

Toys Then and Now

By The Literacy Company



Finding out about toys

Let's take a trip back in time to find out about toys and games.

You might be surprised to know that some of your favourites were enjoyed by children in the past too.

What were children playing with when your grandparents were small?

Just like today, boys and girls liked pretending with toy soldiers and dolls. A long time ago, these soldiers were made of painted wood but now they are usually plastic. You might not have soldiers but many children still play with action figures. Sometimes these are characters from TV or films.

Then



Wooden and painted

Now



Plastic

Dolls

Very old dolls had china faces, arms and legs. They had well-made clothes just like mini copies of the ones people wear.

Dolls are now made of plastic but they still wear the latest fashions. Barbie is older than she looks! The very first Barbie was invented in 1959 and she hasn't changed much.



Painted faces

Then



Clothes were made like the ones that people used to wear then.

Now



Made from plastic and very fashionable!

Games

Games like marbles, dominoes and skittles made of wood, clay or bone have been played for a very long time.

You can still buy these toys as well as new games like marble run and board games.



Now we can have a day out playing a game with very big skittles in a special bowling alley.

Then



Wooden skittles

Now



A bowling alley

Trains and Cars

When trains and cars were invented, everyone wanted a toy one to play with.

The first trains had wheels but soon little engines were put into them so that they could go around a track.

Some toy cars used clockwork to wind them up and make them go.

In 1956 Scalextric was invented. It used batteries to make cars race around an electric track.

Everybody loved it and they still do.

Then



Wooden train

Now



Train on a track

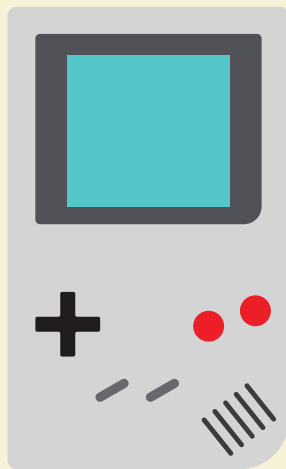
Computer games

In 1960 it was time for the very first computer game! This was plugged into your TV and you could play a game like tennis on the screen.

The first Gameboy by Nintendo was sold in the 1990s. Gameboys are still made today but you might play on a games console with your friends.



Then



Nintendo Gameboy

Now



Nintendo Switch

What a journey through the years we have had! Do you have any of these games from the past in your toybox? What do you think might come next? Perhaps you can put on your inventing hat and think of the next new toy.