

Toys of Our Past



1. Introduce the concept of "collection"

As a class, ask the students what they think a collection is.

A collection is a gathering of a group of things of the same type. Collections can be made up of as few as a couple of items or have more than a million items. It all just depends on what the collector, collects.

Then ask the students if they collect anything, give examples such as dolls, cards, models, or Legos. What sort of things do your family members collect? Maybe you have an uncle that collects stamps, or a grandma that collects coins. What about a museum? What sort of things would they collect? Art, clothing, historical items, etc. These are called artifacts.

At the Thunder Bay Museum, they have a lot of collections such as a First Nations collection, a military collection, a clothing collection, a toy collection (like you see on the website), and much, much more.

2. Toys

Find out what toys and games the students played with when they were younger and what were the first toys and games they remember having. Brainstorm what toys and games their parents may have played with.

3. Explore the "Toys of Our Past" online exhibit <https://www.thunderbaymuseum.com/exhibits/virtual-exhibits/toys-of-our-past/>

If working with a projector or SMART board explore this website with the students. Before clicking on the various rooms, have students brainstorm what sort of toys or games they might find in each room.

4. Interview Assignment – worksheet attached

Students will have a take-home assignment that involved either interviewing their parent/guardian, or a grandparent about the toys and games they played with in the past. This information could also be presented to the class

5. What was discovered

Using chart paper, the board, SMART board, etc., find out who the students interviewed. What were some of the toys and games that family played with? Are they similar or different to toys and games of today? If students know the rules to some of the games their family played with, have them explain it to the class and try it out!

6. Additional activities

- a. Write a diary entry about toys or games their grandparents may have played with. Think about what this toy or game might look like in the future.
- b. Research toys from a different county or culture and make a presentation about it

Student Worksheet

Toys and games have changed a lot over the past few years, even today, they are changing, and new ones are being developed. Your job is to conduct an interview to find out more about the toys and games from the past. You will find some questions to ask a parent, grandparent, or another adult below.

1. What is your name? (include their relationship to you such as "my mother) _____

2. When were you a child? (1960's for example) _____
3. Where did you grow up? _____
4. When you were my age, did you have toys and games? _____

5. When you were my age, what were your favourite toys? What were your favourite games? Describe them for me. _____

6. Where did you play with this toy and these games? _____

7. Do you remember how you got this toy or game? _____
8. What games did you play in the school yard? _____

9. Pick your favourite game. What are the rules to this game? Do you think you can teach it to me?

Sometimes people will give you a 'yes' or 'no' answer, these answers don't give you a lot of information. When this happens ask questions such as "that sounds interesting, can you tell me more?" or simply repeat the last thing they said with a question mark.

A question to think about

Would you rather be a kid today with the toys and games you have or when your interview adult was a child? Explain your answer in the space below.
