

MUSEUM KIDS

@ HOME

FEATURED THIS MONTH:

Historic Picnic - Week 1

L&A Kids Who Care - Week 2

Playdate - Week 3

Summer Fun - Week 4

April and May programs
are also available online at
www.CountyMuseum.ca



PLAY DATE - WHIRLIGIG

Have you ever wondered what your parents and grandparents played with when they were younger? What about our ancestors who came before them? Most toys were either built out of wood and left over materials that were used for daily life, or from nature. Nuts, bones, branches, anything could be used all you needed was your imagination! These activities have continued through time and are still activities we enjoy today!

This doll house is part of our collection at the L&A County Museum. If you look through your grandparents attic or ask your grandmother, she likely had something similar growing up.

This week we are going to learn about historic toys, and activities that we continue to enjoy that have been inspired by our ancestors.

Today we are going to learn how to make a Whirligig!

History

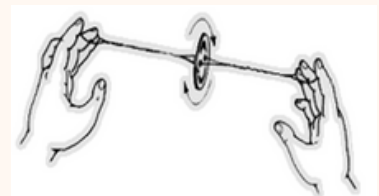
From early antiquity there is evidence of this game being played on several continents. Using common materials, and being self-driven, this toy became very popular as it could be made by anyone. Although it may have been European settlers that brought the idea of this toy to Canada in the late 18th century, there is also evidence of this toy within the Aboriginal culture.

Making your whirligig

- Thread the string through one hole and then back through the opposite hole.
- Tie both ends of the string together into a knot.
- Position the button in the middle of the thread, with even loops on either side of the button.

How to play

- Hold one end of the loop in each hand and swing the whirligig around in a circular motion to wind the string.
- As you pull your hands in and out, the button will spin to unwind, and then rewind the string.



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PLAY DATE - HOOPS

By 1888, Connolly and Bros. were manufacturing implements at Yarker. Their father, Joseph Connolly had established a foundry and smith at Simcoe Falls (Yarker) by 1851 and later formed a partnership with Elijah W. Benjamin, also a foundryman, which continued until Joseph Senior's death in 1888. By 1906, Joseph C. Connolly was operating a carriage works. Probably the wheels on the democrat were manufactured for Connolly by Benjamin Manufacturing Company (incorporated 1895) which was producing wagon wheels by 1910. The rims would have made the perfect hoop for kids to play here in L&A County.



Today's activity is the game of Hoops

History

The game of hoop rolling began in Ancient Greece. Variations of the game have been played throughout history in places all over the world. It is believed to have been brought to Canada in the early 19th century by travelers from Europe. Wooden and tin hoops would have been used with a stick to steer the hoop. Tin nails would have been nailed into the hoop to make it rattle and jingle as it rolled.

This picture is of a group of boys hoop rolling on the streets in Toronto in 1922.

Making your own game of Hoops

- All you need to play hoops is a hula-hoop and a stick
- It is easiest to play on flat level ground, but it is fun to experiment with what different types of ground do to the game.

How to play

- The goal of the game is to roll the hoop using the stick while keeping it upright.
- You can also roll it back and forth between a number of players standing in a circle or across from each other.

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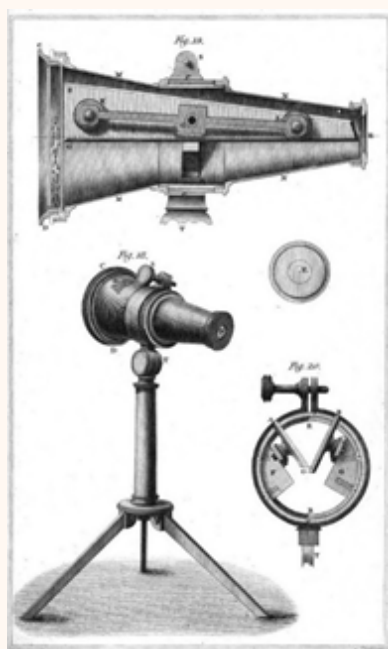
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To the left, Brewsters first
Kaleidoscope.

