

Learn and Tour questions

During your visit to DeBary Hall Historic Site, we will play several lawn and parlor games. As you've learned, children play games to fulfill different purposes or to learn skills. As you play games at DeBary Hall, list the games you think serve a certain purpose. Compare these to games you play today. How are they the same, and how are they different?

Games of the Victorians	Purpose	Games of today
	Teamwork	
	Manners	
	Math skills	
	Learning the alphabet	
	Strategy	
	Imagination	
	Having fun	



The program was developed by the staff of DeBary Hall Historic Site. DeBary Hall is owned by the State of Florida and managed by Volusia County's Parks, Recreation and Culture Division.



DEBARY HALL HISTORIC SITE'S Learn and Tour Lessons



HEALTH & LEISURE: Victorians just want to have fun!

About this lesson

Victorians just want to have fun is about learning how and why children played games over a 100 years ago. You'll find what they used before video games and technology. Children played games to learn, help with chores, and build skills such as balance and teamwork. What other reasons do you play games?

Benchmarks and skills

Grade level: K - 5

Benchmarks: Social Studies

Skills: Teamwork, competitiveness, imagination, fair play, forethought

Vocabulary list

- *Competition*: an activity people try to win or do something better
- *Leisure*: activities done for fun or in spare time
- *Parlor*: a special room used for entertaining family and guests
- *Recreation*: an activity a person takes part in for pleasure or relaxation rather than work
- *Skills*: the ability to do something well, usually through training
- *Strategy*: a carefully devised plan to achieve a goal
- *Taboo*: a Victorian game named after the word meaning forbidden to be used



LEFT: A bowling set from DeBary Hall

ON THE COVER: Adolph deBary (far right) sits with friends on the front porch of DeBary Hall around 1900.

Background

Children in the later 1800s had no TVs, stereos or video games. But just like kids today, they enjoyed games and competition. As families tended to be larger, they met in the *parlor* to play games. Many games had a purpose, such as learning mathematics or the alphabet, building teamwork *skills*, using imagination, showing off a quick wit, and of course, just for fun. Some games, such as *snap apple* and *corn husking*, revolved around harvests or other work parties known as *bees*.

Young boys often played team sports such as *shinny*, *lacrosse* and *baseball*, while young ladies played *graces*, *battledore and shuttlecock*, and *hoop and stick* to enhance their balance and grace. Victorian children played many games you and your friends play today like football, tug-of-war, gossip, spelling bee, cards, pick-up sticks and charades. Victorian children may not have had all the technology we have today, but they still liked to have fun!

In the classroom

Pick your favorite game and research facts about it.

Game or activity: _____

Year created: _____

Invented by: _____

Purpose of game: _____

Three facts: _____
