

Leisure: Activity 3 - Victorian Toys

TEACHERS' NOTES

Learning Objectives

- Learn about some of the toys that Victorian children would have played with
- Compare the differences and similarities between Victorian and modern toys
- Develop children's research skills in using historical sources, in particular photographs and museum collections, to learn about Victorian toys.

Cross-curricular Links

- Art
- ICT
- Literacy

Sources



Source 1. Boys playing marbles in the street, Charlton, 1893



Source 2. Child playing with hoop at Worthing Pier, 1869



Source 3. Doll's House with furniture and household objects



Source 4. Toy soldiers and castle



Source 5. Woman with carpet sweeper, mechanical toy



Source 6. Clown, mechanical toy



Source 7. Doll with hair, hat, dress, shoes and coat



Source 8. Board Game



Source 9. Rocking Horse



Source 10. Girl with her toys

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Source 1

Boys play marbles in a village street. Note the rough quality of their clothes and boots, which indicates they come from working class families.

Source 2

Print showing a girl playing with a hoop on the seafront near Worthing pier. Hoops were an inexpensive or home-made toy which could be enjoyed by children of all classes.

Source 3

This doll's house has quite elaborate furniture and other household objects, as well as dolls. It was a relatively expensive toy affordable only by the better-off.

Source 4

Model soldiers and forts were popular toys for boys.

Sources 5 and 6

These are mechanical toys, made of metal. They would be wound up using the key at the back and would then move along the floor or table.

Source 7

This is a good-quality doll with elaborate facial features, clothes, hat and hair.

Source 8

Board games were a popular indoor pastime for groups of children to play together, sometimes with adults.

Source 9

Rocking horses were popular toys for nursery-age children. They varied from simple designs with wooden rockers to technically more sophisticated - and more expensive - models such as this one. Worthing Museum and Art Gallery has a photograph of a young boy on this horse.

Source 10

This girl is posing for a photograph with some toys: she is holding a shuttlecock and a bat, there is a hoop leaning against the chair, and a musical birdcage and a book are on the chair. The posed portrait and the range of toys, as well as her dress, would indicate that she comes from a relatively well-off family.