

Session: Playtime Past

Playtime Past looks at the changing nature of toys over the past 150 years. This is done using our extensive toy collection, and some items of contemporary collecting. In particular we look at the notion of what toys are trying to 'teach' us about the world as well as the materials from which they are made. We also explore whether toys from the past are the sort of thing one would still play with today.

Session Breakdown:

- Introduction: What is a Museum & what can it tell us about the past?
- Understanding Past v Present
- Toys teaching Gravity
- Toys teaching about the world
- Toys teaching technology
- Toys teaching how to stay safe
- Timeline of Toys (putting everything in context)
- Gallery Activity
 - Museum Trail
- Summary & Farewell

Duration: 1.5hrs (Museum), 1hr (Outreach)

Curriculum Links:

KS1, History (1a,b)(2a,b)(4a,b)(6b,d)

Artefacts Used:

- Hoop & Skimmer
- Victorian Wind-up Elephant
- Wooden Elephant Toy
- Lego Helicopter
- Toy Car
- Toy Mobile Phone
- WW2 Evacuee Teddy
- 1950s Wind-up Aeroplane