

Muddled up Toy Chest

Session takes approx. 75 mins

Aim: To learn different ways of analysing the age of an artefact. To discover how toys developed. To explore different materials commonly found in old and new toys.

Session breakdown

During the object handling parts of this session, the class is divided into two groups to facilitate closer access to the artefacts for the children. Both groups do each activity.

Sorting Activity:

Focusing on materials, and looking at indicators of age (such as surface damage) the children separate the old and new toys. Each child gets the opportunity to hold a toy; including some which are over 100 years old. This element of the session is very multi-sensory with the children using clues such as touch, sight, hearing and even smell, to sort the artefacts.

History of toys:

The children explore how children played in the past and how simple toys were often developed from materials in the natural world, particularly from wood. They then play with a selection of replica wooden toys and draw their favourite.

Creative Activity:

The session is concluded by the two groups joining back together and the children making their own peg doll to take home.

Curriculum Links:

History: changes within living memory. Continuity and change.

Science: materials and their properties

Art: use a range of materials to design and make products