <https://vimeo.com/205449872>



# The Hand Jive

The Hand Jive was invented in a coffee bar in the London's area of Soho called the Cats Whiskers.

The bar would play live 1950s Rhythm and Blues music and become so busy that there was no room to dance.

So the young kids would dance with their hands.

Ken Russell a film maker recorded these movements and the famous song 'Willie and the hand jive' was covered by many people.

In 1978 Grease the movie that was set in 1950s America brought hand jiving back to our attention.



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# Make your 1950s Sequence in Groups



- Create your own 'Hand Jive' sequence by either putting together the movements from the video in any order you want and adding your own gestures.
- Can you incorporate clapping hands with each other?
- Using the next slide create a travelling sequence using the images of Elvis and the travelling phrase on the video.
- Explore different facings for your group, maybe entrances and exits so that your choreography feels like the video to 'Willie and the Hand Jive'.

Use these positions to make a travelling phrase for your sequence





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