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All Ages Online Learning Activities

History of Toys

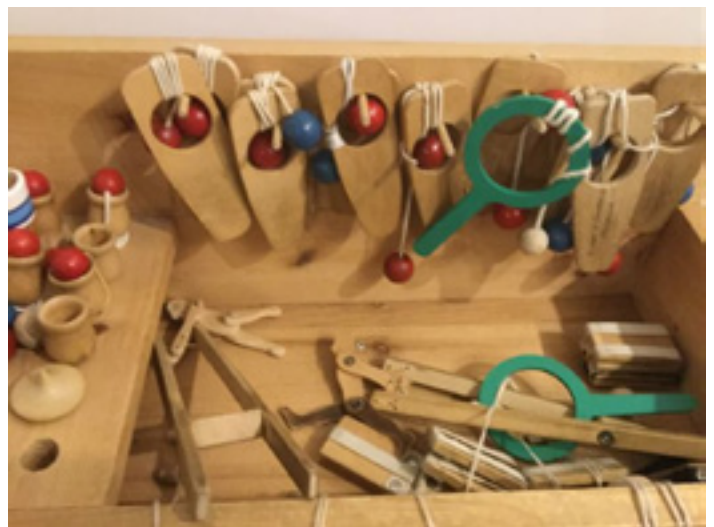
We have lots of artifacts in our museum. An artifact is something that was made during the past that represents some part about early human life. Museums help care for artifacts in their collection. Most of us have fond memories of our childhood toys. For some of us this will be a journey down memory lane. For others, it will be a learning experience of playtime past.

The toys of the First Nations would be the first Canadian toys in Canada. First Nations toys would be handmade or carved. [Click here to see examples of First Nations handmade toys](#)

Newmarket's early settlers began arriving in 1810. They would have handmade toys too. When general stores started to be built on Main Street, and if the family could afford to buy toys, then a toy might be purchased from the general store.

Let's take a look inside the museum's toy box of reproduction toys in this photo. What type of toys do you see? Are they all wooden toys? These would be examples of handmade toys. There are ball and cup toys, a paddle type toy that you have to swing the ball through the centre hole, a wooden acrobat and a Jacobs's ladder. Have you ever played with a Jacob's ladder?

Toys have changed a lot over time but some toys still look very much the same, such as dolls and teddy bears! You might be able to tell what time in history a toy came from by looking at the materials used to make the toy.



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Matching Game

Here are some toys and games from the Elman W. Campbell Museum's collection. We are going to play a game with them called Match Up. Read the clue and draw a line to the toy that the clue describes. You will need a pencil for this game.



**This is a
type of pull toy.**

**In this photo
is a toy kazoo.**

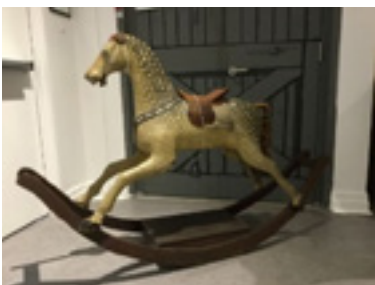


**This game is
called Jacks.**

**This game
is made with all
plastic pieces.**

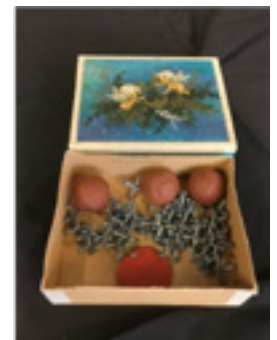


**A toy that rocks
when you ride on it.**



**It is similar to
Monopoly.**

**This is a type
of board game.**



Toys have been made with materials such as wood, metal, clay, plastic and string. Some toys move with wheels, when you press a button, or pull a cord. Not all toys need batteries.

