



BOYS POCKETS

by

Richard and Pru Lees.

The '*Boys Pockets*' resource has been prepared by the Howick Historical Village Education Department while under LEOTC contract to the Ministry of Education.

The resources was researched and written by Richard and Pru Lees, Education Co ordinator and Assistant, Howick Historical Village.

The '*Boys Pockets*' was submitted to the Howick Historical Village Education Department External Review group for approval before being made available as a resource. The '*Boys Pockets*' relates broadly to the Victorian period 1837 - 1901 and could be used with '*The Working Day*' '*Nursery & Skipping Rhymes*' and "*The Thaumatrope*' resources

A resource in support of: The New Zealand Social Studies Curriculum.

Curriculum links through:

Culture and Heritage.

Level 2:

Ways in which communities reflect the cultures and heritages of their people.

How people interact within their cultural groups and other cultural groups.

Level 3:

How practices of cultural groups vary but reflect similar purposes.

Ways in which the movement of people affects cultural diversity and interaction.

Time Continuity and Change:

Level 2:

How past events changed aspects of the lives of communities.

How and why the past is important to people.

Level 3:

How the ideas and actions of people in the past changed the lives of others.

How the past is recorded and remembered in different ways.

Resources and Economic Activities

Level 2:

How and why people work together to obtain resources.

How people participate in the production process.

Level 3:

How and why different systems of exchange operate.

.

Related activities and resources.

- This resource is complimentary to **Victorian Indoor Toys, butter making, and Washday**, all activities available to visiting school groups
 - Items mentioned in this resource can be seen by students visiting the Howick Historical Village
 - The '**Boys Pockets**' resource links to '**Thaumatropes,**' '**The Evening,**' '**The Working Day,**' '**Wit and Wisdom,**' and *the* '**Skipping and Nursery Rhymes**' resources.
- .

Teachers wishing to book should contact the Co ordinator at: (+64) 09 5769481 or e-mail fencible@ihug.co.nz

Teachers notes

This resource consists of a story with the items that would or could have been in a boys' pocket in the 1850's. The story has been written using the names of people who were alive in the 1850's, and buildings of 1850-1880 period that are now in the Howick Historical Village. William Ford, James and Bridget Gallagher: these people were alive at that time. Briody's, Ford's and Gallagher's cottages: these buildings are in the Howick Historical Village. James Whites General Store is a General store of the period like Peter Brady's General store in Panmure.

The resource can be used many ways but here are some suggestions.

- Determine what passed through Jake's pocket during the course of the story. (you may choose to determine what was in each boys pocket). Print out the form at the end and use it for recording the data.
- Use the research tool at the end to find out more about the contents i.e. materials the items are made of, date the item became available, cost of an item, purchasing power of money, technology of the time.
- Determine the contents of the pocket of a modern boy.
- Compare and contrast the modern pocket contents with the 1850 boys pocket. Materials the contents are made of i.e. wood and plastic, purchasing power of money. Technology (computer games against toys and marbles) the material the actual pocket is made of!
- Use the pocket exercise as a pre-visit project - remember the original buildings are in the Howick Historical Village.
- Write your research up and submit it for deposit on the "Howick Historical Village Boys pocket collection."

BOYS POCKETS

by
Richard and Pru Lees.

Introduction.

Why would you want to know what is in a boys pocket? Girls would certainly say: “**Why?** Why would I want to know what is in a boys pocket?” or “Ooooooh! a boys pocket” But the truth is this: girls are curious just like everyone else. “What you got there eh?” or, “Is it a lolly? Can I have one? Go on! Give me a lolly?” Mothers of course know all about boys pockets and they might say: “Boys pockets?” and shudder. But boys - well, boys look at pockets differently. “Jake, you got that steely marble? You have so! I saw you put it in your pocket. Want to swap?”

Of course, the items in boys pockets are ever changing. One might say that the contents of the world - given enough time - would pass through the pockets of a boy! Let us go and drag out the items of a boys pocket in the 1850's, dig out the articles in the musty corners, poke about among the sweet smelling and sticky dust, fluff and grime and find out what is lurking there!

