

History of Toys

1800s - Rich family
Children from rich families played with train sets, tea sets, dolls and toy soldiers.

1800s - Poor family
Children from poor families played with homemade toys such as ragdolls and wooden boats.

1902
In Germany, Richard Steiff based one of his toy designs on a bear he saw at the zoo. In 1902, the Steiff Company started making teddy bears.

1903
Binney and Smith made a set of 8 wax crayons in 1903. Binney's wife named them Crayola.

1907
The name Meccano was introduced and the first Meccano factory opened in Liverpool.

1934 - 1949
Ole Kirk Christiansen called his toy company 'Lego' in 1939. The plastic blocks were made in 1949.

1943
Richard James invented the slinky in 1943. It performed tricks such as walking down the stairs.

1959
Ruth Handler invented the Barbie doll in 1959. She named the doll after her daughter, Barbara.

1959
The Etch a Sketch was invented by André Cassagnes in 1959 and was introduced in the 1960s.

1983
Chris Wiggs invented Polly Pocket for his daughter in 1983. They first appeared in shops in 1989.

1989
The first Game Boy was developed by Nintendo and was released in Japan in 1989.

Key Vocabulary

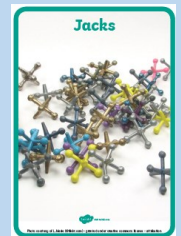
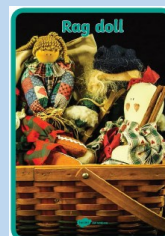
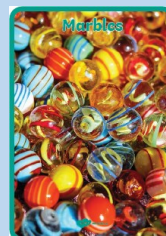
Old New Worn Faded Colourful Plastic Wooden
 Electronic Poor Rich



Can you talk about?

- Your favourite toy and why you like it?
- What your toy is made out of?
- What is the difference between your toys and the toys children played with in the past?
- How does your toy work? Is it electronic? Do you pull it or push it?
- What do you think toys will be like in the future?

Toys from the past



Essential learning.

Toys in the past were made only from plastic, fabric, metal and wood compared to modern toys.

In the past, children played with different games and toys depending on whether they were a girl or boy/ rich or poor.

They didn't have electric toys/ weren't battery operated. Children in the past did not have computer games and consoles (Xbox, PS4 etc.)

Florence, Edith and Mary were all battlefield nurses who helped soldiers.