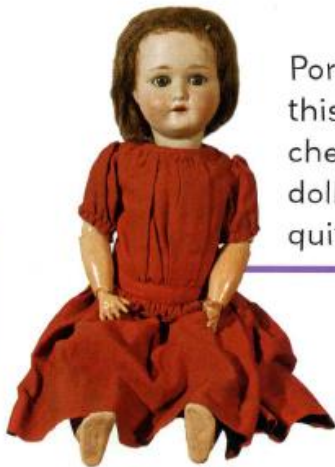


Dolls and action figures

Children have played with dolls for centuries. In Roman times, dolls were carved out of wood or stone, like this one.



In Victorian times, the dolls were usually made from **porcelain** or wax. Look at this wax doll. Wax dolls looked very **realistic**.



Porcelain dolls, like this one, were cheaper than wax dolls but they broke quite easily.

What do you think happened to a wax doll if it was left too close to the fire?

Parents in the past often made dolls out of cloth for their children. These were called rag dolls.



Since the 1950s, dolls have usually been made out of plastic. The first Barbie doll went on sale in 1959.



Today, Bratz dolls are very popular. They dress in fashionable clothes and come with **accessories** such as mobile phones and make-up.

Then and now

Do you think modern dolls are more fun to play with? Why?

Many dolls now have moving body parts and some can talk. Modern dolls of soldiers or superheroes are especially popular among boys. This is Action Man. He comes in different outfits.



Soft toys

In 1902, a new toy was designed. It was named the teddy bear. Teddies quickly became best-sellers all over the world.



Look at these teddy bears from 1910. The bears then looked like real bears. They had pointed **muzzles** and moving joints. The eyes on soft toys were made out of glass.

Today, teddy bears look less like real bears. They have flatter faces and no joints. The eyes are made out of plastic. This modern teddy bear can talk back to you when you press his paws.

Then and now

The first teddies had quite hard bodies. The synthetic materials now used in bears and other soft toys make them a lot more soft and cuddly.

Now



All sorts of soft toys can now be bought as well as bears. Many soft toys are characters from children's books, films and television programmes.

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. Use the Glossary to find the answer to this. What is porcelain? (page 12)

2. What was the problem with porcelain dolls? (page 12)

3. What kinds of accessories might you have for a doll? (page 13)

4. Make a list of how the first teddies were different from modern teddies.

Old teddies	Modern teddies

1. Use the Glossary to find the answer to this. What is porcelain? (page 12)

Porcelain is very fine china.

2. What was the problem with porcelain dolls? (page 12)

The problem with porcelain dolls is that they could break very easily.

3. What kinds of accessories might you have for a doll? (page 13)

A doll might have accessories like a mobile phone or make up.

4. Make a list of how the first teddies were different from modern teddies.

Old teddies	Modern teddies
They had hard bodies.	They have soft bodies.
Their eyes were made of glass.	Their eyes are made out of plastic.
They had pointed muzzles.	They have flatter faces.
They had joints that moved.	They have no joints.