

## How have toys changed?

What kind of toys and games do you play with at home? Do you think children were playing with the same types of toys a hundred years ago?

Look at this picture from 1898. A toy that many children had in the past was a doll's house. However, children had fewer toys then. They often made their own toys and games, or used their imagination.



### Then and now

Why did many children in the past make their own toys and games? Do you and your friends make up your own games?

1880



Sometimes toys are handed down through the **generations**. Many old doll's houses are still in use today, like this one from **Victorian** times.

### Find out for yourself

Ask your parents and grandparents what toys they played with. What differences are there between their toys and yours?

Many of the toys produced now are similar to the toys that children played with in the past. Here is a modern doll's house. It is mostly made from plastic. Old doll's houses were made from wood.

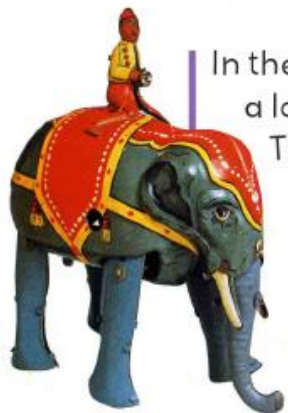




## Changing materials

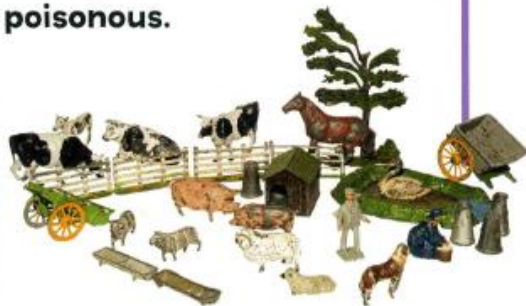
One of the biggest differences between toys then and now is the materials that they are made from.

In Victorian times, a wealthy child might have owned a rocking horse. The horses were made from beautifully carved wood.



In the early part of the twentieth century, a lot of toys were made out of tin. This is a **clockwork** tin elephant.

These toy farm animals from the 1950s are made from a metal called lead. Lead is no longer used in toys because we know it is **poisonous**.



### Then and now

Look at the farm animals then and now. Make a list of similarities and differences.

Since the 1940s, more and more toys have been made using man-made materials. Look at this modern rocking toy. It has a bear to sit on instead of a horse and it is made out of soft **synthetic** materials.



### Then and now

Would the old or new rocking toy be more comfortable to sit on?



Woods and metals are still used in toys today, but plastic is more common. This **electronic** robot called Robosapien is mostly made from plastic.

What are the advantages of plastic? Why is it used so much today?

Many toys that were once made from metal are now produced in plastic, like this modern farm set.



# Glossary

**Accessories** Extra parts for something.

**Clockwork** Describes a toy that works when it is wound up with a key.

**Construction** Building or making something.

**Current** A flow of electricity through a wire.

**Electronic** Describes machines that are worked by small amounts of electricity.

**Generations** A generation is the period of time that it takes for children to grow up and have children of their own.

**Inflatable** Describes toys that need to be filled with air.

**Muzzles** A muzzle is the nose and mouth of an animal.

**Poisonous** Describes a substance that harms you if it gets into your body.

**Porcelain** Very fine china.

**Realistic** True to life.

**Recreation** Something that has been made to look like something from the past.

**Remote control** A system of controlling a machine from a distance using radio or electronic signals.

**Synthetic** Made from materials that are man-made, rather than natural.

**Victorian** Relating to the reign of Queen Victoria which lasted from 1837 to 1901.

1. 'Sometimes toys are handed down through the generations.' What does this mean? (page 7).

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2. Why is lead no longer used to make toys? (page 8)

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3. Find a word that means 'made from man-made materials'. (page 9)

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4. What has replaced wood and metal for making toys? (page 9)

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1. 'Sometimes toys are handed down through the generations.' What does this mean? (page 7).  
It means the toys are passed down in the family so children might play with toys their grandparents had.
2. Why is lead no longer used to make toys? (page 8)  
Lead is not used for toys because it is poisonous.
3. Find a word that means 'made from man-made materials'. (page 9)  
The word synthetic means 'made from man made materials'.
4. What has replaced wood and metal for making toys? (page 9)  
Plastic has replaced wood and metal for making toys.