

Discover...

Terrific Toys

Key Facts

- Archaeologists have found toys from ancient cultures that are thousands of years old. Many of the oldest toys are dolls of humans and animals.
- Models of animals on wheels have been found in India dating to 2500BC.
- The ancient Greeks had yo-yos made out of wood, metal or painted terracotta.
- Metal dolls were mass produced in the Medieval era. Dolls made of wax or porcelain were popular in the Victorian era.
- Leonardo da Vinci is said to have made a life-size clockwork lion that could walk.
- Lego started out as wooden blocks made in Denmark from 1932. The first plastic bricks arrived in 1949 but it wasn't until the 1950s that the interlocking bricks we still use today were introduced.

Where to find more:

- Find out more about some of the toys in the museum collection: <http://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/museum-service/social-history/dolls-and-toys/>
- Visit the Our Warwickshire to see Teddy and Fifi, included in the list of Warwickshire in 100 objects: <http://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/museum-service/social-history/dolls-and-toys/>
- Discover a toy timeline at the Brighton Museum's website <https://brightonmuseums.org.uk/discover/2012/05/21/toy-timeline/>
- The V&A Museum of Childhood website has information on their impressive collection of toys through time: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/moc/collections/>

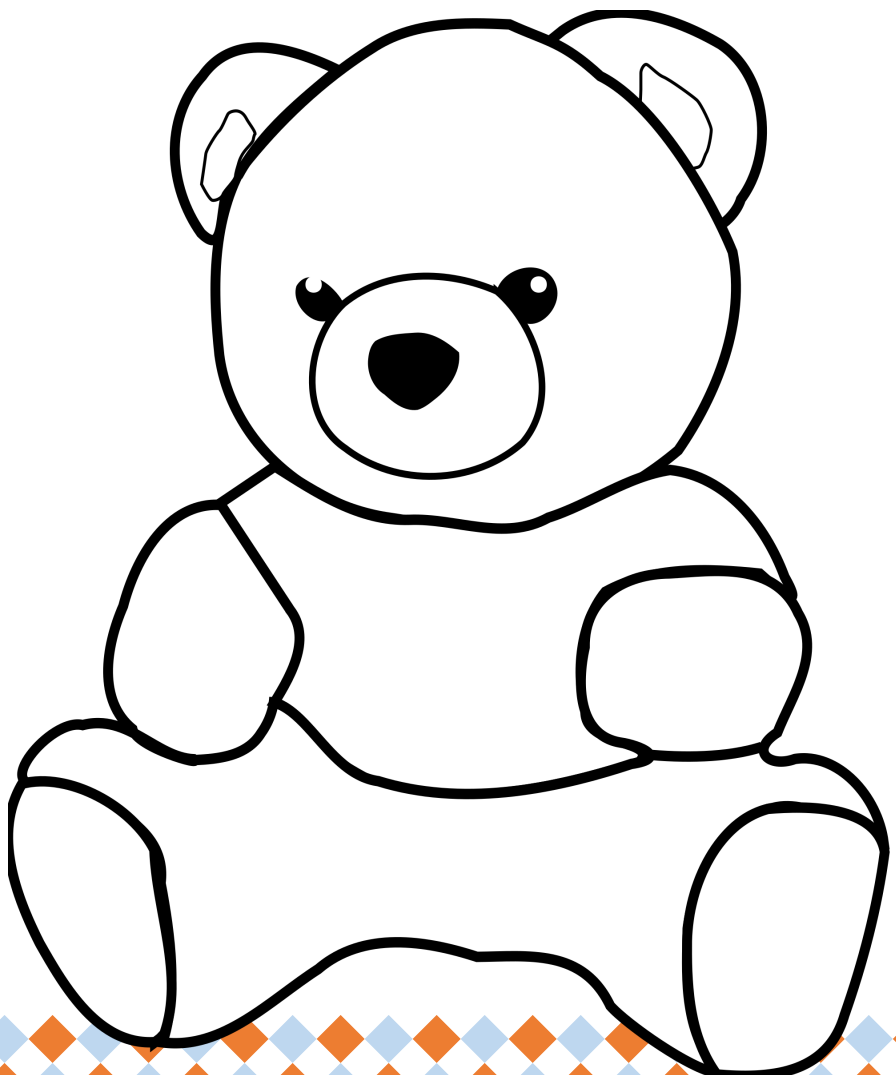


The Story of Teddy Bears



Whilst stuffed toy animals were popular before, bears were not common before the early 1900s. There were actually two toy makers who created a bear around the same time. In 1903 toy maker Margaret Steiff was persuaded to make a bear by her nephew who had seen them at Stuttgart Zoo. The bears were displayed at a toy show and caught the eye of an American toy buyer, who bought 3000 to export to America.

