

The history of toys - fact sheet

Whip and top
(wood, leather and metal)

Cup and ball
(wood and cord)

Jigsaw (wood)

18th and 19th Century toys

Rocking Horse
(wood, cow's tail, glass eyes and leather tack)

Hoop and Stick
(metal, wooden handle for stick)

Vocabulary	Definition
Artefact	An object made by a human being.
Broken	Not working properly.
Damaged;	
Clean	Free from dirt, scratches, stains and marks.
Dirty	Covered or marked with dirt.
Material	The substance or matter out of which a thing is or can be made.
Modern	Relating to the present or recent times as opposed to the past.
Natural Material	A material that comes from plants, animals or the ground.
New	Produced, introduced, or discovered recently or now for the first
Old	Existing for a long time. Made, discovered or used a long time ago.
Old fashioned	Of a style or method that is no longer popular. Methods, ideas, or customs that belonged to an earlier time.
Past	Having existed in a time before the present. Something that was made, used, performed in an earlier time.
Plastic	A synthetic (or semi-synthetic) material that can be moulded when soft and formed into a solid shape. Many modern toys are made out of plastic.
Present	Existing or occurring now.
Properties	An attribute, quality, or characteristic of something.
Rusty	A reddish or yellowish-brown flaky coating that is formed on certain metals.
Scruffy	Untidy, dirty, uncared for.
Shiny.	Reflecting the light. Clean and polished

	Old toys	New toys
Materials	Wood, tin, lead, china	Plastic, foam, rubber, nylon
Technology	clockwork	Electric, motors, speakers, screens
Manufacture	Mostly handmade	Produced in factories by machines
Safety	Some sharp edges, unsafe materials	Strict rules on toy safety



Old building blocks



New building blocks

Over 100 years ago, the president of America caught a baby bear. The president's nickname was **Teddy** and toy bears began to be called teddy bears. Early bears had pointed noses and long arms. They had glass eyes

Teddy bears in the 1960's had **buttons for eyes** instead of glass. They often came with clothes and accessories like glasses and hats.

Teddy bears today come in lots of **different colours and sizes**. Sometimes they squeak, grow or even sing. Teddy bears today are made of **synthetic fur** and have **plastic eyes** and noses.



Old teddy



New Teddy

The first dolls were made of **wood** with **painted faces**. In the 1900s, many dolls were made from **porcelain**, with a shiny coating.

In the 1930s, dolls were made of **cloth, sawdust or paper** and **glue**.

Most dolls today are made of **plastic**. Often their arms and legs can bend and many can talk, cry and some even feed.



Old Doll



New Doll



Teddy bear changes over time

Doll changes over time

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