

# History of Toys

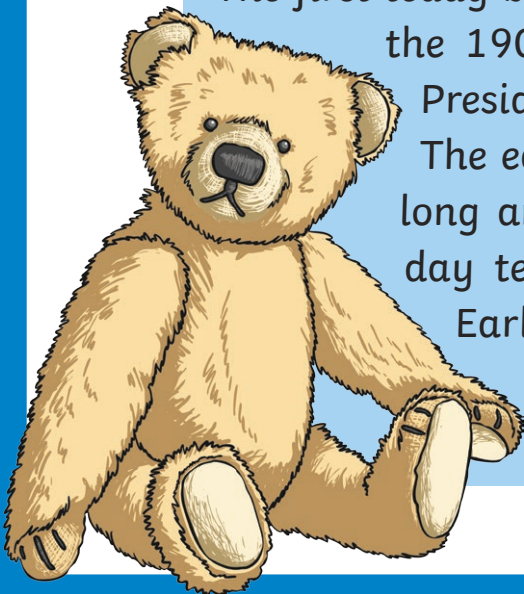
Throughout history, children have loved to play with toys. In 2004, archaeologists found a 4000-year-old stone doll head in an Italian village. It had curly hair on its head and several small kitchen items buried with it. Archaeologists have also found many wooden toys used by the ancient Egyptians, such as toy mice, horses on wheels, and spinning tops.

As the years passed, toys began to be made from lots of new materials, such as iron, tin, fabric, plastic and electronic parts. You can often tell what period a toy is from based on the materials used to make it.

Dolls have long been a favourite toy. Early dolls were made from wood, clay or stone, but today's dolls are usually made from soft plastic. In the 16th and 17th centuries, carved wooden dolls, known as stump dolls, were very common. They had no legs, just heads and bodies, and were dressed in long gowns. During the 1900s, plastic became a more common material for making dolls.

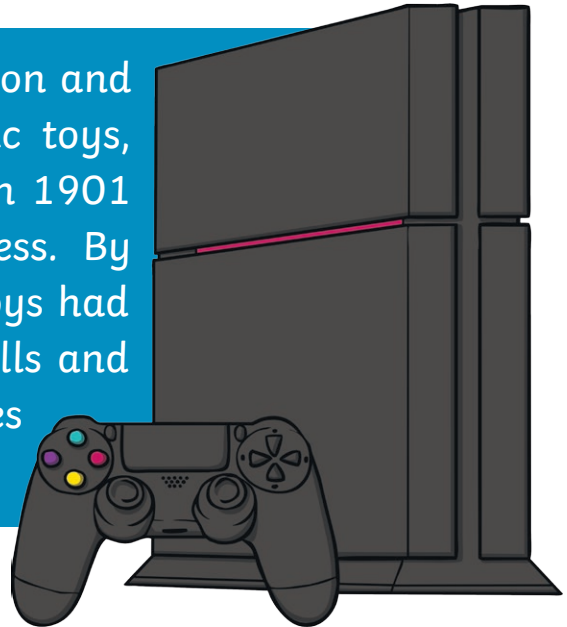


The first teddy bears were made in America in the 1900s and were named after the American President at the time, Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt. The earliest teddy bears had pointed noses and long arms with eyes made from glass. Modern-day teddy bears have eyes made from plastic. Early teddy bears were not soft and cuddly, but stiff and hard because they were stuffed with fine wood shavings.



Toys made from tin were popular from the 1850s to the 1960s. Tin toys such as cars, animals and trains were shipped to many parts of the world. Now, these toys are often made from plastic.

Electronic toys are now very common and popular. One of the first electronic toys, an electronic train, was invented in 1901 and was called the Electric Express. By the 1970s, all sorts of electronic toys had been developed, such as talking dolls and bears, remote-controlled vehicles and computer consoles.



# Questions

1. What was found by archaeologists in 2004?

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2. What were many toys made from during the time of the Egyptians?

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3. What gives us a clue about what period a toy is from?

