



MUSEUM OF EARLY
TRADES & CRAFTS

Additional Program information for *Early American Toys & Tales*

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Best for pre-K to 1st grade

✓ At METC

✓ Outreach

✓ Live Virtual

X Digital Written Lesson Plan

X Digital Video Lesson Plan

18th and 19th century children played with a variety of toys and games. Some of the toys had specific religious or educational functions, while others were simply for amusement. All provided a brief respite from the everyday chores and responsibilities children faced. In this program, students will compare and contrast “free time,” toys and play in the early 19th versus 21st centuries. A color mixing lesson and decorating a wooden top complete the program.

STANDARDS & SKILLS

9.4.2.C1.1: Demonstrate openness to new ideas and perspectives

1.5.2.CR2a: Through experimentation, build skills and knowledge of materials and tools through various approaches to art making.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Compare and contrast the materials, production and types of toys used by Early American children versus children today.
2. Play appropriately both individually and in small groups.
3. Employ color, patterns and creativity while decorating their tops.



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SUGGESTED PRE-PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Toys Around the World

With your class, research different games and toys used around the world. Create a poster illustrating the different ways children (and adults) have fun in different cultures. Are there more similarities or more differences?

SUGGESTED POST-PROGRAM ACTIVITY

What was your favorite thing?

After your Museum program, have the children discuss their favorite parts of the visit. They can work together to create a large illustrated banner, or each child can write a few sentences and include illustrations about the visit.

Have a spinning top contest!

Create a sheet that contains each top owner's name and several space to record the length of its spins. Using the tops they decorated, have students time how long their tops will spin for. This can be done individually, in small teams or as a whole class. Each top should be spun at least 2-3 times. Discuss the findings as a class. Do some tops spin longer than others? Are there certain top-spinning techniques that increase the spin time?

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please feel free to contact the METC Education Department at 973-377-2982, x12 or education@metc.org