

Toys Loans Box



Tin Bucket

Initially the first toys for the beach were made of **wood**, but soon **tin** became more common, especially for buckets as it gave more opportunity for **colourful patterns** and **pictures**. Today most seaside toys are made of **plastic**, which means they no longer become rusty. Today some lucky children have a sand pit in their garden but going to the beach is always special.

Wealthy families began to visit the seaside in the 18th century, but it wasn't until the 19th century that the **seaside holiday**, as we know it, developed. It was made possible by the **expansion of the railways** in the **1840s and 1850s**, which made long distance travel affordable for most people.

What do you do when you go to the beach?

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Dinky toys (phone box, taxi, Esso blue tanker, plane)

Dinky toys were the **first British** toy cars produced using advanced die-casting techniques which made them **cheaper** and **easier** to make than **tin toys**.

The **first** Dinky toys appeared in the **1930s** in **Liverpool** but **World War II** brought production almost to a **standstill** for **several years**. When it resumed **Dinky Toys** produced **cars, trucks, buses, military vehicles, aircraft, ships, dolls house furniture and farm implements** and virtually every boy and many a girl in the **1930s, 1940s, 1950s and 1960s** would have played with them.

Can you think of any toys that you have at home that show ordinary life?

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Writing slate

In Victorian schools, very young children first learned to write their letters in sand trays using their **fingers** or a **stick**. When about seven, they progressed onto writing on **slates** which were made from **quarry slate** set in **wooden frames**. A **slate pencil** was used to form the letters which was often **sharpened** on the **school wall**.

Children had to bring a **damp cloth** to **clean** their slates but often they would use their own **spit** and the **cuff** of their **sleeves!** This is the origin of the phrase '**to wipe the slate clean,**' which we still use today to mean **to make a new start**.

How many different ways do you write? On what objects?

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Soft toys

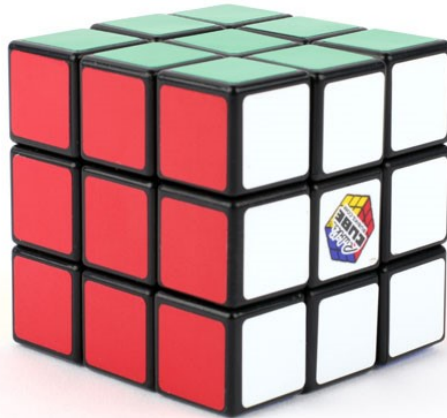
Mickey Mouse was created by Walt Disney and Ub Iwerks at the Walt Disney Studios in 1928. Mickey has become one of the most recognizable cartoon characters in the world.

Peppa Pig is a more recent creation with the programme being first aired on television in 2004. The show revolves round Peppa, a pig, and her family and friends including this toy here of **Rebecca Rabbit**.

These soft toys demonstrate the importance of television in creating **icons** and **recognisable characters worldwide**. The characters created on TV also come into the home in a variety of **merchandise** from soft toys, duvets, puzzles and many more products that could be named here.

What toys do you have that come from TV programmes?

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Rubik's Cube

The **Rubik's Cube** has become one of the most popular ever **puzzles** with many **millions** being sold. It was invented in 1974. Each of the six faces has different coloured stickers (orange, blue, red, white, green and blue) on the squares and the aim is to move each side so that you end up with one side of just one colour.

Although it is a **difficult** puzzle some people are so good at it that **competitions** are held to see who can solve the puzzle in the fastest time. A number of **solutions** have been developed which allow you to **solve** the cube in under 100 moves.

How long does it take you?

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Cardboard Egg

The **earliest** Easter eggs were **hen** or **duck** eggs decorated and painted in bright colours at home with **vegetable dye** and **charcoal**. Some people still roll chicken eggs down hills at Easter time. Do you?

The Easter egg, for **Christians**, is a reminder that **Jesus** rose from the grave and that believers will also experience **eternal life** (as from an egg comes life). Easter is the most important time of the year for Christians.

Decorative eggs were made in a wide range of materials from the late 18th to mid-19th centuries. Tin and **cardboard** eggs and bunny figures first made in the early 20th century once held **sweets**. The Victorians had **cardboard** and satin covered eggs filled with **Easter gifts** and **chocolates**.

Do you receive eggs for Easter? What are they made of?

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Album of cut-outs

In the late Victorian age children would **buy** these a few at a time on a **perforated sheet** and they would be either **cut out** or **pushed out** and then **stuck** into an album. The album could contain hundreds of pictures and subjects that could be covered were: **pets, Christmas, folk stories, children, toys, shops, trades people and customs.....**all captured in the style that we call Victorian.

Today sticker albums are more popular and special booklets are sold for events like the Football World Cup and also related to popular TV programmes.

Do you have a sticker album?

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Marbles

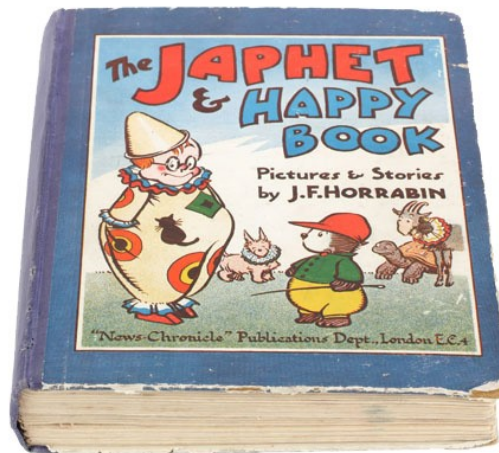
The first marbles were made of **clay, stone** or real **marble**. The Victorians loved to play marbles - their favourite ones were made of **real marble** and were thought to be the **best** for **shooting**, but they were very **expensive**.

Marbles made of **glass** were **cheaper** and for the people with very little money, ones made of **clay** like the ones in the box were played with.

In some games with marbles you **throw** your marble, but most games use **shooting**. To shoot **properly** you need to **put the knuckle of your forefinger** on the ground with the marble **balanced in the bent forefinger**. Then you need to put the **thumb behind the forefinger** and **release** with whatever force you like.

Have you played marbles before? Are you any good?!

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Japhet and Happy book

The book features the **Noah family** of characters and their **wooden pets** as they appeared first in the **Daily News** and then in the **News Chronicle**.

Japhet was the **son** of **Mr Noah** and **Happy** was a **small bear cub**. The Noah family was also known as '**The Arkubs**.'

Can you think of any popular cartoons that started in a newspaper?

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Rag doll

Traditionally **rag dolls** were stuffed with **cloth, sawdust or straw**. This **life-sized doll** is a **lithographed cloth cut out doll** and it has a date of **1900** marked on the side of each foot. Many of the dolls were **home-made** for children but from about the **1850s** rag dolls were produced **commercially** and were **printed on cloth** or had their features **hand painted** in oils.

Do you play with dolls at home? What does your doll look like?