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4. What were the first toy dolls made from?

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5. What are dolls usually made from now?

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6. Why are teddy bears called 'Teddy' bears?

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7. Where were tin toys shipped to?

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8. What was the first electronic toy?

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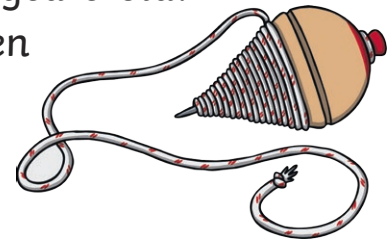
# Answers

1. What was found by archaeologists in 2004?  
**a stone doll head**
2. What were many toys made from during the time of the Egyptians?  
**wood**
3. What gives us a clue about what period a toy is from?  
**the materials it is made from**
4. What were the first toy dolls made from?  
**wood, clay or stone**
5. What are dolls usually made from now?  
**soft plastic**
6. Why are teddy bears called 'Teddy' bears?  
**They are named after American president Teddy Roosevelt.**
7. Where were tin toys shipped to?  
**many parts of the world**
8. What was the first electronic toy?  
**a train**

# History of Toys

Throughout history, children have loved to play with toys. In 2004, archaeologists found a 4000-year-old stone doll head in the ruins of an ancient Italian village. It had curly hair and had small kitchen items buried with it. One of the oldest toys to be found in Britain was a carved animal that was found near Stonehenge. It is thought to be about 2000 years old!

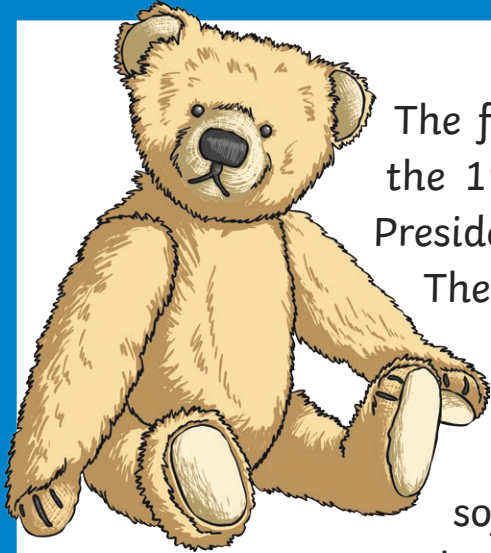
Archaeologists have also found many wooden toys used by the ancient Egyptians, such as toy mice with movable tails, horses on wheels, and spinning tops.



As the years passed, new manufacturing methods were developed and toys began to be made from a variety of materials such as iron, tin, fabric, plastic and electronic parts. You can often tell what period a toy is from based on the materials used to make it.

Dolls have long been a favourite toy and have changed a great deal throughout history. Early dolls were made from wood, clay or stone, whereas modern dolls are usually made from soft plastic. In the 16th and 17th centuries, carved wooden dolls, known as stump dolls, were very common. They consisted of heads and bodies (but no legs) and were dressed in long gowns. During the 1850s and 1960s, dolls were made from rubber but plastic became a more common material for making dolls during the 1900s.