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Craft Activities

Yarn Dolls

These dolls have been around since the 16th century. They are inexpensive to make and could be made from homespun wool. To make your own Yarn Dolls, click here for the instructions: [Easy Yarn Dolls - How to Make Yarn Dolls](#) [Click here to learn how](#)



Cat's Cradle

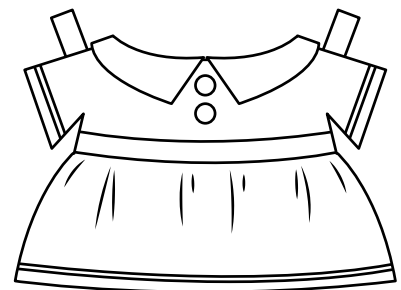
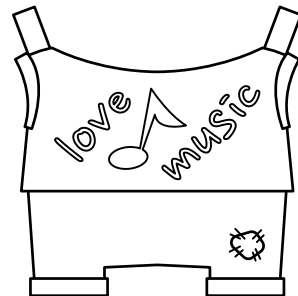
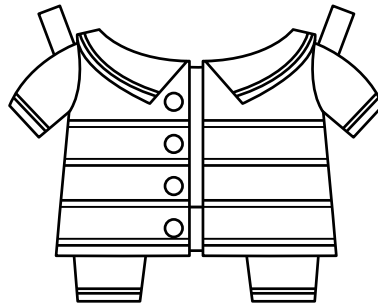
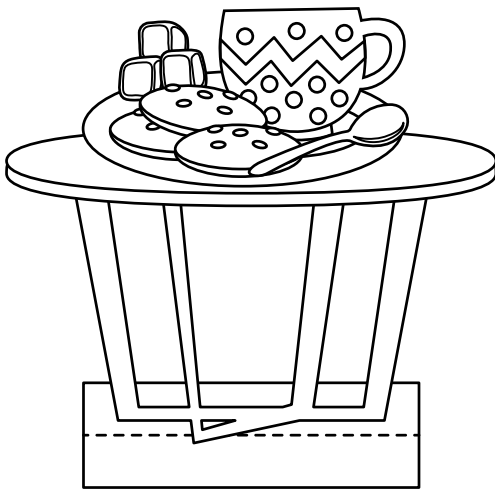
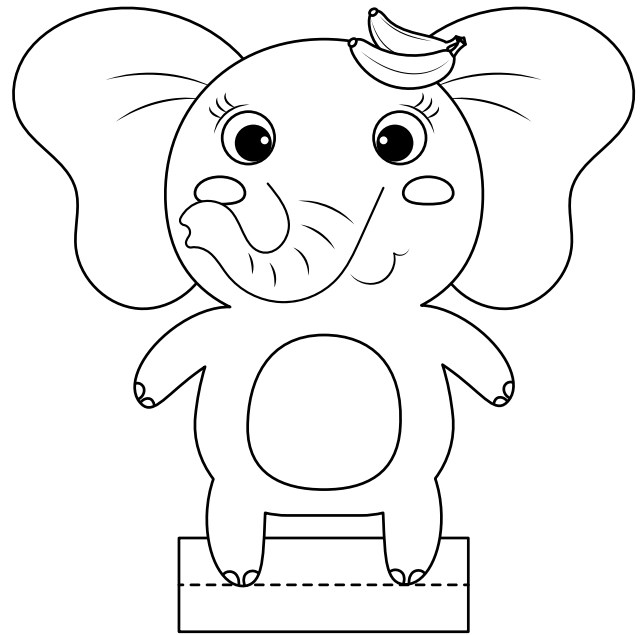
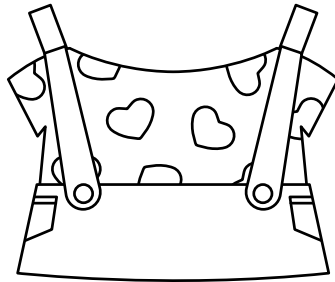
This is one of the oldest games played with string, possibly before c.1800s. [Click here to learn how to play Cat's Cradle](#)



All Ages Online Learning Activities

Paper Dolls

The first manufactured paper doll was c.1810. Paper dolls became very popular after 1920. Here is a paper elephant doll that you can cut out and colour.



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Make your own Thaumatrope

A Thaumatrope is an optical toy from 1825, pronounced: Thomma-trope. Meaning: "Turning Marvel" or "Wonder Turner". This is a toy that makes the image look like its moving.

