



Key Stage 1 - Toys from the Commonwealth

A. Purpose:

To look at toys from the past, and consider what children from countries such as the Caribbean, Namibia and India play/ed with.

B. Outcomes:

- Focus on recording similarities and differences using pictures/handling toys.
- Identify ways of finding out about toys from countries such as Australia, Hong Kong and South Africa
- Find and use appropriate methods of presenting the information they discover
- Learn to ask historical questions

C. Curriculum links:

History: 1b, 4a

D. Cross Curricular Links:

Art & Design: 4c.5d

ICT: 1c

Literacy: 3c

E. Background information:

The activity and tasks outlined are appropriate for KS1 learners and should be adapted according to age, ability and maturity. This activity works well, with the loan of the toy box, which contains all the toys in the image file as well as background information about each toy, its country etc. Students will be able to handle, touch, see and make observations about how each toy works and functions. For more information on how to book the Toys from The Commonwealth box and other loan boxes, click on the LOAN BOX tab on the home page.

- Familiarise yourself with the images of toys first, which country does the toy come from, what is it made from, how could it be used. Most of the toys from the Commonwealth Collection are from the early 1940's.

F. Teaching suggestions:

Teachers' can modify the activity to suit the needs of their class; time restraints, class sizes, learning abilities and so forth.

Introduction

- Introduce the lesson by asking children to describe characteristics of their favourite (modern) toy. Children will use this information later on to make comparisons with a toy from another country/to show new and old.
- Move onto the map of the world, (see our interactive globe) or use your own. Ask students if they can find England, India or South Africa. Use the countries that represent the toys. Some children might talk about where they have been on holiday, some children may have family living in a certain country.
- It is important for students to get a sense that there is a wider world out there, and that toys are played with by children of different cultures, race groups and backgrounds.

Task 1:

Students work in small groups. Hand out Task 1 worksheets to students as well as images /actual toys (if borrowing box). You could also do this as a discussion, by projecting the images on the white board whilst students answer worksheets. Students investigate their objects, and answer the task questions.

Discuss with students their findings. Groups/Student can present his/her findings to the rest of the class.

Task 2:

Students now choose a new toy. This could be from within the classroom, or they can bring a toy from home. Preferably something made from plastic. Students work in pairs and answer Task 2 questions-comparing a new toy to an old toy. Students can then draw their new toy and old toy. They can then label the parts that show the difference between old and new.





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G. Extension Activities:

- Find further ways for the pupils to ask historical questions (e.g. about their families), sort and classify objects (e.g. kitchen implements), and present findings on the computer (e.g. using pie charts);
- Choose a particular toy or country. Find a story that relates to that country, its landscape, food, dress, raw materials etc.
- Students make up a story about a child from one of the countries mentioned, and can write a story about how that child plays with his toy, what it means to him/her,. Provide a bank of words for students to draw upon.
- Creating a class display. This will work by allowing students to write 1-2 lines about a toy from another country. Items to include in their display: Images of toys/actual toys from loan box, Maps, country flags, pictures of people/children from that country, a picture of your students holding up their favorite toys etc. This could even work as a class assembly presentation.

Viewing the learning activity file

If the document doesn't initially open in presentation mode, press 'F5' in Powerpoint to view the activity full screen as a slideshow. This should also enable links to website content to be accessed by clicking on them. Alternatively, links can be viewed by copying and pasting the url into your web browser.