Of course it is not that easy; the contents of a boys pockets have seldom been recorded.. There is very little information available about what might be found in a boys pocket.

That means we have had to research the items that ‘possibly’ or ‘probably’ would have found their way into a boys pocket. What would the items have been made of? Read the story about the boys pocket and then list the items mentioned. Leave space below each item so you can write down information you will find out from the research pages at the end of the story.

JAKE’S POCKET - 1851

“Have you cut the wood?”

“Yes mother.”

“What about the water? I wanted five buckets of water.”

“I got the water mother.”

All right Jake, you’re a good boy, here is thrupence. Be gone now before I think of something else.”

Thank you mother,” said Jake as he stepped out the door of the cottage.

“And don’t forget your sister’s birthday is tomorrow,” his mother called after him.

Jake walked down the road with his hand in his left pocket. Between the fingers of his hand he could feel the shiny surface of the penny coins and he counted them in his head as they passed between his fingers. 1,2,3. He took the pennies out and counted them again as he looked at them. Boys do that, they think to themselves: *“I might have counted one twice and one might have gone missing and ... well, you never can be sure*

they are safe and I might have a hole in my pocket. A hole in a boy's pocket is the worst thing that can happen to a boy.

Today was the first day of the school holidays. What a great thing to have three pennies in his pocket and no school, thought Jake as he kicked a stone to the roadside outside 'The Soldier's Home.' Looking to where the stone had gone he saw a cork. Jake picked up the cork and put it into his right pocket alongside the wooden cotton reel that his sister had given him. He slipped the coins into the pocket of his trousers. Now a cork is a useful kind of a thing that a boy will pick up without having to think about it. Any half decent boy who is worth his marbles would never leave something like a cork lying about: You never can tell when a cork will come in useful.

Jake now approached The General Store

"Morning Jake," said Peter Brady puffing on his pipe as he leant against the door post.

"Good morning Mr Brady."

"What did you pick up there then lad, a tanner?"

"Just a cork."

"What you going to do with it then?"

"Don't know."

"Now when I was a lad we'd use a cork for a fishing float. That's what corks are good for - fishing floats."

Jake took the cork from his pocket, pulling out two marrididdles at the same time which he slipped back into his pocket before looking carefully at the cork. Mr Brady's pipe smoke drifted upwards in the still morning air. Chickens scratched about in the road and a cockerel sitting on the fence, crowed. Several minutes passed. At last Peter Brady took the pipe from his mouth, scraped out the ashes with great care (the pipe was made of soft fired pottery and easily broken) and said, "Of course, you've got to have a hook, no good without a hook. You haven't got a hook have you?" Jake shook his head. "Thought not," said Mr Brady. "Tell you what, you take a parcel up to the Briody house for me and come back sharp with Mrs Briody's butter and I'll give you two hooks."

"Really!"

"Sure, I will lad." Peter Brady disappeared into the shop and came out with a parcel.

Jake walked quickly to Mrs Briody's house; the dolly and tub stood outside the cottage not far from the well, a basket of washing was on the small table beside the door. "Parcel for you, Mrs Briody," said Jake brightly. "And Mr Brady wants me to take your butter down to the shop."

"Why thank you, young Jake," said Mrs Briody. "I wonder. Would you mind pulling four buckets of water up for me? My back you know."

"No trouble." said Jake and set to work as Mrs Briody went into the house.

Consider downloading "The Working day": note Mrs Briody is doing her washing so it must be Monday

Shortly, Mrs Briody came out with the butter, carefully wrapped in cabbage leaves in a small butter box and a small brown parcel wrapped in brown paper and tied with string.

“Here’s the butter,” she said. “Mind how you go with it, and here is some of my home-made toffee. Thank you for pulling the water up for me.”

“Thank you very much,” said Jake as he slipped the parcel into his pocket, picked up the butter box and set off again for Peter Brady’s store.

