Changing toys, games and pastimes









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This collection offers a familiar context for children to explore differences between the past and present. Within the collection there are several matched pairs of similar toys that are from different generations of the past within living memory. These allow children to **explore changes** between two periods of the past and today – things like materials used to make toys, safety issues, the advent of electronic toys and the move from predominantly active outdoor play to indoor sedentary and often solitary pursuits. We have not included the 'today' versions of these toys, if required you may ask pupils to bring in examples of named items.

Outdoor / action toys

Many toys from the past were for outside play and were often home-made or adapted from readily available items.

Yoyo 1940/50s

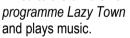
Wooden version - yoyos periodically regain popularity. Changes to examine: materials used -



compare to more modern versions bought in from home probably plastic and may be electronic light up versions.

Skipping ropes

Skipping has been around for a very long time. Our older skipping rope is from early 20th century, made from industrial bobbins and sash cord. The newer version is linked to the children's TV



Changes to examine: popularity - this is another pursuit which has waxed and waned



do pupils' parents recall

in popularity in the past - do pupils' parents recall skipping crazes? Also as skipping can be an individual or group endeavour we include some examples of group skipping chants/games, but parents/ grandparents/ other adults might be able to show the actions and rhymes they remember from their childhoods.



Doctor, Doctor	
to this shares the tope formers an	d signeds that alternate phoses in the thorne
Doctor, placture, how's your	
Very bad, upon my He.	Separation of the second
Can the out a bit of nie?	Rige-famore chard
Tes else cars, as well as I.	Sieper's that they est you
Birthdays	
Deveral sliggers skip at area call as many lines as wished. Each proper lates her place.	ling cut the months of the year, January, February, March and so on and repeating player skips and their sithstay much is called, when they must run out and another
Counting Rhymes	
Buby in the snadio, fast asker	9
How many hours does she s	
The rope is new tarted an quick tolore has see out.	y as possible, and the number of hours are the number of origin the player can find
One fear, two boun, three	hours, froir,
Five fours, six hours, seven	hours, more. Esc. esc.
Under, over, in, out	
Here the players are not strully outlier players	expensive obeying the words of the chart which are reced in conductly by the
	nert player studies under the banking rape and out the other sole, without slopps or having it.
O.V.E.R.speltraror,	nexcolleger must run in, jump over the furning-rose and non-straight out again.
I N spots in	most player most ner in and start aliquing
O U T spelk met,	any player skipping men ask the mow
Ball games and	chants
and caught in time to the stipme will retire or the pame 11st, used through	We full stand, nor the order may insert a specific point, as on growing a self program for any for performing operate receives or finds at a people points. The trims can be obsequed for each rought from funder colors, used or and informations. Can be played individually only overest. Takes may be be assessed on the disclosure of bounds.
Suitable Tricks	
. Incoming the ball on the	ground and swinging one kig over it before catching it as it connectically
Incoming the ball on the Impuring three break bed	pround and swinging one kig ower if before cathling it as it cerem back up were timening the built appared the weak (or appliant catching it is to cride technique throwing and catching the bail
Incoming the ball on the Impuring three break bed	worn finnering the trait against the well (or up) and caleting it
Isosony the ball on the stagging three times but spinning round in a spin	were throwing the buil appear the well (or up) and calcting it. with cricle testween throwing and calcting the buil. The Auditions. Wall is thrown and cought as each runnian is chanted. On the world U.Leon
touring the ballon the staging three bress bed spring road in a spring The Chart;	were throwing the test appear the soil (or up and calcing it also calcing it will collect throwing throwing and calcing the test. The Antilees. But it haves and caught as soch center is inhamised. On the world Union a bit is operating in the operation. Also failed in this is forwer and caught as soch restricts in channel. On the
Incurring the half on the Inquiring from their their growing reach the comp The Charts Cine, Tues, These O'Leany,	were themore), the fault appears the well (in equil and calculary is ables code for leaves through and calculary the basis. Their Audiests. But is the transmand cought as expirately as at leaves. On the world Union at let in preferred. As fortine, but in throws and cought as each number to sharped. On the world Union, at lets, in politically as about number to sharped. On the world Union, at lets, is politically.

Marbles and marble information sheet

Changes to examine: Marbles were known to

both the ancient Egyptians and the Romans, but what were they made of?



An information sheet

detailing some games to play with marbles is included but parents/ grandparents/ other adults may know some others they can share with pupils.

Roller skates 1940/50s and 1990s





Roller skates have been around some time, and have had many adaptations – inline skates/ roller boots etc. **Changes to examine:** The pair from the late 1940s/ early 1950s are aimed at older children and don't look like they would stay on too well (safety rules). The pair from the late 1990s are aimed at much younger children and coloured to appeal to girls whereas the other pair are non-gender oriented.

Indoor Toys

Unlike the past, indoor toys dominate today. Many are electronic in some way, even construction toys such as Lego now have electronic control mechanisms and gadgets.

Cars - 1975 Mini Hot Rod.



As soon as cars were invented, toy versions emerged. From then on manufactures kept up with the latest models. They produced cars for all pockets by varying the level of detail and quality of paintwork etc. Changes to explore: different materials –e.g. tinplate (compare to speedboat), wood, steel, plastic. Modern innovations such as radio controlled cars.

Thomas the Tank Engine 1990s and Hornby clockwork train set 1950s





Changes to explore: Materials, methods of propulsion - clockwork was the first form of mechanised propulsion for such toys, followed by electricity. However, for young children, even modern train sets such as Brio, are usually propelled by those playing with them.

Although both our train sets are for children (slightly older children for the Hornby train), model trains are also produced which are aimed at the adult market. These are not toys but a pastime or hobby. It might be possible to invite an adult who pursues this hobby to come and talk to your class about their interest and how and when it started.

Modern and original Meccano





Changes to examine: Changes in materials; target audience, later, plastic Meccano is aimed at younger children and the original packaging for Meccano says 'for boys' – this would not of course be allowed today.

Meccano was invented by Frank Hornby (who also made the train sets that bear his name) to encourage boys into engineering. It is still used occasionally in engineering today to make scale models and/or to test new designs. Would the girls in your class like to play with this? If not, why not? Are they being swayed by stereotypical gender roles? In the instruction booklets for some models, errors were deliberately included in an attempt to make those building the model explore alternative solutions to make the model work correctly.

1950s Snap cards

Changes to examine: Do pupils' families still play card games? If not, ask children to find out if their parents/ carers/ grandparents played them.



What games do they remember?

Dolly's tea sets from 1950s and 1990s

Changes to examine: Changes in materials. Can be complicated by ceramic 'retro' sets which are now quite popular.





Board games – Magnetic Fishing and Mousie Mousie (both reproductions)





Magnetic Fishing was popular in the Victorian era, but versions were certainly around in the 1950-60s, Mousie Mousie was popular in the 1970s. **Changes to explore:** Pupils could ask parents/ grandparents/ adults about playing board games in their childhood, which games were popular, how often did they play them etc. Compare this with playing board games today, do children still play them or is it adults? What about on computers or online?

1940s (?) stuffed fabric doll and 1970s BOAC Sindy doll

Changes to examine: Changes in materials and possibly safety issues e.g. stuffing materials.





Tinplate boat - modern repro item

Changes to examine:

Can pupils suggest what might be a more popular form of this toy today? Radio controlled boat

