

LIVING IN THE PAST. TOYS

Portland Basin Museum. Objects from the Collection



Popular as a Victorian child's game the game of **'whip and top'** involved wrapping a length of leather or a shoe lace as a cord around the 'top'. The whip would then be quickly pulled away so the cord unwound and the top would spin. Sometimes a nail would be hammered into the top to make it steadier and spin better.

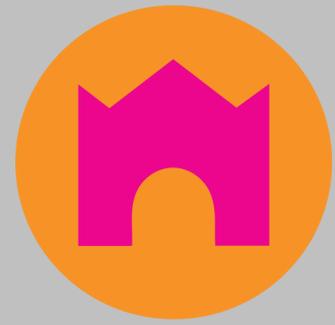
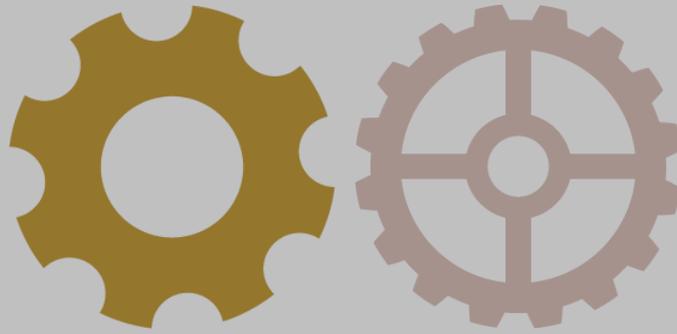


Tri-ang Railways were a British manufacturer of toy trains. The company originated from G & J Lines Ltd (George and Joseph) who made toys during the Victorian period. Three of Joseph's sons; William, Walter and Arthur Edwin Lines formed Lines Bros Ltd shortly after World War 1. Three lines make a triangle hence the name 'Tri-ang'.



Tin plate soldiers like these were popular Victorian boys' toys being produced as early as the 1730s in Germany. This set would have most likely belonged to a child from a wealthier family— for a poorer children toys would often be home-made and with a little imagination a piece of wood could become a soldier to play with.





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This **Andy Pandy puppet** is based on the popular character from the British children's TV series that started in 1950. Pelham Puppets was set up by Bob Pelham in 1947 and was based in Marlborough, Wiltshire. They made a wide range of puppets with designs often influenced by fairy tales and other stories.

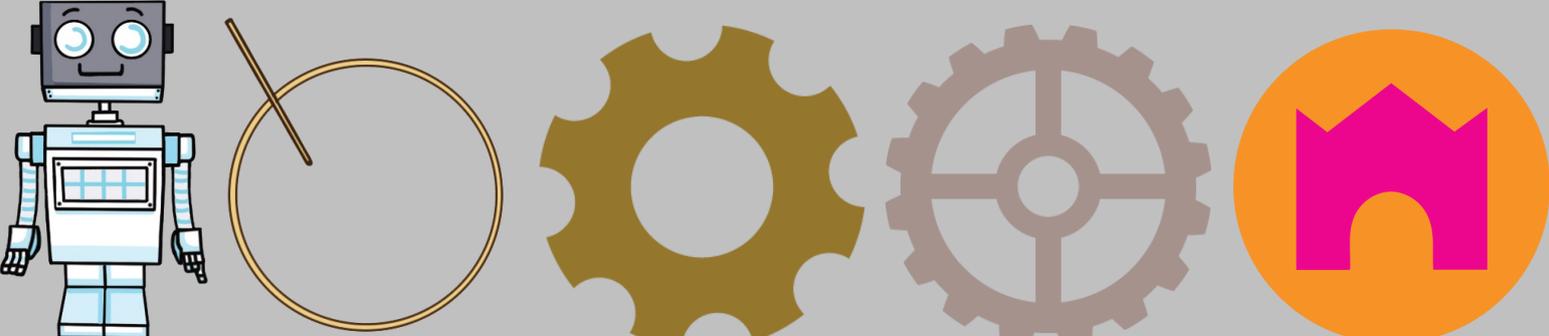


The earliest recorded dolls go back to the ancient civilisations of **Egypt, Greece and Rome. Modern doll manufacture began in Germany and new materials such as plastic and porcelain dolls were mass-produced. This porcelain headed doll dates from 1944.**



Game Boy was an electronic hand-held console developed and manufactured by Nintendo. After its initial release in Japan in April 1989 it was launched in the USA three months later and then Europe in September 1990. It was hugely popular and sold one million units in the USA in a few weeks.





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This simple wooden toy farm was believed to have been made from recycled materials for a family of evacuees to Stalybridge during World War 2. There would have been little room for evacuees to bring toys from home with recommendations being for children to take largely practical items with them such as nightclothes and a toothbrush.



The earliest known version of this game is from 1899. This **blow football game** dating from the 1950s was produced by Spears toys. The aim of the game is to score goals by blowing through a pipe (usually a straw) to move a ball and try to get it into your opponent's goal. Some versions have goal keepers on sticks to help players defend their goals.



Annuals were popular books for children from the late 1800s. They were often being released just in time for Christmas and were regarded as educational and entertaining. The 'School Friend' annual was first published in 1926 lasting until 1981 and provided a mixture of school and adventure stories for girls (and boys).

