

### Types of Age

#### Chronological Age

This refers to the amount of time in years that someone has been alive. This is used for mainly legal purposes.

#### Biological Age

This is linked to chronological age, as people for instance experience grey hair later in life. However, it varies a lot when this happens, as some people can be very old and get grey hair while others can be very young.

#### Social Age

This is interested in the way that age is seen in society, for instance a 70-year-old is not expected to play with children's toys.

### Childhood

#### In the Past

The definition of a child has varied over time. For example, in the Middle Ages, children were considered "miniature adults" from the age of 7 and were expected to work.

In the 19th century, child labour was the norm among the working class.

#### In Other Cultures

Many societies consider childhood ending after a specific **rite of passage** rather than an age. This may be an elaborate ritual in some parts of the world.

### Adults

#### Life Expectancy

There are more adults and older people than there used to be. This may be because of:

- **Better healthcare**
- **Better access to healthcare**
- **Better general health knowledge**

In the future, it is expected that there will be many more older people.

#### Ageism

In Britain, getting old is often seen as being a negative thing, or something to be avoided.

### Adolescence

#### Teenagers

This is a recent development, only becoming recognized as a distinct subculture until the 1950s or so.

This may be due to:

- **Affluence.** With a multitude of jobs and a lot of disposable income, the youth could spend their wages on leisure.
- **New Industries.** New things developed to encourage the youth to spend money, such as pop music, rock and roll and discos.
- **Education.** Compulsory education meant that more young people spent more time with people their own age.

#### Youth Culture

The development of youth culture into subcultures such as **Mods**, **Rockers**, **Skinheads** and **Punks** led to a generation gap developing.



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