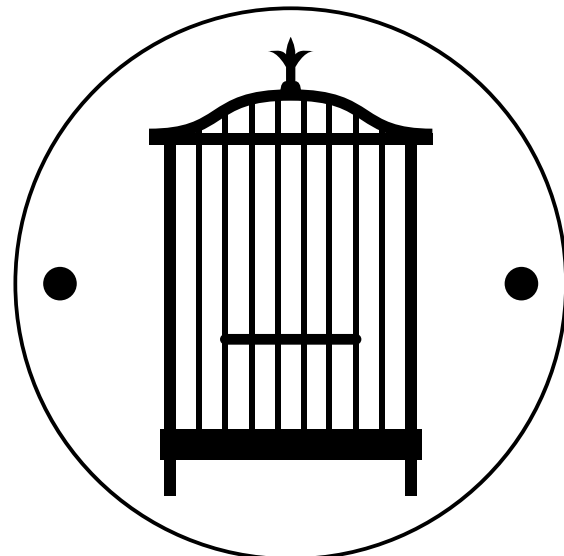
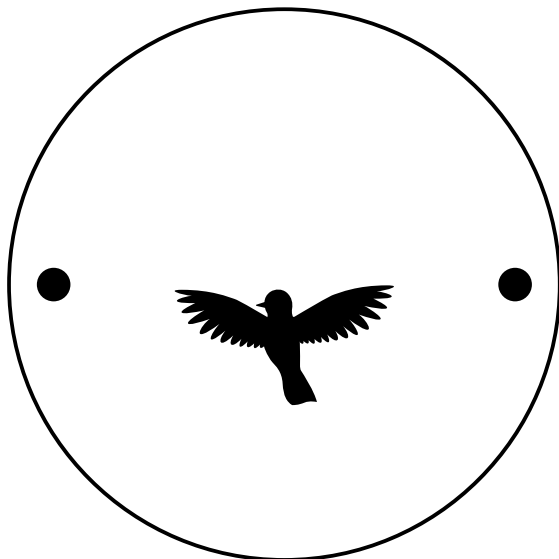
Make your own Thaumatrope. You will need scissors, string, hole-puncher and paper. You can try making ours, or use this link here:

[How to make your own thaumatrope | The Kid Should See This](#)

Directions:

- Step 1. Trace two circles onto cardstock.
- Step 2. Use scissors to cut out the circle.
- Step 3. Cut around the picture of the bird.
- Step 4. Cut around the picture of the cage.
- Step 5. Before gluing the two circles together, make sure one of the pictures is upside down.
- Step 6. Glue the circles together.
- Step 7. Using a hole puncher, punch out one hole on one side of the circles and again on the opposite side. Do not punch out a hole at the top or bottom.
- Step 8. With one piece of string, fold the string in half. Take the folded end and thread it through the hole in one side of your thaumatrope and loop it back through itself. Do the same thing on the other side.

Cut around these shapes below



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Fun Activities for the whole Family

Jacob's Ladder appears to date back to mid 1800s, possibly earlier. Read the story behind Jacob's ladder and see the collection:

[The Jacob's Ladder Toy and Its Mysterious History | Cotsen Children's Library](#)

To make your own Jacob's ladder toy click here for instructions Make a Jacobs Ladder Toy
[Click here for easy Instructions to Build Your Own](#)



Skipping or Jump Rope

This activity became popular around the mid 1800s. A popular game to play at school while singing rhymes. Most of the rhymes were passed down through generations. Do you know any jump rope rhymes? If you would like to learn more, [click here to check it out](#)



Tic Tac-Toe

Tic Tac-Toe has been around since the mid to late 1800s. Design your own game of tic-tac-toe.
[Click the link to see some examples](#)



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Teddy Bears

How long do you think Teddy Bears have been around for?

1. 10 years
2. 50 years
3. Over 100 years

To check your answer. [Click here](#)



Additional Learning Resource:

Take a look at all the online exhibit of old fashioned toys from the History Museum of Canada. Click on the different rooms to see the toys. [Visit the website here.](#)

Activities:

Create your own timeline of toys. Use the chart below to write down some of your favourite toys and games, and then find out what your parents and grandparents liked to play with.

You What year you were born 19()	Parents What year your parents were born 19(), 19()	Grandparents What year your grandparents were born 19(), 19()

All Ages Online Learning Activities

Make a Memory Game

Memory games are a great way for your brain to get exercise!

Step 1. Find a box with dividers or make your own!

