



A Teaching Resource



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Exploring toys at The Herbert





INTRODUCTION

Session length: 1 hr 30 minutes including a 45 minute facilitated session and 45 minute independent visit to the galleries

Session Description: KS1

For costs and booking information see website.

This session will enable your class to discover how the dolls, toys and games of today are both different and sometimes similar to toys from the past. Follow the toy time line from the Tudor hobby horse through to the Victorian cup and ball and right up to the present with Buzz Lightyear!

This teacher's resource pack has been designed to support the KS1 school curriculum.

Within the pack you will find a selection of cross curricular activities supporting the development of key skills and other useful resources to complement your work in the classroom. The activities are suitable to be carried out pre or post visit to the Herbert and we strongly recommend a visit to the museum to get the most out of your pack.

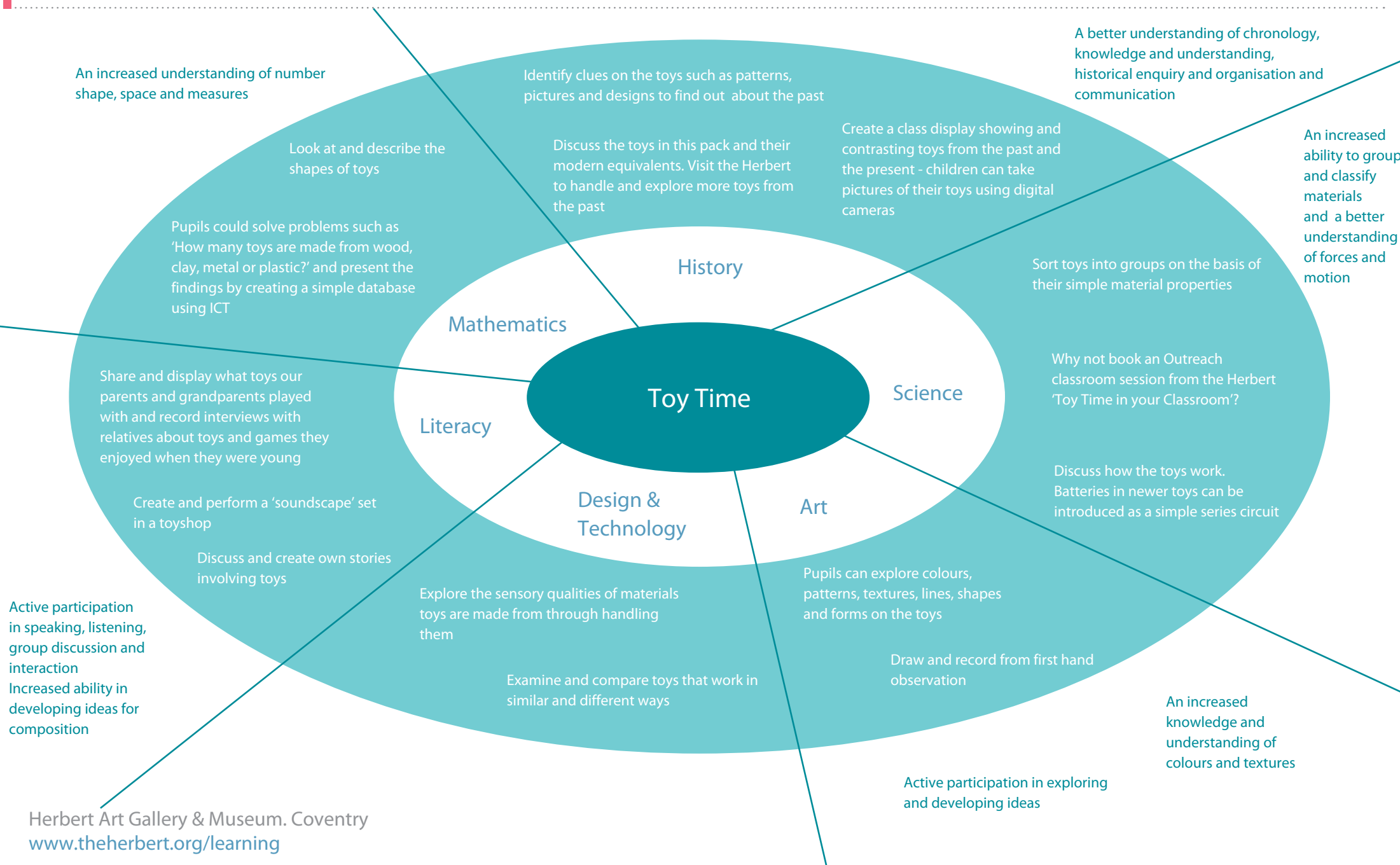
Learning Outcomes

Through attending this session your children will build on the following skills:

- Active participation in speaking and listening through group discussion and interaction
- A better understanding of chronology and improved knowledge and understanding of history
- Improved knowledge and understanding of materials
- An increased ability to grouping and classify materials
- An increased understanding of forces and motion through a variety of toys



Viewing images through a stereoscope at the Herbert





Medieval gaming counters

These types of counters were often created by children and would have been made from cutting old or broken tiles.

You can see these gaming counters up close in the History Gallery in the Medieval section, 'Coventry Cross'.



