

A Timeline of Toys

- Key Stage 1 (adaptable for KS2)
- Curriculum themes: History, Science
- Session length: 1.5 to 2 hours
- Session times: 10am – 11.45am or 12.30pm – 2.15pm



This hands-on workshop uses a variety of approaches including guided discussion and investigation through play.

Develop an understanding of change over time and explore the similarities and differences between materials, recognising and naming common ones. Discover how old toys moved without batteries or electricity and communicate ideas using appropriate scientific language.

We begin the session by sitting in a circle and passing around selected toys. Using this multi-sensory approach, discussion centres on the materials used to make the toys, how they work and which toys would belong to children from different backgrounds. We make a timeline of dolls identifying the different materials used from pot to plastic and demonstrate moving toys such as clockwork toys, before investigating how they work.

The class is then divided into five groups to take turns at different activities, which last around 10 minutes depending on age, ability and numbers in the group, and involve playing and investigating toys including:

- Playground toys: whip and top, cup and ball, hoopla, battledore and shuttlecock, skipping ropes and marbles.
- Moving toys: pull, push, twist and turn.
- Sunday toys: Noah's Ark, Jacob's ladder and wooden bricks.
- Sequencing toys: wooden pile up policeman, guardsman, soldier and matryoshka.



Stay for the day
enjoy lunch after
your workshop and
spend self-guided
time in the museum
(worksheets
provided)

The session concludes with a summary of what we've learnt today.