Step 2. Find six small items from around your house to put inside the box.

Step 3. Ask a friend or a family member to play along.

Step 4. Tell them to take a look inside the box and remember what the items are.

Step 5. Close the lid and count to ten.

Step 6. Ask if they remember what you put inside!

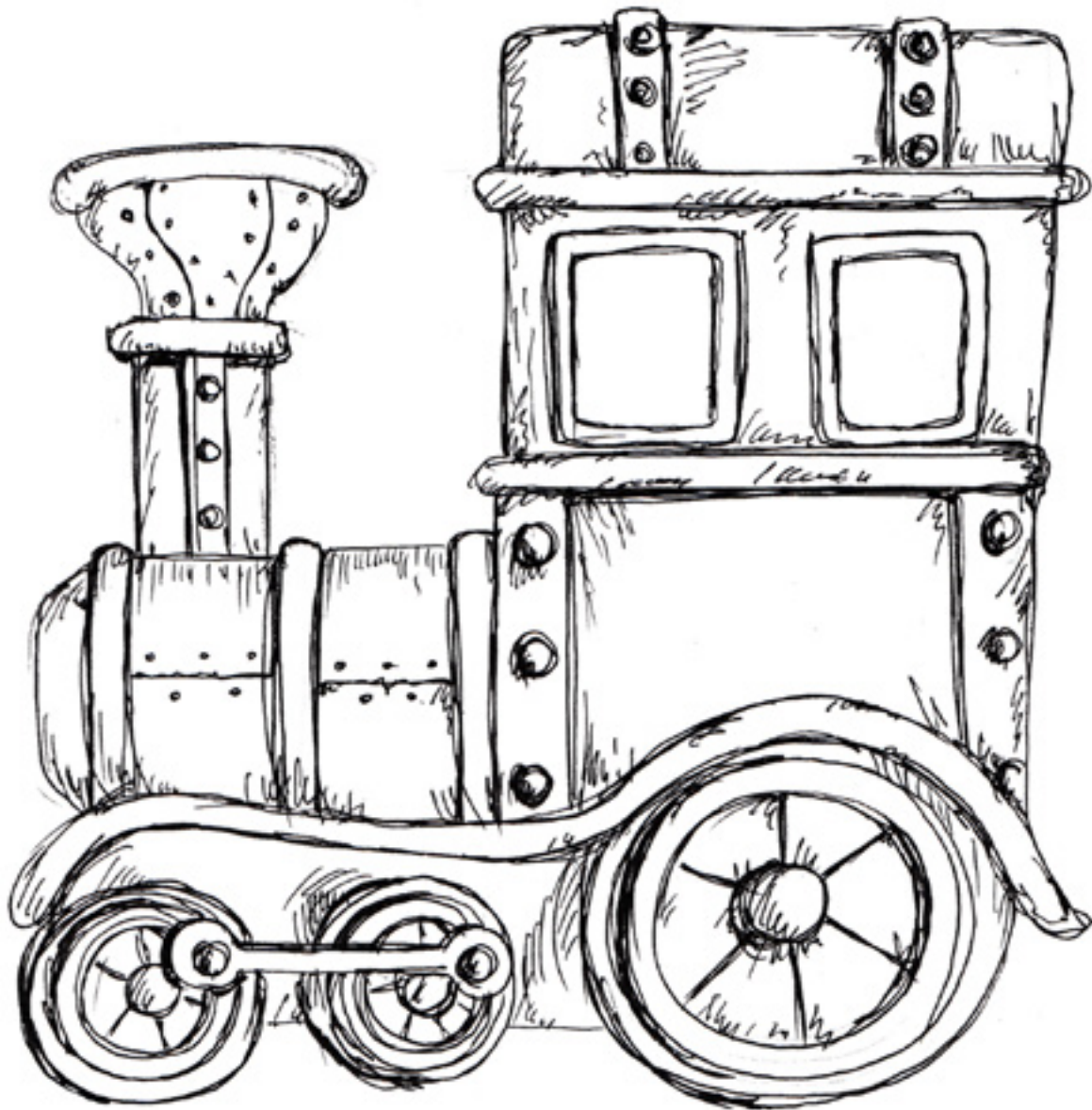


Puzzle Pieces

Can you put the toy artifacts from the Elman W. Campbell Museum's collection back together? See examples of what the museum collects. [Click here to try the Jigsaw Puzzles.](#)