Wooden Noah's Ark toy

In Victorian times Sunday was regarded by most people as a sacred day. Children were supposed to play quietly and calmly. Noah's Ark toys were thought suitable for Sundays as they related to a Bible story.

You can see this toy up close in the History Gallery when you use our 'Toy Time' Herbert Explorer Boxes.



Victorian doll

This Victorian doll is wearing a white cotton dress with lace and ribbon trimming. Her hat is made from straw. Her head and shoulders are made of bisque.

You can see this doll up close in the History Gallery in the Victorian section, 'Coventry at Play'.



Marbles

These marbles are made from clay. Children would play games by rolling and throwing them. Marbles today are usually made from glass.

You can see these marbles up close in the History Gallery in the Victorian section, 'Coventry at Play'.



Wooden top

Wooden tops like these were very popular in Victorian England. This top has a metal tip which helps it to stay spinning. The square hole in the side allows air in which creates a humming sound when the top is spun very quickly.

You can see this wooden spinning top up close in the History Gallery in the Victorian section, 'Coventry at Play'.



Skipping rope

This skipping rope, about 100 years old, has wooden carved handles and metal tips. Some skipping ropes today are made of the same materials but many are also made of plastic - even the 'rope'!

You can see this toy up close in the History Gallery in the Victorian section and try one out in our 'Toy Time' active learning session.



Action Man

Action Man is a toy action hero figure. This Action man is 40 years old. He is made from plastic and his clothing is made from cotton and wool. He is wearing plastic boots and has hands that can grip. Action Man is still a popular toy today.

You can see Action Man up close in the History Gallery in the 20th century section, 'Coventry at Play'.



Rollerblades

These black and grey rollerblades are made from a strong plastic. They are designed to be comfortable and easy to wear and do up tightly around your ankles. You need to practise for many hours before you get your balance though!

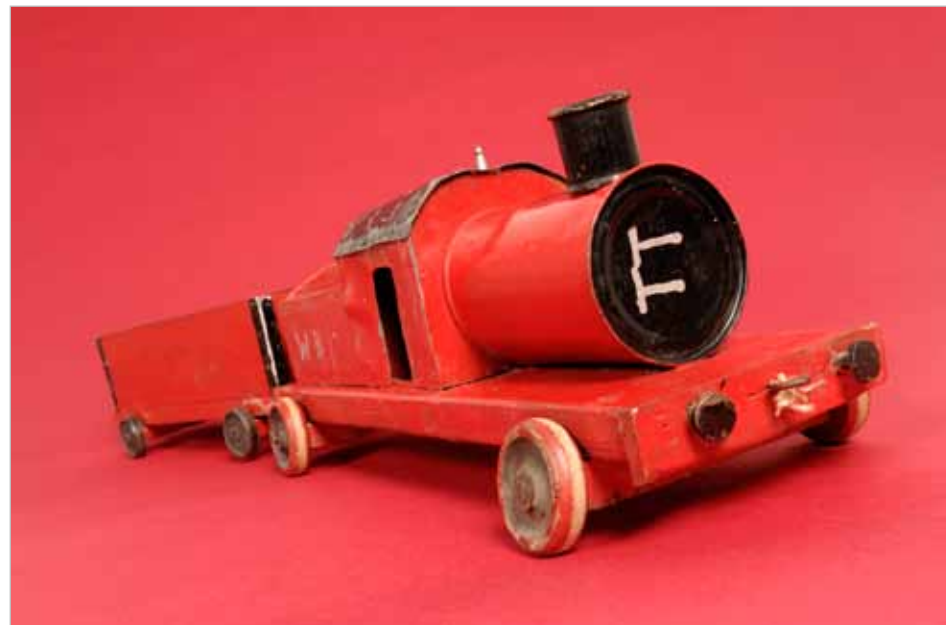
You can see these rollerblades up close in the History Gallery in the 20th century section, 'Coventry at Play'.



Clockwork bike and rider

This brightly coloured clockwork toy is made from a type of metal called tinplate with a plastic screen. What do you think happens when the bike is wound up?

You can see this toy up close in the History Gallery in the 20th Century section, 'Coventry at Play'.



Toy train and truck

This wooden and metal toy was made by hand during the Second World War. The engine with the funnel is made from a painted tin can! The train can be made to move by pushing it or attaching string or a ribbon to a hook on the front and pulling it.

You can see this toy train in the History Gallery in the 'Digging for Victory' section when you use the 'Toy Time' Herbert Explorer Boxes.



Medieval: Relating to, involving, belonging to or typical of the Middle Ages.

Victorian: Relating to or belonging to the period in history from 1837-1901 when Queen Victoria was on the throne.

bisque: A fragile type of porcelain commonly used for creating dolls heads and faces in the past.

clockwork: Clockwork toys, or wind up toys, are ones which use a key to turn a steel coil. This turning winds up the coil inside the toy and movement occurs as the coil unwinds itself. The rate the coil unwinds is controlled with a balance wheel and cogwheels convert the energy into movement.





If you are interested in finding out more detailed information about Toys and Games then have a look at the following websites. Some of them have interactive games on them.

Toys and games at Wakefield Museum
www.wakefield.gov.uk/toys

My Learning with Museums, Libraries and Archives in Yorkshire
www.mylearning.org (Search 'Toys')

Museum of Childhood
www.vam.ac.uk/moc