

A Journey Through Toy History

Toy History · Answer Key · 21 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization is known for creating some of the earliest known toys, such as carved wooden animals and dolls made from clay and ivory?

- A) Ancient Rome
- B) Ancient Egypt**
- C) Ancient Greece
- D) Mesopotamia

2. What was the primary material used to make the very first commercially produced teddy bears, introduced in the early 20th century?

- A) Cotton
- B) Wool
- C) Mohair plush**
- D) Felt

3. The invention of which material in the early 20th century revolutionized toy manufacturing, allowing for lighter, more colourful, and cheaper toys?

- A) Steel
- B) Aluminum
- C) Bakelite
- D) Plastic**

4. What type of spinning toy, often associated with ancient cultures, became a popular mass-produced toy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries?

- A) Yo-yo
- B) Spinning top**
- C) Diabolo
- D) Fidget spinner

5. Which classic children's building toy, invented by Ole Kirk Christiansen, started with wooden toys and later became famous for its interlocking plastic bricks?

- A) Meccano
- B) Lincoln Logs
- C) LEGO**
- D) K'nex

6. The first popular board game for children, featuring a race to the top and a descent to the bottom, is known by what name?

A) Monopoly

B) Snakes and Ladders

C) Chess

D) Checkers

7. What type of toy, designed to mimic a common household item, became a popular collectible and playset item in the mid-20th century, often featuring miniature versions of furniture and figures?

A) Action figures

B) Dolls' houses

C) Toy trains

D) Toy cars

8. Which iconic early toy car brand, known for its die-cast models, was created by James G. Thomson in 1932?

A) Hot Wheels

B) Matchbox

C) Corgi

D) Dinky Toys

9. The popular 'Slinky' toy, a coiled spring that walks down stairs, was inspired by what scientific principle?

A) Magnetism

B) Gravity

C) Tension

D) Momentum

10. What type of educational toy, invented by Seymour Papert, uses programmable robots to teach children about computer science and logic?

A) Logic puzzles

B) Coding robots

C) Electronic keyboards

D) Building blocks

11. Before plastic, what natural material was commonly used to make dolls' heads and limbs, giving them a realistic appearance?

A) Wood

B) Metal

C) Porcelain

D) Fabric

12. Which type of toy, first popularised in the 1950s, allowed children to create fantastical worlds and stories with small, articulated figures?

A) Stuffed animals

B) Action figures

C) Marionettes

D) Toy soldiers

13. The first commercially successful electric train set was developed by which company in 1901?

A) Lionel

B) Hornby

C) Bachmann

D) Marklin

14. What traditional toy, made from a hollow gourd or ceramic, was historically used by children for play and even for carrying water?

A) Marbles

B) Whistle

C) Rattle

D) Ball

15. Which popular stuffed animal was named after a political figure, President Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt, in the early 1900s?

A) Mickey Mouse

B) Winnie the Pooh

C) Paddington Bear

D) Teddy Bear

16. What simple toy, often made of wood or plastic, uses a string to launch a small projectile and is a common item found in many childhoods?

A) Catapult

B) Slingshot

C) Crossbow

D) Bow and arrow

17. The original 'Barbie' doll, introduced by Mattel in 1959, was inspired by what type of European doll?

A) Baby doll

B) Ball-jointed doll

C) Fashion doll

D) Rag doll

18. What invention in the mid-20th century greatly increased the complexity and interactivity of toys, leading to electronic games and battery-operated features?

A) The transistor

B) The steam engine

C) The printing press

D) The telegraph

19. Which type of puppet, manipulated by strings attached to its limbs and head, has a history dating back centuries and was popular in travelling shows?

A) Sock puppet

B) Hand puppet

C) Marionette

D) Finger puppet

20. The development of the 'KISS' (Keep It Simple, Stupid) principle in engineering and design influenced the creation of which durable and universally popular toy, known for its simplicity and versatility?

A) Meccano

B) LEGO bricks

C) Lincoln Logs

D) Erector Set

21. Which toy, popular in the 1970s and 80s, consists of a small, colourful, plastic cube that can be twisted and turned to solve a coloured-face puzzle?

A) Rubik's Cube

B) Tangram

C) Perplexus

D) Jigsaw puzzle