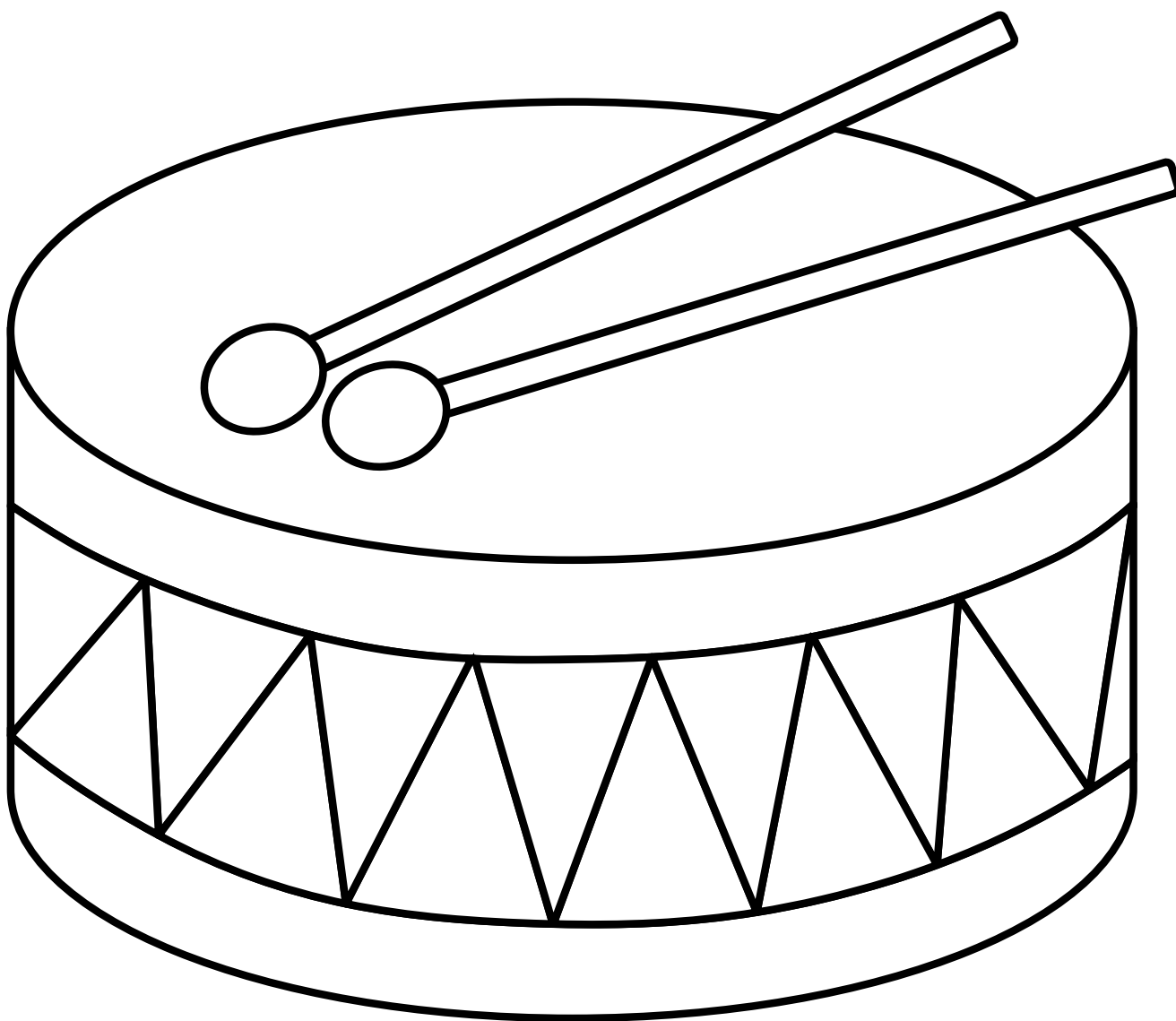
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Have fun colouring the toy colouring pages:
Toy Train