In the USA in 1902, President Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt was on a hunting trip looking for bears. When he could not find one, his hosts captured one and tied it to a tree. Roosevelt thought this was unsportsmanlike and refused to shoot the bear. The story became famous in a cartoon published in a newspaper. A toy maker in New York called Morris Mitchom saw the cartoon and decided to make a bear. He sold them under the name 'Teddy's Bears'. The president approved the name and teddy bears became very popular.



How to make a Bobbin Toy

In the past children have made toys from wooden bobbins by threading buttons on as noses and drilling holes for legs. We can make our own versions of these using tubes for bodies.

You will need:

Card

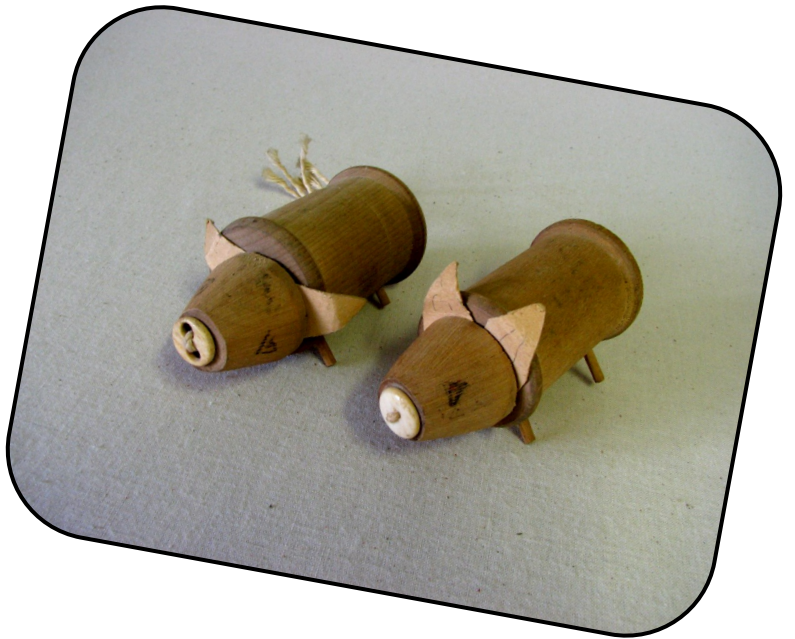
Pipe cleaners

Googly eyes

Scissors

Sellotape

Some creativity!



1. Cut a strip of card and roll it into a tube. Use Sellotape to hold it in place. This is the basic shape of your toy.
2. You can turn it into anything you want, a lion, cat, crocodile, even an elephant.
3. You might want some to make ears or a nose for your toy. Use the left over card to make the rest of you toy.
4. The pipe cleaners could be used as legs, tails, whiskers or anything else you can think of. You might need an adult to help you with this bit.
5. Don't forget to give your toy eyes so it can see where it's going!

Recycled Toys Word Search

In the past children who couldn't afford to buy new toys would make their toys from things they found lying around. All the words in the word search are things children made their toys from. Can you find all the words?

