

# CLEVELAND HISTORY CENTER

of the WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Childhood Long Ago

Did you know that children long ago played with toys and games just like you do? Complete these activities to learn more about what it was like to grow up over 100 years ago!

### Activity 1

Close your eyes and picture your most favorite toy. Draw a picture in the box below!



My favorite toy is: \_\_\_\_\_

It is my favorite because: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## ***Observe | Identify | Discuss***

Next, take a look at these photos and discuss the questions below:



Look at the children's clothing. What makes them different from the clothes you and your friends wear today?

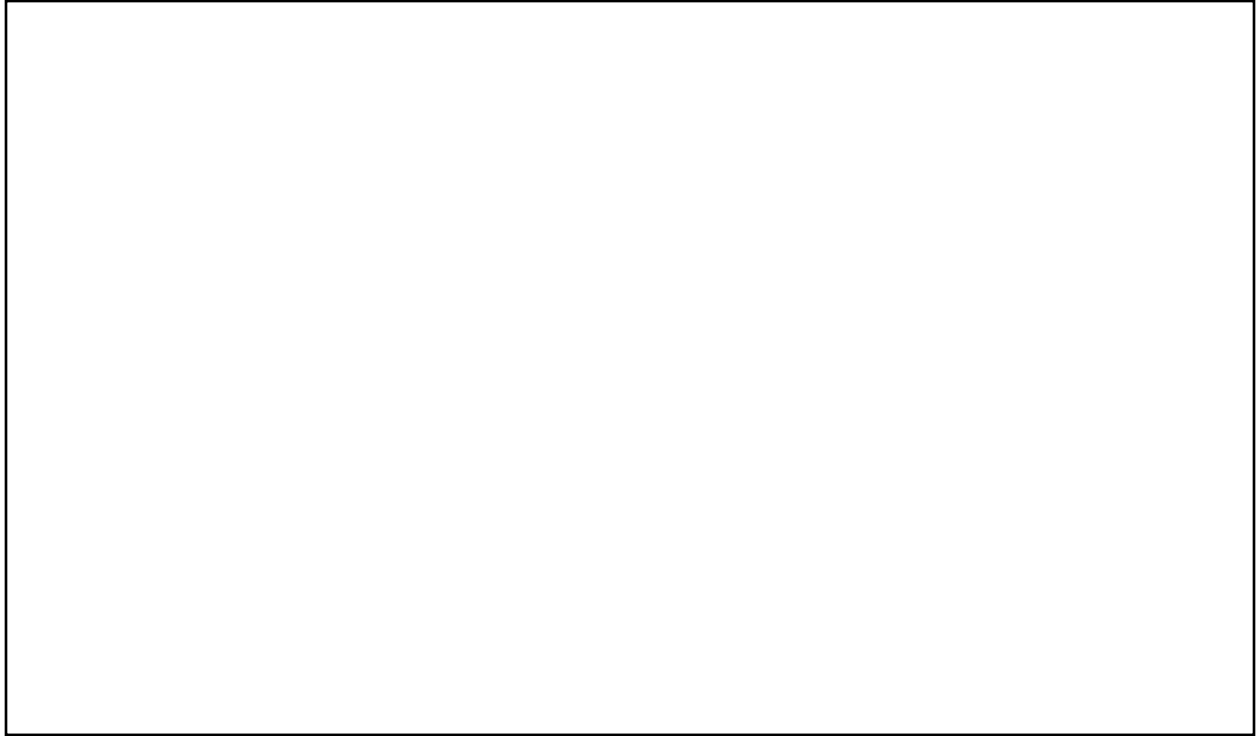
What types of toys are pictured? Would you like to play with those toys? What makes old-fashioned toys different from the toys you play with now?

Do you see any similarities between you and the children pictured? If so, what are they?

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Using what you learned about children long ago, draw a toy that you think these children would have played with.