Above, a diy craft Kaleidoscope.

PLAY DATE - KALEIDOSCOPE

History

The kaleidoscope was invented by David Brewster, a Scottish inventor, in 1817. The name means "observation of beautiful forms". Originally all of the pieces of glass that created the pattern were glued down, until Brewster wanted to have an infinite pattern possibility. Other scientists created different versions as well. Thousands sold in the first few months of Brewster releasing the first kaleidoscope. Eventually they were mass produced made with tin.

Making your own Kaleidoscope

- Cover a paper towel roll with scrapbook paper. Secure with a glue stick.
- Cut a piece of reflective paper to 10.5 inches by 4.25 inches. Fold the reflective paper into 3 equal parts to create a triangle, with the reflective part inside. Secure together with tape. Insert the triangle into the roll. One end will be aligned with the bottom of the roll and the other end will be about .5 inches from the top.
- Using the paper towel roll as a template, cut 2 circles out of the plastic container. Place one inside of the paper towel roll, on top of the triangle
- Place glitter, beads, or confetti on top. Place the second plastic circle at the end of the paper towel roll and secure with the decorative tape.
- Using the paper towel roll as a template, cut a circle out of scrapbook paper. Cut a hole in the center. Place on the other end of the roll and secure with decorative tape. This is the end that you look through.

How to play

- Holding it in your hand place the end with the lens up to your eye. The other end hold up towards the light.
- Slowly and gently spin the kaleidoscope in your hand while looking through the lens. Watch all of the different patterns, shapes and colours.

Tin Toys grew more popular with the industrial age of manufacturing. Matchbox cars are famous for being small enough to fit in a matchbox, though larger cars were marketed under this name as well. The first of these small toy vehicles was produced in 1953 and was a smaller version of the Lesney Green and Red Road Roller. They were produced by Lesney Products which was a British die casting company founded in 1947.

This model has been customized to Napanee, with "Napanee Fire department" written on the hood and a "9" on the door.



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PLAY DATE - GRACES

This young girl is Ella Bond who grew up in L&A County. She is holding a small doll.

Traditionally young girls would have played with dolls, or doll houses. In the 1900's paper dolls became very popular and girls would colour the pictures of clothing and dress up their paper dolls. Toys have come a long way, but the game of graces and playing with dolls is still a favorite of kids today.



History

The Game of Graces was invented in France in the early 19th century. They called the game le jeu des graces. This was a popular game for girls during the early 1800s, boys played it as well but it was not as popular as it was for girls. Graces was thought to benefit girls and make them more graceful.

Making your game of Graces

- You will need an embroidery hoop and two wooden dowels.
- You can decorate your embroidery hoop by adding ribbon to it if you choose on either side of the hoop but this is not mandatory to the game.

How to play

- Graces is played between two people.
- Each player holds two dowel rods, crossing them in the middle similar to an X shape.
- One of the players begins with the hoop on their rods, the player is to pull apart the two rods, causing the hoop to fly in the air to the second player.
- The second player is meant to catch the hoop by having the hoop land with the rods in the middle of the hoop.
- The player who catches the hoop ten times wins.

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PLAY DATE - WOODEN TOP

Other favorite toys that were carved out of wood, made out of tin or other materials are toy trains. Trains continue to be a favorite toy and collectors item for people of all ages. This photo is of Gray Eakins as a boy with his toy train.



History

The spinning top has been used since the beginning of time. Fun fact, this wooden top was carved circa 1300BC and was later found in the tomb of King Tut! Tops were made out of fruits, nuts and seeds with a spoke through the middle to create the fine point. The spinning top was found across the world from the earliest times. One of the most famous forms of the spinning top was developed in Germany around the 1500's, which was called a dreidel.

This painting by Chardin, shows a boy in France playing with his spinning top in 1735.



Making your own spinning top

- You can experiment with different items to see what spins the best.

How to play

- Balance the spinning top on the tip by holding the handle.
- Spin the item between your fingers, or by pushing the corner
- Watch the top spin. The friction between the table and the tip of the spinner is what makes the top stop.