Z W R Y I A V Q V V X N G S X
V A D Z O P K R I V C K B O J
S E L B R A M S S A L G B P V
B P O W A Z S R Z J B H K C H
L N O J L H B I A O C P B W C
Z E F O O S U L U T O S X X G
Y N E E N O Z Q A E B A U F E
T Y J R Q C A M K G M J B F P
X K G E N K S F R U N A O D Y
R G A S D O I P W Q K Z B D L
U H W Q Y I T B O B B I N U L
Z M A U E V L T L U P T A Q O
N R I U U V D U O F W K Y Y D
I K G K Z L F K O C I C M K T
I R Q C G E N N B T Y C A Y H

BOBBIN

MATCH BOX

COTTON REEL

SHOE

DOLLY PEG

SOCK

GLASS MARBLES

SPOON

How to make:

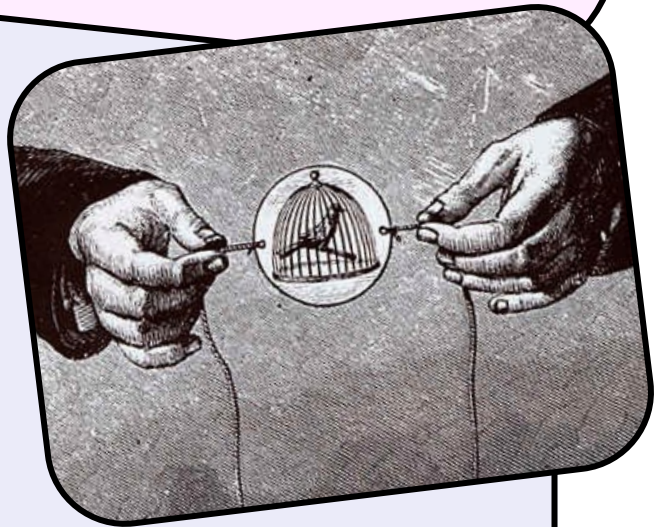
Terrific Toys

A Thaumatrope

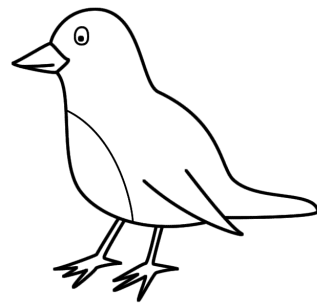
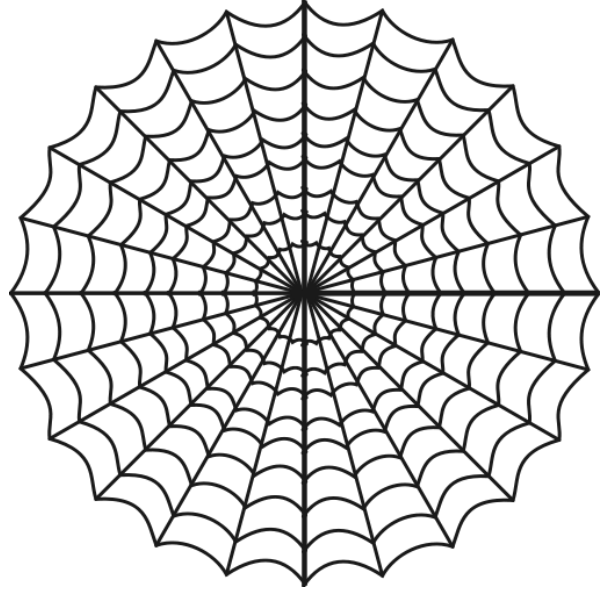
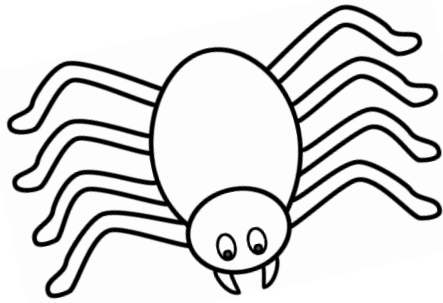
You will need:
Thaumatrope Pictures
Card
Hole Punch
String
Colouring pens

Thaumatropes are Victorian toys that use an optical illusion. When you spin the toy, the two pictures on each side of the disc spin so fast that your eye is tricked into thinking they are one. When you look at something, your eye remembers it long enough for this toy to work. It was invented by an English doctor called John Paris in 1826.

1. Choose a pair of thaumatrope pictures and colour them in.
2. Stick the pictures on either side of a piece of card. Make sure they are the opposite way up to each other.
3. Punch a hole in each side of the card.
4. Tie a piece of string through each hole
5. Twist the string around a few times and then let



Some Thaumatrope Examples:



Some Thaumatrope Examples:

