

ACTIVITY 6

PLAY THE VICTORIAN WAY

Learn about some of the toys that Victorian children played with

RESOURCES

Wooden Victorian toy set (available from online retailers and some toy shops)

and/or

skipping rope

yo yo

marbles

chalk

www.victorianschool.co.uk



HOW TO PLAY/INFORMATION

Jump Rope or Skipping Rope.

This is a toy that is still popular today. Rich Victorian families would buy Skipping ropes with fancy hand carved handles but the poor families could easily make their own. Try on your own or with friends.

Marbles

These are still played with today but are starting to fade away a little. Marbles were a popular Victorian Toy. You could play many games with marbles. Poor children usually had marbles made of clay while the rich kids might have marbles made from real marble. Here is one to try with friends.

1. Draw a circle 3 feet (90cm) wide on a pavement in chalk, or make one out of string if you're playing indoors on carpet
2. Choose your shooter marble- this should be bigger than any of your other marbles
3. Put 5 to 10 other marbles in the centre of the ring to play
4. When it's your turn, kneel outside the ring and flick your shooter marble out of your fist with your thumb, trying to hit as many marbles out of the ring
5. If you knock any marbles out of the ring, keep them and have another turn
6. If you don't knock any marbles out of the ring, leave your shooter marble in the ring until your next turn and the next player takes their turn
7. Continue until the ring is empty
8. The winner is the person with the most marbles at the end of the game - you can then return your marbles to each other, unless you have agreed to play for keeps!



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HOW TO PLAY continued

Hoop & Stick

The object of the game was to keep the hoop rolling as long as possible. Children played this game outside and many times it would be played as a competition between several children to see who could roll the hoop the farthest.

Whip & Top

This consisted of a cylinder type object (The Top) with a pointed bottom and a stick with a string or piece of leather tied to the end (The Whip).

1. Set the top to spinning by wrapping the string around the top and give the stick a pull. This makes the top spin at a high rate of speed.
2. Keep the top spinning by whipping it on the sides with the string or leather strap. Hence the name.

Spinning Tops

A simplified version of the whip and top. Spinning tops are set to spinning by using your fingers to spin it.

Yo-Yo

Although a very old toy these did not become popular until the early 1900s and were used by many children in the Victorian Days.

1. Slip the ring through your middle finger, thrust your arm down and then turn your palm down to snatch the yo-yo back up.

