

## Teachers Resources Early Years and Foundation

### Toys in the Time Tunnel

#### Introduction

The Time Tunnel is designed chronologically, starting in the Victorian Era to the present day (your students will recognise the brands, such as 'Frozen' merchandise, in this section!). Along with some donations from the public, Robert Opie is the sole collector of all the items in the museum. He started collecting when he was 6 years old, and decided 10 years after that he would specialise in collecting packaging.

*This resource encourages students to think about brands not solely during their visit. We encourage students to ask questions and reflect upon the changes in packaging throughout the tunnel.*

#### Health and Safety

- No running, stay together in a group.
- Glass in front of all the packaging, so careful not to bang heads or lean against the glass.
- Fire evacuation routes will be pointed out by a member of staff.

#### Pre-visit Activities

- Children could bring in a photo of or describe their favourite toy – why is it their favourite? (e.g. its pretty, colourful, I like building things etc).
- Children could also bring in a photo of their parents/grandparents' favourite toys when they were the same age. How do they compare in material/looks etc?

#### Time Tunnel Tour

*This tour will help you find key objects and help you to encourage thought and discussion. However, it is not a fixed plan – be guided by what your students find interesting!*

1. **Intro** to the children before entering
  - a. Robert Opie started collecting (stamps, coins) when he was just 6 years old! His family also collected children's books, and the items filled his house to the brim. Do you collect anything? Imagine how long it took to collect this many items.
  - b. We are now going to go back 150 years to the Victorian Era, and see the sorts of toys children like you would have had. Do you think it will be very different to today?
2. **Victorian Era:** Wooden Horse case. Imagine being a child living 150 years ago – these are the toys you would have played with! The most popular toy was the jigsaw.
3. **Edwardian Era:** Comics were becoming popular. If you could choose, which toy would you play with?
4. **1910's:** WW1 toys. These toys (e.g. doll nurse and soldier) are made to look like people who worked in the First World War. What other people could they create a doll of? (e.g. a child, a family, a pilot).
5. **1920's:** Pram case. The first toy train sets were made in the 1920's – who has played with a toy train set before?
6. **1930's:** Board games section. Point out the first Disney characters – who can you recognise?
7. **1940's:** WW2 toys. Toys were played with by children in blackouts to make time go by faster. If you knew you were going to be in a blackout, what game would you play?
8. **1950's:** Lego animal. What animal is it?
9. **1960's:** Lots of new, very famous characters were created in the 1960's – how many do you recognise? (e.g. Barbie, Mary Poppins, Batman, Daleks).
10. **1970's:** Can you find Paddington Bear? Star Wars was made in 1977 – how many robots can you count?
11. **1980's:** Board games and computers. Would you prefer to play with these toys/board games or the computers?
12. **1990's:** Can you find the Golden Jubilee Bear? Why is he special?
13. **2000's:** What is your favourite toy in this section? Would you choose this modern toy over all the other toys we have seen?

### Follow-up Activities

- How many toys can the children can remember from the time tunnel?
- Draw their favourite toy that they have seen on their visit.