



Lee-Fendall House

MUSEUM AND GARDEN

Children's Toys in the 1800s: At Home Activity

History

Toys in the 1800s may look different than they do now, but they still served the same purpose as they do today by entertaining children. Many children's toys were handmade using products found around the home. Fabric scraps could be used to make a doll or a knife could be used to whittle a toy out of wood. Store-bought toys were rare and costly.

During the early 1800s, the Fendall children, Lucy and Phillip, would have played with many of the popular toys listed below while growing up in the Lee-Fendall House:

- **Whirligig/ Buzz Saw:** The whirligig or buzz saw was made from wood chips or buttons and string. The wood chip or button would be attached to a piece of string and when spun a buzzing sound similar to a circular saw would be produced.
- **Blocks:** Blocks were carved from scrap wood. Blocks could be used to build forts and houses during playtime.
- **Dolls:** Dolls were often made from items found around the house including cloth, yarn, handkerchiefs and wood. Scrap fabric would be used to make doll clothing. The dolls may have been stuffed with cotton, straw or feathers.
- **Cup and ball:** The cup and ball involved a wooden ball that was attached to a wooden cup on a stick. The ball was attached to the cup via a string. A lot of hand and eye coordination is needed to succeed with getting the ball into the cup opening.
- **Marbles:** Marbles are small round balls that were made from clay, glass, china, or stone. The object of a game of marbles is to knock out more marbles from a circle than your opponent using a marble shooter (larger marble). During an archaeological excavation of the Lee-Fendall House garden, marbles were found.

Questions

1. Which popular 1800s toy would you like to play with?
2. What are your favorite toys today?
3. Have you ever made a handmade toy and/or has someone ever made you a handmade toy?
4. What items around your house could you use to make a toy?



Marble found in Lee-Fendall garden



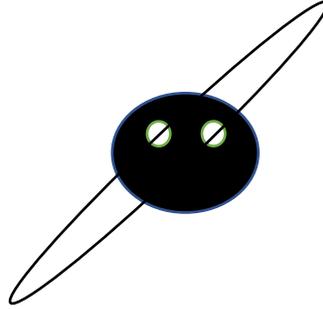
Lee-Fendall House

MUSEUM AND GARDEN

Whirligig/ Buzz Saw Activity

Materials Needed:

- String or twine
- Button
- Scissors
- If no button:
 - Small bowl/ glass
 - Cardboard
 - Pencil/ Pen



Instructions (If Using a Button):

1. Measure and cut 2 feet (24 inches) of the string or twine using scissors.
2. Thread the string or twine through one buttonhole and then back through the other buttonhole to make a loop. Tie off the ends together.
3. Hold on to each loop end (between two hands) with two fingers. Spin the whirligig or buzz saw until the string is tightly wound, then release the tension to make the button spin! Repeat again and again.

Instructions (If Not Using a Button):

1. Using a small bowl or glass (2-3 inches wide), trace one circle on to cardboard with a pen or pencil. Cut out the circle using scissors.
2. Using a pen or pencil, punch 2 holes into the center of the circle, similar to buttonholes.
3. Measure and cut 2 feet (24 inches) of the string or twine using scissors.
4. Thread the string or twine through one of the circle's holes and then back through the other hole to make a loop. Tie off the ends together.
5. Hold on to each loop end (between two hands) with two fingers. Spin the whirligig or buzz saw until the string is tightly wound, then release the tension to make the cardboard circle spin! Repeat again and again.