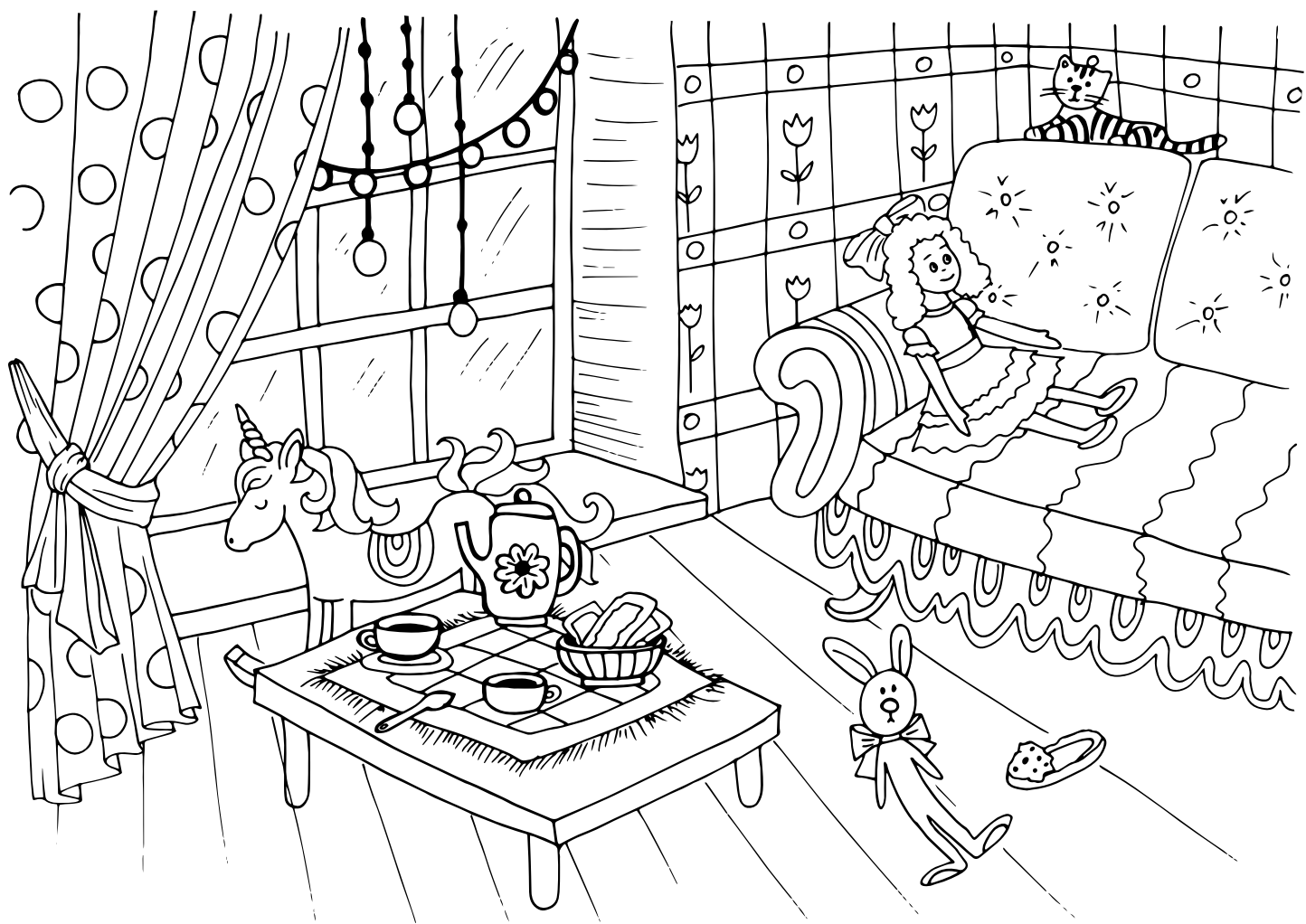
All Ages Online Learning Activities

Have fun colouring the toy colouring pages:
Toy Drum Colouring Page



All Ages Online Learning Activities

Have fun colouring the toy colouring pages:
Toys in the Parlour



All Ages Online Learning Activities

Have fun colouring the toy colouring pages:
Teddy Bear Cute Cartoon Bear