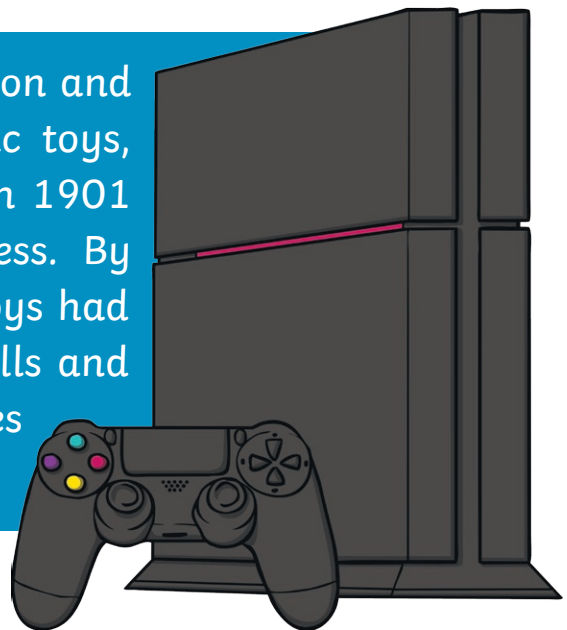




The first teddy bears were made in America in the 1900s and were named after the American President at the time, Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt. The earliest teddy bears had pointed noses and long arms with eyes made from glass. Modern-day teddy bears have eyes made from plastic. Early teddy bears were not soft and cuddly, but stiff and hard because they were stuffed with fine wood shavings.

Toys made from tin were popular from the 1850s to the 1960s. Tin toys such as cars, animals and trains were shipped to many parts of the world. Now, these toys are often made from plastic.

Electronic toys are now very common and popular. One of the first electronic toys, an electronic train, was invented in 1901 and was called the Electric Express. By the 1970s, all sorts of electronic toys had been developed, such as talking dolls and bears, remote-controlled vehicles and computer consoles.



# Questions

1. What was found by archaeologists in 2004 and how old do they believe it to be?

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2. Why do you think the doll was buried with small kitchen items?

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3. How old is the oldest toy found in Britain?

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4. What were many toys made from during the time of the Egyptians?

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5. Why do you think so many toys were made from this material in ancient Egypt?

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6. What gives us a clue about what period a toy is from? Why?

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7. What were the first toy dolls made from? Do you think they would have been safe for children to play with?

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8. Why are teddy bears called 'Teddy' bears?

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9. How long were tin toys popular for?

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10. What was the first electronic toy?

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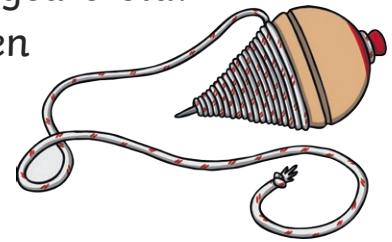
# Answers

1. What was found by archaeologists in 2004 and how old do they believe it to be?  
**a 4000-year-old stone doll head**
2. Why do you think the doll was buried with small kitchen items?  
**The children might have used the doll and the kitchen items to role-play an adult cooking food.**
3. How old is the oldest toy found in Britain?  
**2000 years old**
4. What were many toys made from during the time of the Egyptians?  
**wood**
5. Why do you think so many toys were made from this material in ancient Egypt?  
**There was lots of wood available./It was easy to get wood and it was easy to make toys from./They had tools to carve wooden toys.**
6. What gives us a clue about what period a toy is from? Why?  
**The materials that a toy is made from gives us a clue about when it was made because certain materials were not available in the past or the knowledge to make certain materials hadn't been discovered.**
7. What were the first toy dolls made from? Do you think they would have been safe for children to play with?  
**Wood, clay or stone. These would not have been safe for children to play with as they would have been heavy and had sharp edges.**
8. Why are teddy bears called 'Teddy' bears?  
**They are named after American president Teddy Roosevelt.**
9. How long were tin toys popular for?  
**110 years**
10. What was the first electronic toy?  
**an electronic train**

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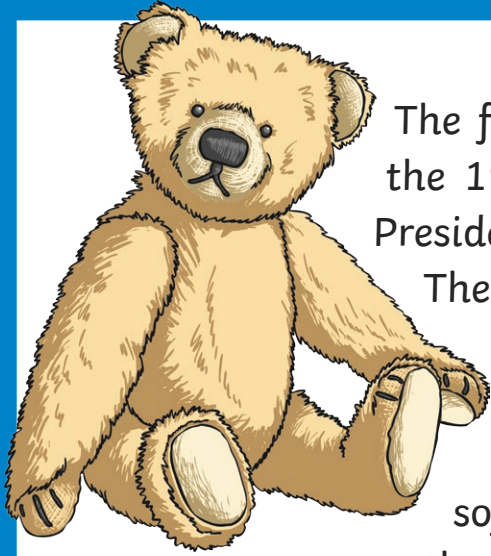
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Dolls have long been a favourite toy and have changed a great deal throughout history. Early dolls were made from wood, clay or stone, whereas modern dolls are usually made from soft plastic. In the 16th and 17th centuries, carved wooden dolls, known as stump dolls, were very common. They consisted of heads and bodies (but no legs) and were dressed in long fabric gowns. In the 1830s, porcelain dolls started to be made. Their faces were usually very pale with features painted on. By the 1850s and 1960s, dolls were made from rubber but plastic became a more common material for making dolls during the 1900s.

