

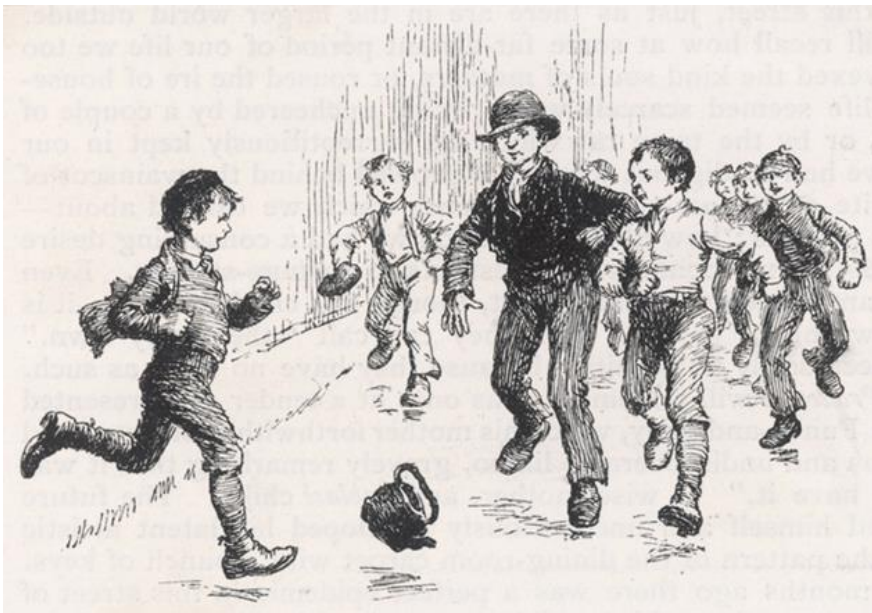


BILLINGS FARM & MUSEUM

Fun at Home Historic Toys

Whether inventing games using only imagination, making toys, or playing with pre-made toys, people have always found ways to play. Children are especially good at it!

In the late 1800s and before, store-bought toys were expensive, so many kids made their own toys out of whatever they could find. The sole of a worn-out shoe with a few scraps of cloth could be a doll. An old tea kettle worked as a ball. Most toys were made of wood and cloth. Plastic didn't exist yet! Think about the toys you have. What are they made from? Are they homemade or store-bought?



Children using an old tea kettle as a ball



Doll made from cloth
and the sole of a shoe

Make your own Ball-in-Cup

This is a fun toy for challenging yourself or a friend. Make sure you have plenty of space around you when you play!

There are a few different ways to make each part of this craft, but you should end up with 1 ball, 1 cup, and 1 string connecting them. Here are a few ideas of how to make them with things you might have around the house. What other recycled materials can you find to use?



Cup:

This piece needs to be easy to hold and deep enough to fit the ball in all of the way. You can decorate your cup any way you'd like. Below are some materials you could use:

- A paper cone
- A paper or plastic cup with a stick attached for a handle
- A plastic bottle with the bottom cut off (make sure an adult helps you and tapes over the sharp edges)

Ball:

This can be anything that easily fits into the cup. The tighter it fits into the cup, the harder the game will be. How heavy the ball is can also make the game easier or harder. Some ideas for balls include:

- A real ball (maybe a bouncy ball)
- Large beads or buttons
- Two bottle caps taped together
- Scrunched up paper with tape around it
- A plastic egg

Make your own Ball-in-Cup Continued

String:

This needs to be a little longer than the length from the bottom of the cup to the ball when it's inside the cup. Add extra length to tie or tape the string to the cup and the ball. If you make it longer than you think you need, you can always adjust. Some ideas for string:

- Yarn
- Ribbon
- Thread
- A Shoelace (tie a few knots in it to make it shorter)

Steps:

1. Gather your materials
2. Make and/or decorate your cup
3. Make and/or decorate your ball
4. Attach the string to the bottom of the cup on the outside
5. Attach the string to the ball
6. Go play! Challenge your family and friends!



If you haven't played before and would like to see how it's done, here are some videos of people playing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s7X4Hjv7yk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFGLMCRIYps>

Historic Toys

Below is a list of toys that children 150 years ago might have played with. Circle the ones you have played with. Draw a square around ones you have never heard of.

Victorian Toys

Bricks

Doll

Hobby Horse

Spinning Tops

Teddy Bear

Toy Train

Hoop & Stick

Kaleidoscope

Leather Football

Cup & Ball

Yo-Yo

Dolls House

Pop Gun

Rag Doll

Diabolo

Skipping Rope

Whip & Top

Marbles

Toy Soldier

Rocking Horse

Skittles

www.primaryclassroomresources.co.uk

If you met a child from long ago, which one of your toys would you show them? Draw a picture of it in the box below: