

What's going on this week?

The toy world is in the grip of a llama obsession as the woolly South American animals become the new industry sensation! At the American International Toy Fair in New York in February, there were llamas everywhere! Knitted, plush and sequined, small and large; llamas on mobile phone cases and swimming pool floats, llama diaries, puzzles and even backpacks.

Main question:

What makes some toys more popular than others?

Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster and talk about what you can see. Does anyone know what the animal is from the poster? It's a llama! Explain that llamas are expected to be the next toy craze! Some people think they may replace unicorns! What is it you think people like about llamas?
- Talk about your favourite toys. What is it you like about them?
- What different types of toys can we think of? E.g. soft toys, outdoor games, dolls houses, Lego etc.
- Are all of our favourite toys the same? Talk about how we all like different toys, based on our own interests.
- Have we ever spoken to adults about the toys that they liked when they were younger. Talk about how these are similar or different to our favourite toys.
- Do we think technology has changed some of our toys? Discuss if the toys we prefer use technology.
- Watch this week's video, which shows some of the different toy crazes over the years. Talk about which of the toys we would enjoy playing with most and why!
- Look through the examples of some other popular toys that children have enjoyed from the assembly resource. For each one, talk about why you think it became so popular and if you would have enjoyed playing with it!
- What do you think the next toy craze might be? If you could create your own toy, what would it look like?

Reflection

Just like all of the amazing selection of toys around, we are all different and prefer different things to play with! The popularity of toys changes over time, but toys can always bring us fun times and joy!

KS1 Focus

Question:

What are our favourite toys?

Listen, think, share

- Write the word 'favourite'. What does it mean? Explain that when something is your favourite it is the one you prefer to all of the others; the one you like the best.
- Look at resource 1, which shows some toys that we might find in homes today. Have you heard of them all before? Out of the toys on the resource, which one is your favourite? Why do you prefer it to all of the others?
- Can you order the toys on the resource from your most favourite to your least favourite? Look at your least favourite toy. Why is it your least favourite?
- Think about the toys you have in your home. Do you have a favourite? What is it? Can you describe it? What makes it the one you like the best? Is it possible to have more than one favourite?
- Do you think that your favourite toy can change? For example, one week it might be a soft toy and the next week it might be your toy car? Think about if your favourite toy has changed before. Why did it change? Was it a new toy? Did your interests change?
- Think about the toys you have in your home now. Have you had any of them for a long time? Are there any you think you will keep forever?

Reflection

Our favourite toys are the ones we like the best. This might be because we enjoy playing with them or because they are special to us. Sometimes our favourites may change and this is fine!

KS2 Focus

Question:

Why does our preference for toys change as we get older?

Listen, think, share

- Write a list of all of the toys you play with now, then write a list of all of the toys you played with when you were 4 years old. Which toys on the list are the same and which are different?
- Think about why the toys you played with when you were 4 years old are different to the toys you play with now.
- Look at resource 2, which shares Jo's experience of toys and some of the things she played with as a child, a teenager and now. If possible ask adults in your home what they used to play with as a child, teenager and now.
- Discuss reasons why our preferences for the things we choose to play with changes e.g. our interests change, we have more or less time, what is important to us changes, we have more or less responsibility etc.
- Jo still enjoys playing football and that hasn't changed. Do you think there will come a time in her life when it will e.g. she will stop playing as she doesn't enjoy it anymore because her body is getting older and it hurts?
- Do you think adults enjoy playing with toys? Have you ever seen an adult playing with toys?
- Can you predict what you will enjoy playing with as a teenager, as an adult?

Reflection

Our preferences for the things we choose to play with do change as we get older and there are different reasons why. Not all preferences change though and most people, regardless of age, love to have the odd opportunity where they can get the toys out and have a good play!



KS2 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: You are going to interview an adult member of your family. This could be someone you live with now or you could phone or FaceTime someone you do not live with. Your aim is to find out if the toys they play with have changed over time. Think about some of the questions you might need to ask, using the points below to help:

- Do you need to know what age/age group the person you are interviewing is in?
- Will you ask them about things they played as a child, teenager, young adult etc?
- Could you ask them to think about why their interests or preferences have changed?

Write your questions, leaving space for you to record your interviewees responses. Perhaps you could use the same interview on a different adult and compare responses!

Option 2: Design and make a toy! First, decide what you could make using items you already have at home e.g. a tower set, pencil puppets, a shoebox house, a sock soft toy, a car ramp. Be creative! Once you have decided, plan your design carefully:

- Name your toy
- Draw a labelled picture of your design
- Make a list of resources and equipment you will need
- Think about how you will make it

Gather your resources and equipment and make your toy! Think about:

- Does your finished toy look different to your original design? Why?



KS1 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Choose your favourite toy. Think about the following:

- What is the toy?
- What does it look like?
- When and where did you get it?
- How does it work or how do you use it to play?
- Why is it your favourite toy?

Use the ideas from above to write about your favourite toy. You could use the 'My Favourite Toy' prompt or organise your ideas in your own way. Make sure you include a picture too!

Option 2: Use resource 1 to find out which is the most popular toy in your class. If possible, contact your classmates to vote or your teacher might be able to help you set up a poll. Once all the votes are in, think about the following:

- Which is the most/least popular toy?
- How many children liked Sylvanian Families the best?
- How many children liked Lego the best?
- How many children voted altogether?
- What is the difference between the number of votes for the most and least favourite toy?

Now, can you find a way of finding your friends and family's other favourite things like colours, animals, sports? Can you decide the options/choices? Can you use a tally chart to record their response?



This Week's Useful Websites

[This week's news story](#)

<https://nyti.ms/3akdbUG>



This Week's Useful Videos

[Different toy crazes](#)

<https://bit.ly/3eyZ3dl>



****NEW**** [This week's Virtual Assembly](#)

www.vimeo.com/channels/picturenews

This Week's Useful Vocabulary

Craze – if there is a craze for something, it is very popular for a short period of time.

Expected – it is likely; anticipated.

Industry – a particular industry is all of the people and activities involved in making a product or providing a service.

Obsession – something or someone that is continually on someone's mind. They are spending too much time thinking about it.

Popularity – the state or condition of being liked, admired or supported by many people.

Sensation – If a person, event or situation is a sensation, it causes great interest and excitement.