

## Toys 2 Loans Box



### Cup and ball

This game could be seen in many **Victorian playgrounds**. The object of the game is to **swing** the **wooden ball** into the **cup**, which is not at all as simple as it appears to be! Children would play against each other to see who could get the ball into the cup a number of times in a row.

**How many times can you do it?**

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### 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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### Canterbury feeding bottle

This **double-ended** feeder was invented in **1894**. It had a **teat** at one end and a **valve** at the other end. This enabled the **flow** of milk to be **constant** but more importantly it was the ease of **cleaning** that made these bottles such a great **success**. Some bottles designed prior to these actually managed to make some babies very ill as they were so difficult to clean properly.

This design was around for about **50 years** and saw off many other models to retain its place at the top of the popularity tree and rightly so. There are **ounces** marked on one side and **tablespoons** on the other.

**What is used today?**

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### 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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### Boulie hoop

This game would have been **played** out in the streets by Victorian children. The hoop would have been **run** along the ground using the **stick** to push it along until it gathered speed. The **stick** could then be used to **hit** the hoop and keep it **moving**. Alternatives were made from **wood** or **iron** and the rings from barrels. This game dates back to the time of the **ancient Egyptians**.

**Does this game look difficult or easy?**

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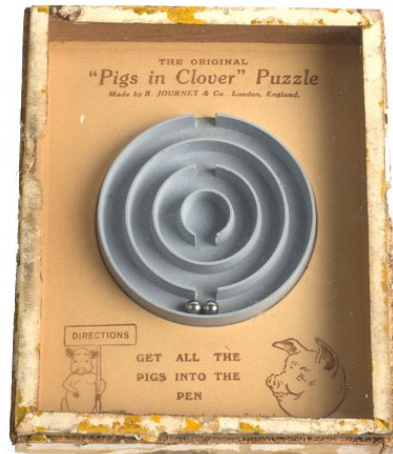
### Penny money bank

"A penny **saved** is a penny **earned**", goes the old saying.

In the late **1870s** penny money banks were made in their **thousands** to capitalize on a nation-wide trend toward **thriftiness**. It was also thought to be **fun** to save money. Penny banks were produced in different shapes and **sizes** with different **designs**. They were mainly made of **cast iron**, but the most **popular** and **valuable** ones all had some type of **mechanical action**, either by using **gravity** or by the release of a **spring-operated plunger**. The better the penny bank action, the bigger the urge to save! There was never much money inside any of these banks. The worth was in what the bank taught - and in the bank itself!

**How do you save money? Where does it go?**

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### Pigs in clover puzzle

This game can be described as a **dexterity** puzzle. This means it can be used to teach hand-eye co-ordination to children. This **rolling ball puzzle** was invented in the Victorian period and it took the country and the world by storm.

The Pig Pen in the centre resembled **The White House** and each marble (the pig) was a well known **politician** of the time. The object of the game was to see which politician reached The White House **first**. The museum's puzzle was based on the original but made in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Do you have a similar puzzle at home? What does your puzzle look like?**

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### ABC minors badge

ABC Minors was the name of a **film club** based at the ABC cinema which used to be at the corner of Abbey Road and Holker Street (now demolished). It ran a **Saturday morning movie** club for children in the **1950s** - where children would sit on the worn velvet seats and watch 'Roy Rogers', 'Lassie', 'Zorro' and 'Flash Gordon'. Children were proud to wear the **badge** and sing **the Minor's song**:

"We are the boys and girls well known as minors of the ABC

And every Saturday all line up, to see the films we like, and shout aloud with glee.

We like to laugh and have our sing-song, just a happy crowd are we.

We're all pals together; we're minors of the ABC."

**What do you see at the cinema?**



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### Tapestry sampler

**Sewing** classes were thought to be a very important part of the education of girls in Victorian times. Most schools had a **sewing mistress** and the girls were taught to make up **samplers**. A sampler was a piece of cloth on which the girls sewed patterns, letters of the alphabet, and simple designs using different stitches and brightly threads.

It was usual for the girls to sew their own **names** and the **date** as part of the design, and the Victorian samplers which have survived are now quite **valuable**. In many cases the original bright colours of the thread have faded, but the children often proved that they were very **skilled** at needlework.

**Do you sew? Would you like to learn this skill at school?**

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### Christening gown and underskirt

A baby would have worn a gown like this when he or she was **christened**. Christening gowns were special objects, often being passed down **generations** or made by hand with great **skill** and **attention to detail**.

These **garments** were made in **late Victorian times**.

**Were you christened? What does it mean to you?**

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### Frisbee

Fred Morrison discovered a market for the modern-day flying disc in 1938 when he and future wife, Lucile, were offered 25 cents for a **cake pan** that they were tossing back and forth on a beach in California. "That got the wheels turning, because you could buy a cake pan for five cents, and if people on the beach were willing to pay twenty five cents for it, well - there was a business," said Morrison. The discs went through some **design** changes over the next few years with the discs being made out of **plastic** and becoming more **aerodynamic**.

Today millions of Frisbees have been sold and games are even played **competitively** with them.

**Do you have a Frisbee at home? Is it easy or difficult to throw and catch?**

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### Etch A Sketch

The Etch A Sketch has been listed as one of the top one hundred most **memorable** and **creative** toys of the **twentieth century**.

It works by moving the left and right knobs. The left control moves the **stylus** (an internal pen) **horizontally**, and the right one moves it **vertically**. To start again you shake the Etch A Sketch.

It was invented in the 1950s and sold **commercially** in the 1960s, becoming one of the best known toys of that era. Today some artists even use this toy to make art but they make some **alterations** to make sure that it is **shake-resistant** so that their art can't be lost forever!

**What can you draw with this Etch A Sketch?**