

CHORES

Children during the Civil War played with many of the same toys in the mid-nineteenth century as today, but a child's first priority at home during the Civil War was helping with chores. Some chores children would have performed during the Civil War include:

- Tending livestock
- Helping in the garden
- Carrying water
- Picking cotton
- Cook
- Babysit siblings
- Sewing
- Making candles
- Making soap
- Washing clothes

ENTERTAINMENT

Children during the Civil War found creative ways to entertain themselves by reading, making music, and playing with toys.

Below is a list of some of the toys children would have played with during the Civil War:

- Pick-up sticks
- Marbles
- Jacks
- Tops
- Nine pins
- Cup and ball
- Yo-yo

VOCABULARY

PRIORITY	CHORES
TENDING	SIBLING
CREATIVE	DERIVED
ARCHEOLOGICAL	FABRICATE
INERTIA	COORDINATION

Pick-up Sticks

The name of this game was derived from a popular children's counting rhyme:

One, two, buckle my shoe.
Three, four, shut the door.
Five, six, pick up sticks.

This game is played by dropping the sticks in a pile. The first player then picks up one stick at a time without disturbing any of the other sticks in the pile. When one of the sticks is disturbed, the play passes onto the next player. The player with the most sticks in their pile wins the game.



Marbles

Marbles date back to over 3,000 years ago in ancient Egypt and Rome. During the Civil War, many children played with marbles made from glass, clay, marble, and stone. Young soldiers in the army also played this game. Marbles have been found during archeological digs on battle sites.



Tops

The top has been a favorite toy for children for many years. This toy was easy to fabricate at home when children had completed their chores. A top is designed to be spun rapidly on the ground. The motion of the spinning top causes inertia, which prevents the top from tipping over.

Nine Pins

Nine-Pins was an early form of the modern version of bowling. This game began in Germany and it spread to Holland. The Dutch brought this game with them to America. Children during the Civil War would have played this game on a hard wood floor without rugs or other floor coverings.

Cup and Ball

This game originated in ancient Greece and India. By the time of the Civil War, Cup and Ball was a very popular children's toy in America. This game tests hand-eye coordination. The object of the game is to swing the ball into the wooden cup.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

o	i	r	n	e	i	r	r	v	h	r	h	n
a	o	o	l	r	n	i	n	d	a	c	o	
l	a	c	i	g	o	l	o	e	h	c	r	a
r	e	i	t	a	r	i	v	t	a	p	e	i
g	r	i	a	r	a	i	p	a	i	e	a	r
a	n	s	n	r	r	r	g	c	v	s	b	o
i	c	i	e	e	i	t	e	i	e	a	y	t
o	a	b	d	o	a	i	t	r	e	n	i	t
s	e	l	r	n	r	a	o	b	e	g	c	e
e	h	i	o	s	e	h	c	a	y	h	n	i
c	t	n	o	r	c	t	s	f	i	d	r	i
y	t	g	c	i	i	p	g	p	i	a	t	i
n	r	e	y	t	c	n	b	l	o	n	a	o

priority
chores
tending
sibling
creative
derived
archeological
fabricate
inertia
coordination

Go to www.deltaculturalcenter.com for more educational resources.

Yo-yo

Though the yo-yo did not get its name until 1932, this game has been a favorite among children since ancient Greece. This toy became a weapon in the early history of the Philippines. Attackers hid in trees waiting patiently for the enemy to pass below them when they would release their "yo-yo's", hitting their victims on the head.

Jacob's Ladder

This toy dates back to the Pilgrims' times in America. Jacob's Ladder was one of the few toys allowed as a Sunday toy due to its biblical reference in Genesis 28:12. Jacob was on a journey and had a dream about angels moving up and down a ladder between Heaven and Earth.



TOYS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Most toys children played with during the Civil War were home-made. Can you think of a toy you can make using only the materials children had during the Civil War?

