

Toys' Stories

A Family Quiz About Games and Toys Ancient and Modern

Toys In History

1. What country are **kites** thought to have first been made in?
2. A Greek vase from about 440 BC shows a boy playing with a toy which is still popular today, and which is also **the first toy mentioned in writing** at about this time. Which toy?
3. The first **toys on wheels** found have been excavated in India. How many years BC are they dated to?
4. Which toy (**actually toys - that's a clue, because one is not much fun by itself**) still played with today were found in a child's grave in Egypt dating to 4000 BC?
5. Which **board game** still popular today began in India to teach about Hindu spirituality, especially the effects of good and bad deeds leading **up** to salvation or **down** to reincarnation as a lowlier creature?
6. Which **type of game** still very popular with adults and children did John Spilsbury invent in England in 1767?
7. Which **board game** with ancient oriental origins used to feature miniature battle elephants?



Toys and Toymakers To The Present Day

8. Who is the **Teddy Bear** named after?
9. What toy started with college students **throwing pie tins**?
10. Which USA toy-making giant was founded by **Harold Matson** and **Elliot Handler**?
11. Which famous toy was invented by **Ruth Handler**, the wife of Elliot, and named after their daughter?
12. What big seller still made by **Binney and Smith** did Edward Binney and C. Harold Smith invent in 1903?
13. Which company founded by Nolan Bushnell in California in 1972 produced the home version of its arcade hit **Pong** in 1975?
14. Which company founded by **Ole Kirk Christiansen** made the first plastic version of its famous toys in 1947?

15. Which still very popular toy product was originally invented in the USA to **clean wallpaper** and was only marketed as a toy after the invention of vinyl wallpapers made it less useful?
16. **Frank Hornby** of Liverpool has given his name to a company which makes model railways, but what was his first big toy invention, still made today, in 1898?
17. Which immensely popular **card game** was invented in an Ohio barbershop, and later sold to a funeral-parlour owner from Joliet, Illinois?
18. Which game brand's slogan is "**Gotta Catch 'Em All**"?
19. Which still famous British brand pioneered a new type of toy more or less by accident in 1949-1954 after installing **plastic injection moulding equipment** to manufacture pocket combs?
20. Which British "star" released her first music album, imaginatively called **My First Album**, in 2019, climbing to 79th in the album charts?
21. What die-cast model did British firm Lesney Products sell one million of in **1953**? (The date is a clue).
22. Petite was the brand name of a much-desired and quite expensive British toy of the 60s, 70s and 80s, made by Byron Jardine of Nottingham, who started by manufacturing the adult version. What were these toys?
23. Which manufacturer of toys and collectables has the motto "Button in Ear"?
24. Which British toy made originally by Bluebird Toys was first created to live in a powder compact for the designer's daughter?
25. What is the name of Sony's robot dog who was first sold at a cost of \$2,500 in 1999?

