



# Going Potty

Flyer 1 ISBN 0-86278-602-9

Eoin Colfer

Ed's brilliant Gran tells him all about a china potty that saved his Great Uncle Pat during the war in England. Ed hopes the old potty can help him too.

Lots of old, everyday things have very interesting stories attached to them. People who study the history of everyday objects and buildings are called **archaeologists**, meaning 'people who study old things' and this type of work is called 'archaeology' or 'the study of old things'. Another name for someone who studies archaeology and history is 'historian.'

## Activity

Practise being an historian by asking questions and by taking notes. Ask a grown-up for a picture taken from before you were born, and for a picture taken recently. This picture can be from a family album, from a book or a magazine, but it must have people in it.

- Look at the background detail. Where was the picture taken? Can you see animals and, if so, are they pets or work animals? Make a note.
- Compare how people look in the older picture and how people look in the recent one: what is different about hair, clothes, shoes? Make a note.
- What are the people in each picture doing? Make a note.

When you have taken your notes, share what you have found with your teacher and class and ask your teacher to display your work.



Why do you think people needed potties? Did you know that people used to have their toilets outside their homes? Your teacher might print off material from ([www.muswell-hill.com/foxandco/pages/history\\_toilet.htm](http://www.muswell-hill.com/foxandco/pages/history_toilet.htm)) which shows photos of the earliest potties or chamber pots.



You can study old things by going to the National Museum. Log on to [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie) to find out more about exhibitions you can go and see.

