

265-Year-Old Toy Shop Lists 100 Toys of All Time

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. **Toy** (noun) /tɔɪ/: An object designed for children to play with.
Example: She received a new toy for her birthday.
2. **Celebrate** (verb) /ˈseɪlbreɪt/: To mark an event with festivities or recognition.
Example: We celebrate milestones with special traditions.
3. **Classic** (adjective) /ˈklæsɪk/: Timeless and widely recognized as valuable or exemplary.
Example: Lego is considered a classic toy worldwide.
4. **Tradition** (noun) /trəˈdɪʃən/: A long-established custom passed through generations.
Example: It is a tradition to give toys during holidays.
5. **Generation** (noun) /ˌdʒenəˈreɪʃən/: A group of individuals born and living around the same time.
Example: Each generation has its favorite childhood pastimes.



Hamleys, regarded as one of the world's most historic toy retailers, is commemorating its 265th anniversary. In celebration, the store curated a list of the 100 most iconic toys of all time. This list spans multiple generations and includes both traditional and contemporary favorites. Items range from simple wooden trains to high-tech video game consoles. It reflects how toys have evolved alongside societal and technological changes.

The purpose of the list is to evoke fond childhood memories in customers. Many adults feel a sense of nostalgia when they see toys from their youth. Hamleys believes this emotional connection can help bridge generational gaps. When parents and children recognize the same

toys, it fosters storytelling and bonding. Moreover, these shared experiences guide parents in selecting thoughtful gifts.

Several toys on the list have stood the test of time. For example, Barbie dolls and Lego sets continue to be favorites, even as their designs are modernized. These toys adapt to changing tastes while preserving their core identity. Their educational and imaginative value keeps them relevant. Timeless toys often succeed by balancing familiarity with innovation.

Hamleys also emphasized inclusivity by featuring toys from various cultural backgrounds. They believe that all children should feel represented in the toys they use. This approach supports identity development and fosters cultural pride. Diversity in toy production is becoming increasingly relevant in today's global society. The list acknowledges that toys are both educational tools and mirrors of social values.

Finally, the list highlights toys that inspire creativity and critical thinking. Building sets, puzzles, and art kits allow children to express themselves and develop essential skills. According to Hamleys, these toys transcend trends and remain engaging over time. They will showcase the list across international branches to promote cross-cultural awareness. By celebrating both nostalgia and innovation, Hamleys connects generations through play.

DISCUSSION

1. What toy best represents your childhood and why?
2. If you could design the toy of the future, what features would it have?
3. How might technology change the nature of toys in the next 50 years?
4. Should all toys reflect cultural values? Why or why not?
5. If toys could speak, what insights would they share about society?