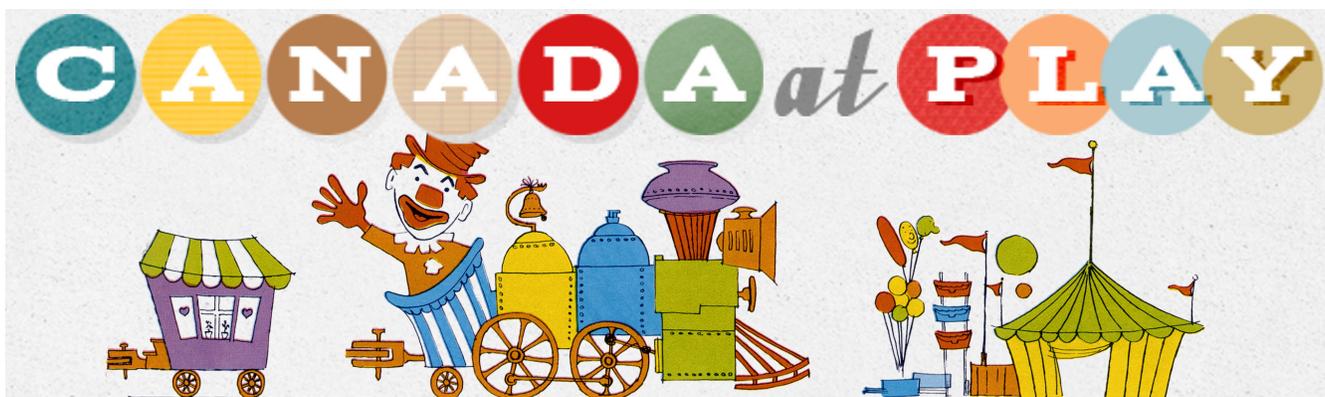


## An Exhibition in the Classroom - Explore the Site with Your Students



### Activities for Grades 2-3

Canada at Play activities support media literacy goals through topics such as Aboriginal toys, gender roles in childhood, toys promoting national identity, and how toys—and society—have changed over time. Each activity contains a lesson plan and blackline masters suitable for photocopying.

Your students probably know a lot about toys already. Use these lesson plans—including student worksheets—to build on their natural interest by exploring the world of Canadian toys.

#### Subjects

Social Studies, media literacy and literary arts

#### Themes

Family and communities, concepts of time, change and continuity, individual identity and personal stories

### Your Grandparents' Toys

#### Pedagogical Intent

Students engage in an online game to discover how play has changed over time and make a Collector Card for one of their own toys.

#### Connected to the Curriculum

The activities mesh well with Social Studies curricula across the country. Specific curriculum links can be found at the start of each activity. Through Canada at Play activities, students are encouraged to think critically, assess primary and secondary resources, build presentation and media literacy skills, and develop their knowledge of Canadian history.

#### Making Connections across Subject Areas

Canada at Play activities are designed to encourage student learning in Canadian history and geography, civics, language and visual arts, and media literacy through group work and social



interactions both in the classroom and in the community. Depending on student selections in individual activities, other curricular organizers can be highlighted: Health and Science, Politics and Government, Sports and Physical Fitness, Business and Economy, and Music.

### Objectives and Competencies

Students will:

- Become familiar with the term “collection” and identify collections in their own communities and homes
- Understand that life was different in the past
- Use media and visual literacy skills to identify and classify objects

Web Resources	Equipment	Student Handouts	Duration
Canada at Play website	Smart Board (if available) or computers in a computer lab setting	A class set of the Collector Card student worksheets	20 minutes of computer time
	White board or chart paper to keep track of student answers		10 minutes of discussion time
			20 minutes to fill out the student worksheets

### Teacher Preparation

1. Familiarize yourself with the Canada at Play website, particularly the Your Grandparents’ Toys game.
2. Make a class set of the student worksheets.
3. Collect and bring in a number of collector-type cards such as Pokémon cards, etc.

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## Procedure

### 1. Introduce the concept of “collection”

In a computer lab (or in the classroom with a projector or Smart Board), review with your students what a “collection” is. Ask your students if they collect anything (dolls, action toys, sports cards, etc.). Give examples. What sorts of things do others collect? (An uncle who collects stamps, an aunt collects coins.) What kinds of things do museums collect (art, historical costumes, clocks, etc.)? These are called artifacts.

