

Barbara Myers

Topic: Toys Change with the Passage of Time

Common Core- Social Studies Standard for kindergarten students: SSKH3 (a): Words such as: now, long ago, before, after, morning, afternoon, night, today, tomorrow, yesterday, first, last, next, day, week, month, year, past, present, future.

Grade Level: Kindergarten

Understanding: After completing this lesson, the students will understand that children from the past used different toys.

Needed:

Toys from the past

1 sheet of white construction paper per student

1 small clump of clay per student

Access to the *American Centuries* website online collection:

<http://www.americancenturies.mass.edu/collection/search/index.jsp>

A few modern-day marbles

Procedure

1. The teacher will direct the students to draw a picture of their favorite toy.
2. Collect the pictures; label them and make them into a simple book.
3. At circle time share the pictures and allow students to talk about why they like their toys and where they got them.
4. Teacher-directed progressive discussion
(A discussion)
Who do you know who has a toy just like yours?
Did your mother and/or father have a toy just like it?
Did your grandmother or grandfather play with the same toys that you do?

(B discussion)
What toys did your mother and/or father, grandparents, or someone from a long time ago play with?
How do you know? Where did they get toys?

5. Introduction to research

What toys do you think children would have used to play with 100, 200 or even 300 years ago? Does anyone know if children from the past or long ago even played at all? We can learn some of the answers to these questions if we go to the right place to ask the question.

6. Technology

The teacher will use the Smartboard to access the *American Centuries* website online collection. You can search for one item at a time. For instance, when you type “marbles” in the “text search” box, a list of 26 items that contain the word “marbles” appears, including an image of clay marbles. Click on this image and it will take you to a page that gives some background information about the marbles and allows you to see them up close by choosing “Look Closer”. You might also search for “doll”, “toy train”, “checkerboard”, “toy tea set”, “bowling pins”, or “Noah’s Ark”. When searching for a title with more than one word, be sure to check the “Search exact phrase” box under the “text Search” box so that the computer does not search for each word individually.

Question: Has anyone ever made you a toy that was just for you?

Fact: The children of the past could not just go to the store and buy a toy. The children of the past wanted to play. Parents, grandparents, even brothers and sisters made toys and children began to invent games to play. Some toys and games we still use.

7. Observation-abstract to concrete

Show the students toys made similarly to those in the past such as: cup and ball, wooden pick up sticks, jacks, hoops, dolls and marbles.

8. Student- Make and Take

Give each student a lump of clay. Instruct them to make ten little spheres to make a set of ten marbles. The students will use comparison skills to make each sphere equal or alike in size and shape.

9. Future learning

Instruct students to leave the spheres to dry. At a later date, perhaps on a rainy day, teach the students to play the **Marble Measuring Game** (this is a version of a game played as early as the 1600s).

The Marble Measuring Game

Arrange students in groups of four. The players will take turns lightly tossing/rolling their marbles to the wall. After the marble stops, the student with the marble closest to the wall gets the point. The first player to get ten points wins the game.

10. Closer- Student Toy Picture Book

Show students their “Toy Book” during circle time on the following day to remind them of present-day toys. Tell students that one day these present-day toys will be toys from the past. Ask what the class

can do to help children in the future learn about the toys our class uses. The class might donate their toy book to the local library for future students to enjoy.