How is this toy similar to your favorite toy? \_\_\_\_\_

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How is it different? \_\_\_\_\_

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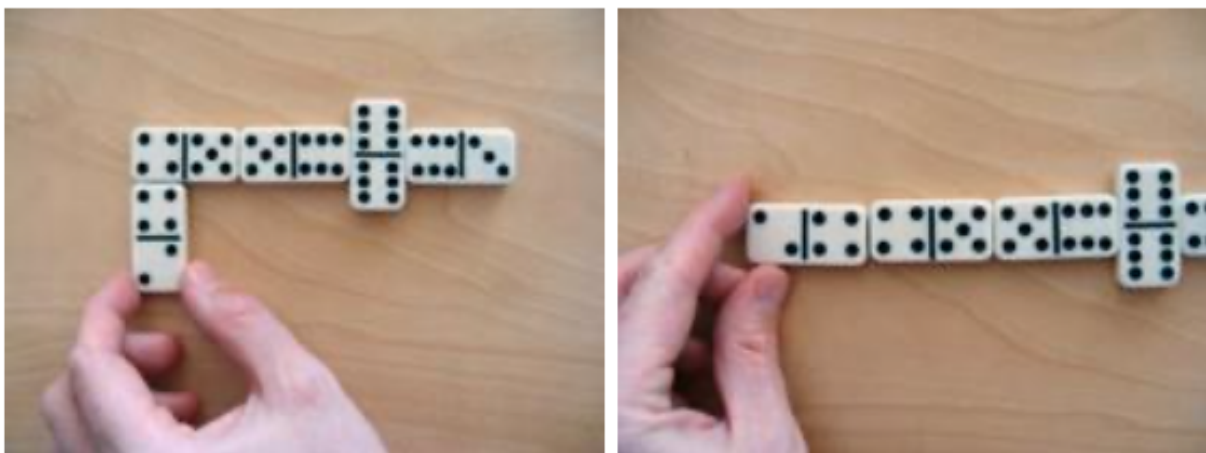
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## **Activity 2**

Dominoes have been around for centuries and are still played by families today. Try your hand at this old-fashioned game using the instructions below!

### ***Starting the Game***

- Place the dominoes face-down on the table and mix them up.
- If 2 people are playing, each player selects 7 dominoes. If 3 or 4 people are playing, each player selects 5 dominoes.
- Keep your dominoes in front of you, but be sure to hide them from your opponent(s)!
- Leave the rest of the dominoes face-down on the table in the “boneyard.”



### ***How to Play***

- The player with the domino of the highest value starts.

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- The next player to the left must then place a matching domino next to the first domino. For example, if the first player started the game with double six, the next player must play a domino that has a six on it. (*Pictured above: This diagram shows two ways to place dominoes at the end of the chain. Both ways are correct. Note that doubles are always placed perpendicular to other dominoes.*)
- If the player doesn't have a domino of matching value, they must pick up a domino from the boneyard. They must keep picking up dominoes from the boneyard until they get a playable domino.
- The first person to run out of dominoes is the winner of the round!

## ***Tallying the Score***

- The winner scores the total number of points on all of the opponents' unplayed dominoes. If the winner has any unplayed dominoes, subtract them from their score.

## ***Notes***

- If there are no more dominoes left in the boneyard when a player needs to draw from it, the player must pass their turn.
- If no one runs out of dominoes but everybody passes because they don't have a playable domino, the person with the lowest score is the winner.

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## **Activity 3**

Songs and poems were often a favorite pastime of children long ago. Recite these poems together and try these activities:

1. Draw a picture of what's happening in the poem.
2. Add a stanza at the end together.
3. Write a poem or song about your favorite game or toy.

### ***At the Sea-Side by Robert Louis Stevenson***

When I was down beside the sea  
A wooden spade they gave to me  
To dig the sandy shore.  
My holes were empty like a cup.  
In every hole the sea came up,  
Till it could come no more.

### ***A Good Play by Robert Louis Stevenson***

We built a ship upon the stairs.  
All made of the back-bedroom chairs,  
And filled it full of soft pillows  
To go a-sailing on the billows.

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We took a saw and several nails,  
And water in the nursery pails;  
And Tom said, "Let us also take  
An apple and a slice of cake;"  
Which was enough for Tom and me  
To go a-sailing on, till tea.

We sailed along for days and days,  
And had the very best of plays;  
But Tom fell out and hurt his knee,  
So there was no one left but me.

## ***Your Turn!***

Write your own poem here:

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