

# Toys of Our Past – Puzzles



## 1. Introduce the concept of "long ago"

As a class, ask the students what they think "long ago" means. What are some things that happened "long ago"? Write the answers on the board, chart paper, etc. Explain to the students that they are going to spend some time looking at photos of toys and games from the past, or "long ago." Their parents or grandparents may have played with these toys and games.

Toys have been around for centuries. Children have been playing with any objects they could find, including sticks and stones. Toys have also been discovered from sites of ancient civilizations such as in Egypt, Greece, Indus Valley, Rome, and many more. Early toys were handmade from wood, metal, stone, and pottery.

Early immigrants to Canada, such as pioneer children, brought over their own handmade toys or had more toys built when they settled. Same with Aboriginal children, they had handmade toys. Are any of your toys at home, handmade?

## 2. Puzzles

On the Toys of Our Past exhibit (<https://www.thunderbaymuseum.com/exhibits/virtual-exhibits/toys-of-our-past/>) you will find three different puzzle games that students can try out: a crossword, a word search, and a jig saw puzzle. Attached below you will find paper copies of the crossword and word search. Have students go through the exhibit then choose which puzzle they wish to do. Note: The crossword takes answers from various toys and games found in the exhibit.

## 3. Quiz

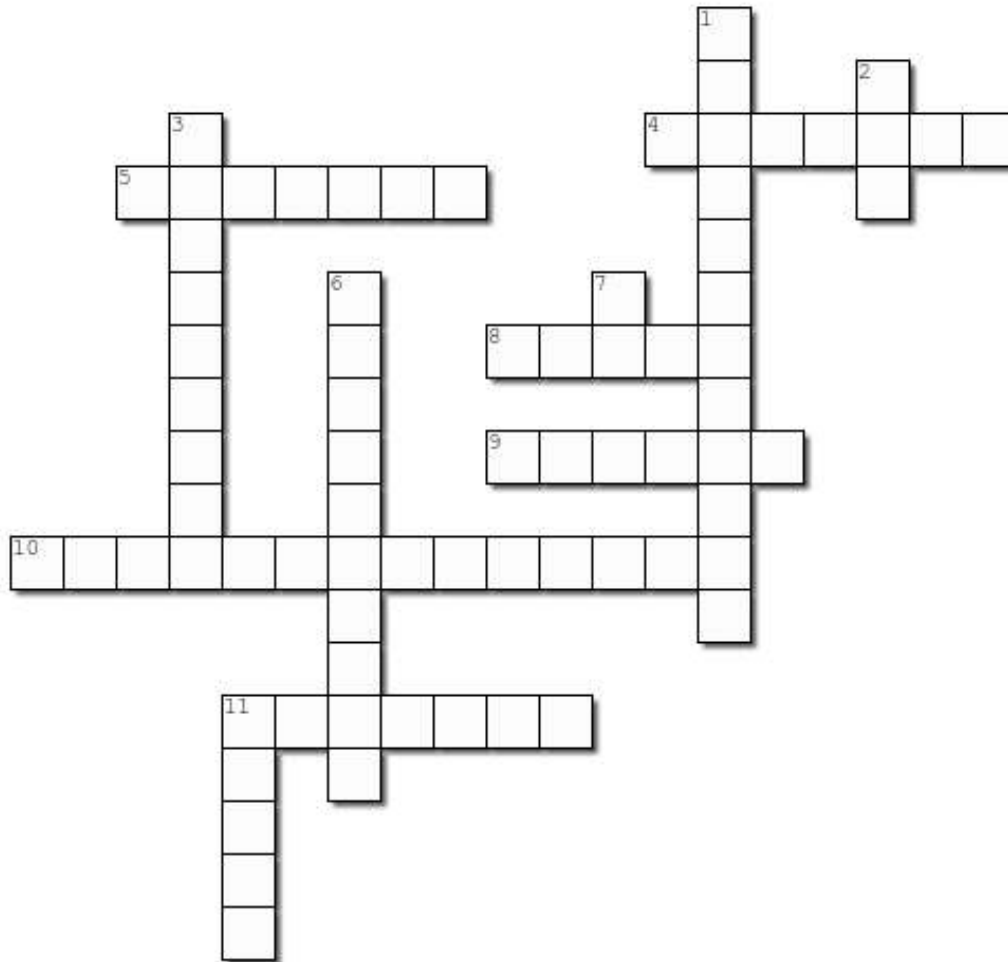
Students can also test their knowledge by completing the quiz found on the exhibit

