

# **BRIGHTON** **TOY *and* MODEL** **MUSEUM**

## **What was it like to be a child in the Victorian era?**

### **- Investigating Toys and Play**

**KS2 Years 3 - 6**

**Teaching Session - 90 minutes**



### **National Curriculum Links:**

History, English

### **Objectives**

- \* To explore the variety of children's toys during this period, as well as considering the restrictions imposed by materials and mechanisms and how this influenced play.
- \* To investigate the contrast between the lives of the wealthy and the poor, including child labour.
- \* To help develop an understanding of the significant events, inventions and discoveries which influenced toy manufacture and play during this period.
- \* To gain an understanding of how information is obtained through a variety of sources and to use appropriate vocabulary and adjectives.

### **Resources**

Museum Exhibits  
Handling Collection

### **Teaching Activities**

#### **Introduction**

A background to the Victorian era. What do children already know about significant events during this period?

#### **Activity 1**

Gallery investigation – in groups, children search for key objects amongst the museum exhibits, with picture prompts and focus questions, recording their findings.

#### **Activity 2**

Discovery tables, to include handling objects with focus questions.

#### **Activity 3**

Presentation of findings and discussion, focusing on our objectives. Construction of a time-line.

#### **Plenary**

Evaluation – what have we learnt? Compare toys and play during the Victorian era with that of the present day. Further gallery investigation – a look at toys during the Edwardian period and up until WW1.