Teacher:

One of the easiest tricks to deciphering the time period of a movie or photograph is to study the fashions. While men’s clothing hasn’t changed greatly in the last 200 years, women’s fashions change so often that the style of a dress can narrow down the time frame to as little as just a few years. On the following pages, we have included a timeline of women’s fashion for the last 300 years. We have included a few ideas for exercises that will use these pages. Feel free to improvise further.

1. Have your students bring in photos of female family members who are older than 35. Grandparents and great-grand parents are ideal, as they will fall in a wider time frame. Ask the students to determine an approximate date for the pictures with their parents, and using a sticky note, put the date of the photo on the back. Then they can pair up with other students and swap photos. They can then use the timeline to guess the approximate year that the photograph was taken. Variation: Have the students turn their dated photos in to you and then hold them up for the class to work together in deciphering the date of the photo.

2. Collect videos of movies set in a variety of time periods. Then, show clips of the movies to the students and let them use the timeline to decipher the time period for the movie.

3. Using books from the library, gather images from different time periods and let your students guess the date for each of the photos.
THROUGH THE YEARS 1880 - 1913