### 2. Brainstorm about toys

The Canadian Museum of Civilization has the largest collection of Canadian toys in the world. Ask: Do you collect any kind of toy or game? List these on a white board. Ask your students to imagine what kind of games their parents played or what toys they played with. You can also take an inventory of the birth year of class parents, if your students know this.

### 3. Explore the Canada at Play website

Invite your students to visit the Canada at Play website or briefly tour the site if you are working with a projector. Explain to your students that the site is set up like a playhouse. Students can guess what might be in each room.

### 4. Play the Your Grandparents’ Toys game

Have your students play several rounds of the Your Grandparents’ Toys game, Level One ([www.civilization.ca/canadaplay/play/sorting\\_game\\_1\\_1.php](http://www.civilization.ca/canadaplay/play/sorting_game_1_1.php)) The game challenges students to sort images of toys into three different categories—my toys, my parents’ toys or my grandparents’ toys.

After they have finished playing, ask: What was easy about this game? What was difficult? Did you recognize any of the toys? Which ones?

Keep track of their answers on a white board. If a student says “pull-toy,” for example, ask if the students have pull-toys at home. How are they the same as these older toys? How are they different?

How are things different now than they were in the past? Ask your students to imagine the future. What would a pull-toy look like in the future?

**Extension Activities**

- Have your students interview you about what games or toys you played with when you were their age.
- If you have students from different countries of origin, ask them what toys they played with. Are they the same as Canadian toys or different?
- Ask students why they collect things and why museums collect things. Are they for the same reasons?
- Students design the “next-generation” toy. What would a version of their toy look like a hundred years from now?

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## STUDENT WORKSHEET - Collector Cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### At Home

Choose a toy from your home collection.

Name of Toy: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Toy: \_\_\_\_\_

Material (what is it made of?): \_\_\_\_\_

Manufacturer (who made it?): \_\_\_\_\_

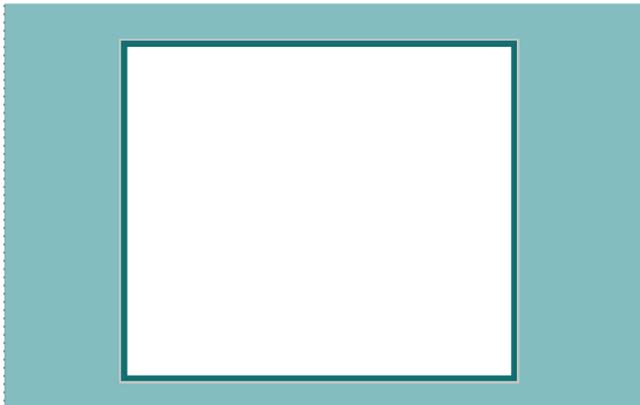
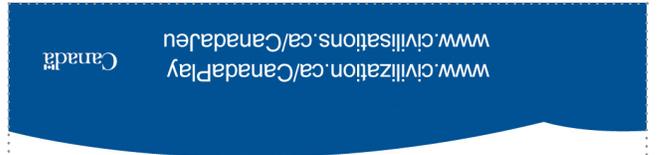
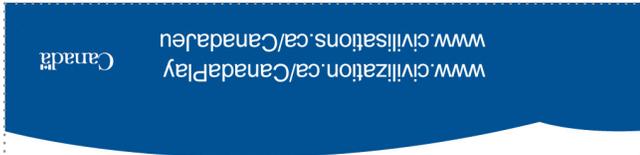
How do you use this toy? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this toy similar to any toys you saw on the Canada at Play website? \_\_\_\_\_

How is this toy different? \_\_\_\_\_

**Design your own Collector Card for your toy!**

Fill in all the information you can about your toy. Give some “Personal Details” about it (“I got it for my birthday,” for example). Draw your toy in the space provided.



**Title:**

**Title:**

**Artifact/Archive number:**

**Artifact/Archive number:**

**Artist, Maker, Manufacturer:**

**Artist, Maker, Manufacturer:**

**Country of origin:**

**Country of origin:**

**Date:**

**Date:**

**Other details:**

**Other details:**

**Played with by:**

**Played with by:**

