

Play Time Now & Then

For grades K-2

Look at the toys below. Draw an **X** over the toys that were used by children over 120 years ago. **Circle** the toys used by children today. Are there any toys that are both?



Interesting to know:



Historic Pennypacker Mills
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Play Time Now & Then

After you have finished this activity, find out more about each of the objects we have shown you.

Old Games—

Ball & Cup: This is a traditional toy that began centuries ago. The toy has a wooden handle with a string that attaches it to a ball. The idea of the game is to swing the ball and catch the ball in the cup.

Jacob's Ladder: Also known as "magic tablets," it is unclear when this toy was invented, however it is a simple toy made of blocks of wood strung together with ribbons. When hung from one end, and the top block is turned over, a block appears to slowly fall to the bottom, flip-flopping. This toy gives the illusion of the blocks falling, but they really are not.

Game of Graces: The game of graces was a popular activity for young girls during the early 19th century. Each person got two dowel (stick) rods. One of the players took a wooden hoop and separate the two rods slightly, sending the hoop into the air for the other player to catch. The winner was the player who was first to catch the hoop ten times.

Noah's Ark: Many families wanted their children to play with a religiously based toy, called a Sunday toy on Sundays. One such toy was a wooden Noah's Ark, which came with a wooden boat, animals, and Noah. Bevan Pennypacker, the youngest and only son of Samuel and Virginia Pennypacker was given such a toy when he was 3 years old.

New Games—

Barbie Dolls: Barbie is a fashion doll manufactured by the the Mattel Company and began selling in March 1959. American businesswoman Ruth Handler is credited with the creation of the doll using a German doll called Bild Lilli as her inspiration.

Computer Games: In the 1950's and 1960's, computer scientists began designing simple simulation games on computers. Home video games became very popular and now everyone plays electronic games on their computers.

Both Old & New—

Rocking Horse: Rocking horses are considered a child's toy. They are usually shaped like a horse and mounted on rockers similar to a rocking chair. Mostly built by hobby woodcrafters, it was not until the late 19th century that the production became industrialized.

Teddy Bears: It all began when President Theodore Roosevelt was on a bear hunting trip in 1902. He couldn't find a bear to shoot, so a staff member found a bear and tied the black bear to a tree and suggested he shoot it. Roosevelt refused to shoot the bear as he considered it unsportsmanlike. Soon the news spread and a newspaper drawing told the story. Shop owner Morris Michtom, made stuffed animal toys and had the idea of dedicating a stuffed toy bear in honor of the President. After receiving permission to use Roosevelt's name, the new stuffed bear was named "Teddy's Bear." The bears became so popular that soon Michtom founded the Ideal



Source:
TheodoreRoosevelt.org

Toy Company, which still exists today!

Lionel Trains: Inventor Joshua Lionel Cowan wasn't the first person to make toy trains, but his talents as an engineer and salesman put him ahead of his competition. Cowan designed his first train not as a toy, but as an eye-catching display for toy stores. Electricity was new in many homes and the public was fascinated when they saw an electric train in a store window. The rest is history!

Monopoly: The Monopoly game was invented by Elizabeth Magie in 1903. In this multi-player board game, players roll two dice to move around the game board, buying and trading properties, buying and selling houses and hotels, collecting rent and trying to keep from declaring bankruptcy.



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