



LEARNING AT HOME

TOYS OF THE PAST

KS1 History with links to: KS1 English, Science, Design and Technology

Historians think that the first toys existed around 6000 years ago. Toys in ancient times were very different to the toys we play with today. In ancient Greece children played ball games with an inflated pig's bladder! Children in ancient Rome played with wooden or clay toys.

Toys have changed over time depending on the materials people had to work with. You can often tell what era a toy came from by looking at the materials it is made from.

Let's take a look at some of the toys in Craven Museum:



This **teddy bear** is around 100 years old. It has a body covered with mohair fur and is stuffed with sawdust. The bear's eyes are actually two steel nails! This bear is wearing a yellow short sleeved shirt, short yellow trousers and a green velvet bow-tie.



This set of **toy figures** includes farm animals and soldiers. They are made from a heavy metal called lead. Lead figures had been popular toys in Britain in the 18th and early 19th century however lead was soon discovered to be a highly poisonous metal.

This **doll** is thought to have been made in around 1865. It's head and shoulders are made from china. The body is made from cloth and is dressed in a slip, bloomers, dress, long bodice, chemise, bonnet, knitted socks and boots.



TIME TO PLAY

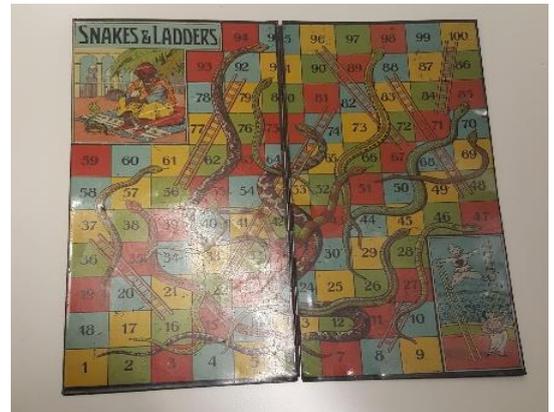


This is an example of the game '**Peg Solitaire**'. The board is made of wood and the marbles are made of coloured glass. The game begins with marbles in all of the holes except the middle hole. The aim is to remove all of the marbles from the board by 'jumping' a peg over another peg into a clear position.

The earliest known mention of this game was in 1687, in the court of King Louis XIV of France.

This is an example of the game **Snakes and ladders**, a board game that originated in ancient India and was brought to England in 1892.

This board is made of metal, and was manufactured in England between 1930 and 1970. It was used as both a game and also a way of teaching people. The snakes represented bad actions such as anger and theft.



This is a set of **ceramic jacks**, or sometimes known as knucklebones. The aim of the game is to complete a particular set of moves with the stones, such as tossing the jack in the air, and picking up a stone before it lands. The winner is the first to complete all the moves.

There is evidence of ceramic jacks being used by the Greeks and Romans

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Ask your parents, grandparents or older relatives about their favourite toys.

Look at the toys above- what are they made of? How are they different to your toys?

Draw and describe your favourite toy. What is it made of? When was it made?

Teach a friend or relative how to play your favourite game.

Craven Museum and Gallery is currently being redeveloped, increasing the accessibility of the Museum and the collection, as well as creating new and innovative displays to tell the stories and showcase the treasures of the Craven Dales. We look forward to welcoming you to the museum when we reopen. Thank you to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, made possible by generous National Lottery Players!

