

To Market, to Market

How do you shop? Most likely, you hop in a car with your parents and go to a shopping centre. But what did people do before cars and shopping centres? How did they shop?

People have been coming together to buy and sell things for thousands of years. This was first done in open-air markets. For example, in Athens, Greece, there was the Agora. From around 500 years Before the Common Era (BCE), the Agora market was the city's heart.



Today, the Agora is a popular site for tourists to visit.

The Agora had an open square of land in the middle, with buildings around the sides. Farmers, merchants and craftspeople all went there to trade their goods, such as fruit or olive oil.

Open-air markets are still in use today. The largest in the **Southern Hemisphere** is the Queen Victoria Market in Melbourne. It was officially opened on 20 March 1878, but markets had been held on that site for years. The Vic Market (that's what they call it in Melbourne) covers seven **hectares**. There are around 1000 traders, who sell everything from fresh food to clothing to souvenirs.



The Queen Victoria Market is a bustling, interesting place to shop.