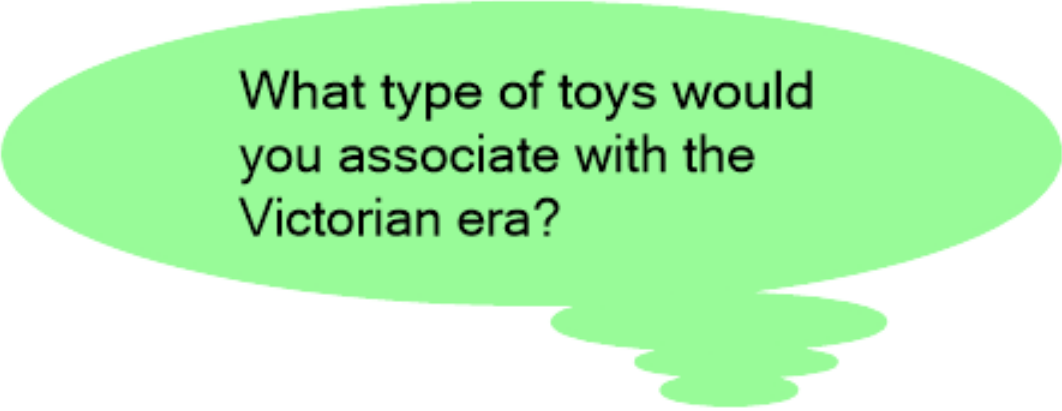


Friday 25th June 2020

L.1 – To explore the toys used in the
Victorian era



What type of toys would you associate with the Victorian era?

DID YOU KNOW: The first teddy bear was not made until 1903!

Victorian toys

The toys children played with in Victorian times often depended on how wealthy their family was.

Children from rich families played with rocking horses, train sets, doll's houses and toy soldiers, whereas children from poor families tended to play with home-made toys such as peg dolls, spinning tops and skipping ropes.



A popular toy during Victorian times was the thaumatrope. The thaumatrope is a disc or card with a picture on each side which is attached to two pieces of string. When the strings are twirled quickly the two discs spin round and animate the pictures! A popular Victorian thaumatrope featured a picture of a bird and a cage. When you spun the thaumatrope, the two images became one and it would appear that the bird was actually in the cage.

Another popular toy during Victorian times was a spinning top. Victorian spinning tops would have been made out of wood but you can make a simple version using some card and a pencil.

Puppet Shows

Puppet shows have been linked back to the 1500s but the British community really pushed them into popular entertainment between 1700 and 1900.

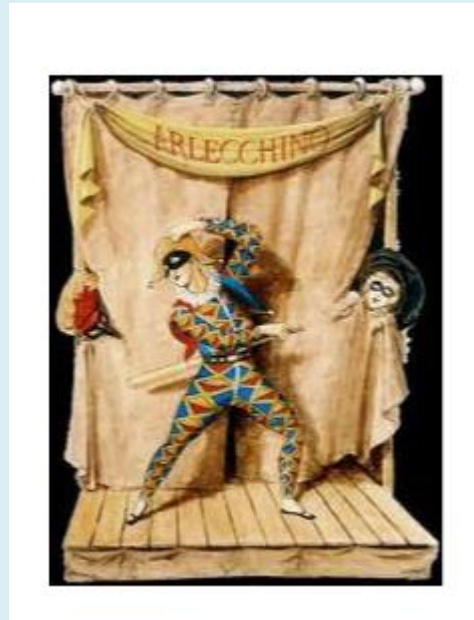
What can you tell me about puppet shows?



What famous puppet shows do you know about, if any?



Toy theatres were the next step! Victorian adults and children embraced this entertainment during the mid 1900s!



Any play in the West End was reproduced in miniature afterwards!

They declined in popularity in the 1940s – can you think why this might be?

WWII and rise of TV!

In the early 1800s popular and highly coloured prints of actors and actresses were sold in the print shops of London's Theatre Land.

In 1811 William West began to print these characters (6-8 a sheet) onto copper plates and sell them to those that wanted to reproduce the plays to friends and family.



By 1830 many were publishing artistic pieces for the toy theatre but this meant the market moved to the richer families.

Toy theatre clip

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ett9rQvho>

Over the next couple of weeks we will be creating toy theatres and presenting a short play to others.



- How is the 'Toy Theatre' linked to the Victorian art movement?

- Toy theatres linked to plays
- Artists sketched out the characters and re-sold them
- Victorian families wanted to reproduce the plays they had seen so bought the art work to cut out.



TASK

Plot out your ideas for a Victorian, short 'toy theatre' show.

Sketch out ideas for characters and props you might need as part of your show.