Butter making is an activity available to schools visiting the Howick Historical Village

Jake went down the road and met his friend William Ford who was spinning a thaumatrope, making the bird on the card appear in the empty cage. “Can I have a go?” said Jake. “I’ll give you a piece of my toffee.” The two boys continued down the road, Jake spinning the thaumatrope, William chewing on a piece of Mrs Briody’s toffee. As they approached the store a black cat ran across the road in front of them. “That will give us a bit of good luck today,” said Jake.

Consider downloading : “Customs and Superstitions” resource

Consider downloading: “The Thaumatrope resource” which gives instructions on how to make a thaumatrope

Presently they came to Peter Brady’s Store; Jake gave the thaumatrope back to William, before handing the butter to Mr Brady.

“Are you going fishing too?” asked Mr Brady. When William replied that he was, Peter Brady stuck the points of two fish hooks into a cork, gave the cork and hooks to Jake saying; “You will be needing this cork too then won’t you!”

The cork and the hooks went into Jake’s pocket, the boys thanked Mr Brady.

“Away with you now lads,” said Peter Brady. “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. There’s a proverb for you!”

Consider downloading the: “Wit and Wisdom Resource.”

Around the next corner they met James Gallagher, he was bouncing an India rubber ball, his sister Bridget was with two other girls who were skipping. The girls holding the ends of the rope sang *Miss Blackwell*:

Oh no, here comes Miss Blackwell
with her big black stick
Now its time for arithmetic
One plus one is?
Two
Two plus two is?
Four.

Consider downloading: “Nursery/skipping rhyme” resource.

“Nice ball,” said Jake.

William asked: “Want to swap? I’ve got a good set of knuckle bones.”

James took a lot of persuading. In the end William Ford swapped his thaumatrope, an alley, a marrididdle a set of knuckle bones and half the piece of rather 'fluffy' toffee he had got from Jake which he pulled out of his pocket with great difficulty, it having got stuck.

Just then Bridget said, "Mary would like a piece of toffee Jake. She really likes you." and the other girl said: "Ooooh Bridget, you're a tell tale. Tell tale tit, Your tongue shall be split and all the little puppy dogs will get a little bit!"

Jake, William and James went down the road. There was nothing to be said, a girl will say anything at anytime. William understood Jake's embarrassment and it needed no further comment. They threw the ball back and forth until they grew tired of it, the ball then went into William's pocket.

During the ball swapping session Jake had seen a toy lead soldier that James had pulled from his pocket, he said; "That lead soldier, can I have a look at it?" The soldier was slightly bent but otherwise in good condition. "I'll give you a cotton reel for him," said Jake and soon the soldier found its way into Jake's pocket amongst the brown paper, toffee, string, corks, hooks and coins.

"How about a game of Holy Bang?" said Jake and soon the three boys were busily playing the game on the ground. The game went slowly, James Gallagher was usually the better player, but this time Jake was the outright winner coming away with an alley, the marrididdle (that had been William's before James won it in a swap) and two frosts.

Marrididdles and knuckle bones can be seen in the Victorian Indoor toys activity available to schools visiting the Howick Historical Village.

Into Jake's pocket went the marbles and as he put them in he heard the clink of the coins and remembered his sister's birthday. He had wondered whether the knuckle bones would have made a good present, too late! they had gone to James. He would have to go back to Mr Brady to see what he had in his Store. He said his farewells to his friends.

As Jake started back to the Brady's General Store, he saw Wiremu, a Maori boy he knew, crouching by the side of the road.

"What have you lost Wiremu?" said Jake.

"My poro, my spinning top."

The two boys searched beside the road in the long grass. Jake soon found the top which was long and thin unlike his spinning top which was short and stubby. He held it up triumphantly.

"You wouldn't swap this would you?" asked Jake. "I've got one lump of toffee and a penny."

Wiremu thoughtfully looked at the top; he hadn't had toffee for a long time. Toffee was good, but once it was eaten, well - you had nothing left. However, the penny was something solid. "Sure," he said holding out his hand for the toffee and penny. The barter was done and the two boys went their separate ways.

