



What were they playing!



Jumping Rope

This is a toy or exercise that is still popular today. We know it better as a Jump Rope but in Victorian Times it was known as skipping rope. Like today it was more popular with girls than boys.

Rich Victorian families would buy Skipping ropes with fancy hand carved handles but the poor families could easily make their own.



Toy Soldiers

In these modern days we that live in, video games such as Call of Duty, Assassin's Creed and Battle field 4 have taken the place of playing with Toy Soldiers. But a young man in the Victorian age loved playing with toy soldiers. A boy in the 1800's would use his imagination to carry out the many battles that his Toy Soldiers might face on any given day.



Marbles

Marbles are still played with today but are starting to fade away a little. Marbles were a popular Victorian Toy. You could play many games with marbles. Poor children usually had marbles made of clay while the rich kids might have marbles made from real marble.



Tea set

As with all children from the olden days up to now there is a great desire to emulate their parents. They want to act grown up just like their parents. That's why the miniature toy Tea Set was so popular with young Victorian Girls. They could gather their friends around a table and have a nice little tea party of their own, just like their mother. Miniature Tea Sets were a toy that rich Victorian Kids played with for the most part.





What were they playing!

Hoop and Stick

Although this toy/game looks very simple, it was very popular. The object of the game was to keep the hoop rolling as long as possible. Children played this game outside and many times it would be played as a competition between several children to see who could roll the hoop the farthest.



Kaleidoscope

A child could look through one end and see a brightly colored design at the other end. As the child would twist or shake the Kaleidoscope and the psychedelic design would change into another design and the more it was repeated the more it would change. Check out the video



Zoetrope

One might say that this was actually the beginning of movies and eventually television as we know it today. Actually some of the early Disney cartoons were made using this principle. There were other names for moving picture toys such as Phenakistoscope, Thaumatrope, Cinematrope and Praxinoscope. They would usually come with extra cardboard or paper inserts so a child could change the moving picture inside. Check out the video at the bottom of the page to explain it better



Victorian Doll

Obviously this is one toy that has been around for a long time and will be around for many years to come. China Dolls became popular during the Victorian age. One reason for that popularity might have been because it was said Queen Victoria had a large collection of China Dolls from her childhood. China Dolls were very expensive and were typically owned by rich children. Dolls owned by most children were usually handmade.





What were they playing!

Hobby Horse – Rocking Horse

There were no cars in Victorian times so horses were the main source of transportation. This made the Hobby Horse or Rocking Horse very popular. Wealthy Victorian Children could afford the expensive rocking horse while the majority of children played with a Hobby horse.



The Yo-Yo

Yo-Yo's did not become popular until the early 1900'S but they were used by many children in the Victorian Days. Yo-Yo's are known to have existed as far back as 500B.C. Today there are professional Yo-Yo'ers who compete all over the world.



Quoits

Ring toss or even Yard Jarts most likely evolved from Quoits. It was a game that had anywhere from one to 9 poles or pegs and several rings. The rings were usually made of rope. As with ring toss the object was to through the rings over the pegs to score points.



Diabolo

This toy originated in China but became very popular in the 1800's. It is made of a spool type object and two sticks with a string tied to each stick. The goal was to throw the spool in the air with the sticks and string and catch with them. There were many tricks that could be perfected with a lot of practice.



Skittles

This game was typically played outside but had indoor variations as well. It consisted of a round hard ball and several Skittles, usually around nine. The object of the game was to roll the ball and knock down as many skittles as possible. Although wealthy families could buy fancy and extravagant Skittles sets, this game was played by the rich and the poor since it could easily be made by hand.