

**Some Key Facts**

**How long have toys existed?** Toys have existed for thousands of years. They were made out of **materials** that were available at the time.

**What were toys made of 100 years ago?** Toys were mainly made of wood, paper and metal.

**What toys did children play with 100 years ago?** Rich children played with toys such as **clockwork** trains, tea sets and dolls. Poorer children played with homemade toys such as peg dolls, wooden boats and rags stuffed with sawdust to make balls or toy animals

**What are modern toys made of?** **Modern** toys are mainly made of plastic. This is because it is usually safer and easier to make things with.

**How are modern toys different?** Many modern toys use electricity to work.

**Different Materials**

Children 100 years ago played with some of the toys that you play with today! You can tell when these toys were created by looking at the materials they were made from.

**Can you tell which of these toys are old and which are new?**

Teddy bears have been around for more than 100 years and used to be stuffed with wood shavings. Now they are stuffed with soft fibres.



100 years ago, dolls were made with a porcelain face and a felt body. Today, dolls are usually made from soft plastic.



**Key Vocab**

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| <b>Material</b>  | A material is any substance that has a name. For example: chalk, paper, wood               |
| <b>Porcelain</b> | A very delicate material that is hard and shiny  |
| <b>Clockwork</b> | A clockwork toy has machinery inside it which makes it move when it is wound up with a key |
| <b>Modern</b>    | The present time. E.g. new toys are <i>modern</i>  |

**Moving Toys**

Lots of modern toys have batteries which make them move.



Before batteries were invented, many toys that moved had windup power and clockwork devices. This means that you had to turn a key to tighten a spring and then let the spring unwind for the toy to move.



A clockwork train