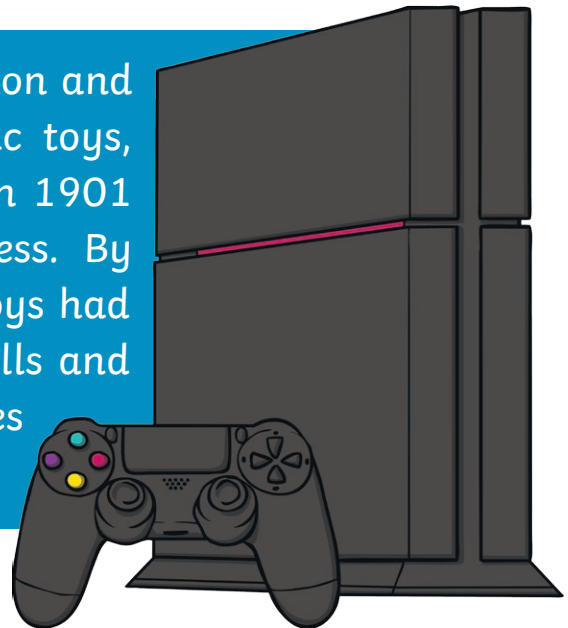




The first teddy bears were made in America in the 1900s and were named after the American President at the time, Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt. The earliest teddy bears had pointed noses and long arms with eyes made from glass. Modern-day teddy bears have eyes made from plastic. Early teddy bears were not soft and cuddly, but stiff and hard because they were stuffed with fine wood shavings.

Toys made from tin were popular from the 1850s to 1960s, with Germany, the USA and Japan being big manufacturers. Tin toys such as cars, animals and trains were shipped to many parts of the world. These toys were eventually replaced by plastic versions because of safety regulations and the availability of cheap plastic.

Electronic toys are now very common and popular. One of the first electronic toys, an electronic train, was invented in 1901 and was called the Electric Express. By the 1970s, all sorts of electronic toys had been developed, such as talking dolls and bears, remote-controlled vehicles and computer consoles.



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9. How long were tin toys popular for? Why did their popularity reduce?

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6. What gives us a clue about what period a toy is from? Why?  
**The materials that a toy is made from gives us a clue about when it was made because certain materials were not available in the past or the knowledge to make certain materials hadn't been discovered.**
7. Describe the materials used to make dolls throughout history.  
**Early dolls were made from clay, wood or stone. In the 16th and 17th centuries they were often dressed in gowns which were made from fabric. In the 1830s, porcelain dolls started to be made. By the 1850s and 1960s dolls were made from rubber and by the 1900s plastic became a more common material for making dolls.**
8. Why are teddy bears called 'Teddy' bears? How have they changed over time?  
**They are named after American president Teddy Roosevelt. Early teddy bears had pointed noses and long arms and their eyes were made from glass. Modern day teddy bears have eyes made from plastic. Early teddy bears were not soft and cuddly but stiff and hard because they were stuffed with fine wood shavings.**
9. How long were tin toys popular for? Why did their popularity reduce?  
**110 years. Tin toys were replaced by plastic versions due to safety regulations and the availability of cheap plastic. Therefore, there were less tin toys available and people tended to buy the safer plastic ones.**
10. What was the first electronic toy and why do you think there was nothing like this before the 1900s?  
**An electronic train. There were no toys like this before 1900 because making electronic toys is very complicated and requires modern materials and scientific expertise.**