## 4. Additional activities

- a. Have students create their own word search. List the toys or games that they play with today (limit the number) then on a piece of graph paper, insert their chosen toys or games into the squares in various directions. Then fill in the rest of the squares with random letters. Have a partner or other students complete the word search!
- b. Advanced activity: Have students create their own crossword puzzle by first creating and choosing a theme (for example a theme about toys my parents played with, toys in the summer, etc.). Make clues for all the toys and games chosen and place them in a crossword format on graph paper. On another sheet of graph paper, leave the letters blank and write out the clues at the bottom. Have other students fill your crossword puzzle!
- c. Have students design a toy they wish to create, including what supplies they would need to build it. Note: Have them stick with materials they can find at home such as recyclables. Once they have a toy planned and sketched out, have them bring in materials from home and have a build day.

# Crossword Puzzle

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Across

4. The Stuff Club Pup
5. What is Ken's full first name?
8. The Complex Mascot is what sort of animal?
9. A Sega Electronic game
10. Monopoly started off as this title
11. Chinese checkers was invented in what country?

## Down

1. Jacks are also known as?
2. In the 1800's 'sad' also meant what?
3. This is a flammable material
6. The dog, giraffe, and elephant were made from this company
7. Atari is named after a move in what game?
11. Cookie Monster used to be this colour

# Word Search

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I	X	Y	U	K	T	H	A	X	Y	J	O	P	S	L	R	Q	Q	X	B
N	M	Q	G	O	C	F	E	O	O	Y	O	Y	H	R	V	I	B	W	M
B	Z	L	Q	O	H	U	O	H	L	Y	J	H	N	B	A	R	B	I	E
H	D	X	A	C	L	E	P	O	C	S	O	D	I	E	L	A	K	R	K
R	C	X	J	H	S	F	J	Q	E	A	G	H	V	O	M	V	P	H	T
L	E	F	O	E	K	W	R	G	F	A	T	Q	M	F	P	U	G	Q	S
F	L	U	W	C	Q	R	E	I	M	V	J	A	N	H	F	S	E	B	W
J	L	I	D	K	K	E	C	E	S	S	B	Z	X	A	M	U	T	R	I
Z	N	I	N	E	S	S	S	T	S	B	P	L	I	K	V	H	N	I	K
G	I	V	Y	R	U	T	G	A	C	Q	E	P	A	X	G	L	H	X	N
I	T	L	I	S	D	L	V	O	W	V	Z	E	Q	U	N	B	T	D	A
U	S	V	I	A	U	I	U	D	O	M	I	N	O	E	S	B	O	D	B
R	M	Y	R	S	B	N	H	X	K	M	E	I	R	G	T	U	E	E	I
J	U	T	E	A	H	G	O	I	A	G	L	A	J	H	G	V	I	L	E
S	S	N	U	K	T	P	Y	S	A	U	J	P	K	F	S	W	V	L	R
N	E	J	F	A	N	W	C	B	H	N	Z	A	X	X	O	N	K	O	E
I	P	U	A	R	W	O	B	C	J	B	X	N	I	S	Z	A	T	D	V
I	R	A	T	A	T	I	M	Y	X	U	X	O	E	F	S	I	H	B	N
L	C	K	L	I	R	P	E	V	X	L	H	U	M	M	K	A	S	A	C
G	A	L	F	C	W	P	O	N	A	C	C	E	M	R	N	I	L	Q	Q

MECCANO  
DARTS  
DOLL  
ATARI  
GAMES  
MONKEYS

CHECKERS  
SEWING  
BANK  
KALEIDOSCOPE  
CRIBBAGE  
FRISBEE

BARBIE  
MASCOT  
WRESTLING  
ZAXXON  
DOMINOES  
YOYO

## Crossword puzzle answers

1. Jacks are also known as: Knucklebones
2. In the 1800's "sad" also meant what: heavy
3. This is a flammable material: celluloid
4. The Stuff Club Pup: mustard
5. What is Ken's full first name: Kenneth
6. The dog, giraffe, and elephant were made from this company: Tupperware
7. Atari is named after a move in what game: Go
8. The Complex Mascot is what sort of animal: moose
9. A Sega Electronic game: Zaxxon
10. Monopoly started off as this title: Landlords game
11. Cookie Monster used to be this colour: green
12. Chinese checkers was invented in what country: Germany