Jake felt the two remaining coins, turning them over as he pondered the problem of a present. In the excitement of the game of marbles the three boys had forgotten about their fishing trip, maybe tomorrow, thought Jake, as he reached Mr Brady's door.

The Store smelt of candles, soap, fresh meat and Mrs Briody's butter. Peter Brady was busy measuring out flour for Mrs Ford. "Wait a minute, Jake." he said.

"I'm not in a hurry." replied Jake, "I need something for my sister."

"What about some ribbons," said Mrs Ford, "always popular with girls."

"Mmm." said Jake thoughtfully, trying to be polite when he knew that his sister would prefer a toy. He looked around the shop. Lying on the counter was a small pile of new pockets, all with good tapes to tie around the waist. Girls pockets, of course! His sister would be delighted to have a new pocket of her own, he would even put a piece of Mrs Briody's toffee in the pocket as an extra treat.

"How much for one of these, Mr Brady, please?"

"1 penny for the smaller, 2 pence the larger, they are the ones underneath."

Jake looked through the pile until he found a splendid pocket, large with strong binding around the edge and thick tapes to fasten it securely around a waist. Just what he wanted. He carefully drew the two pence out of his pocket and placed the coins on the counter.

"Thank you Mr Brady, just what I needed." Jake folded the pocket before sliding it into his own. A girls' hanging pocket, I wonder what my sister will want to keep in it, he thought, as he turned for home.

RESEARCH TOOL

MONEY

coins. (the symbol for a penny is d, for a shilling s, for a pound l) penny, half pennies and farthings are made from bronze.

1/4d = one farthing

1/2d = halfpenny

1d = one penny. bronze coin = 1/12 of a shilling.

3d = thre'penny bit or thrupence

4d = Groat .Silver coin worth 4d. 1836-1856

6d= Six penny bit or tanner. Silver coin

2d = one shilling

20 shillings = 1 pound

20 shilling = 1 Sovereign gold

21 shillings = 1 guinea. gold . Last coined in 1813.

Purchasing power of money in 1850/51

bread 4lb loaf cost 1 shilling

Butter, salted 1 shilling a pound

Small cake 1/2d

Reel of white cotton 1d.

Milk 6d a quart

CORK

Bottle stopper made from the bark of a cork tree.

Source: *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*

Cotton Reel

Small cylinder on which sewing-cottons etc are wound for convenience.

Source: *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*.

Cotton Reels were made out of wood until late in the 20th century when plastic became the preferred material.

MARBLES

Types of Marbles . Marrididdles, Alleys, Blood alleys, Frosties, Pureys

A Marrididdle is a home made marble made by rolling clay into a ball, drying it for several days then hardening it in the fire.

A Frosty is a plain glass marble.

An Alley can be made out of stone or glass.

A Blood Alley has a red streak.

As late as 1880 - 1890's S C Dyke and M.B Mischler of Ohio were selling clay marbles in some numbers.

Source: *Encycolpaedia of Toys* by Constance King

Roman children in 27 B.C played marbles some having designs similar to those on stone balls from the Stone Age.

In 1788 Hoffman invented a machine for making marbles for children and took out an English patent.

Bristol , a town well known for glass manufacture, made marbles of glass, some of which are in Pollock's Toy Museum.

Another source was the Toy and Marble Warehouse in 8 Great Street, St Andrews Street, London. belonging to J Pitts in 1813. Threaded marbles are very beautiful.

Source. *Antique Toys* Gwen White

Prices for Marbles 1876

Marbles polished stone 1s 10d per 1000

Marbles china 27s per 1000

Marbles glass 54s- per 1000

Marbles blood alley 6s- per 1000

Marbles agate best quality 16s- per 100

Source: *The Victorian catalogue of Household goods* - Dorothy Bosomworth

Marble Games:

"Boss out," "Bridgeboard," "Bun-hole," "Cob," "Hogo," "Holy Bang," "Hundreds," "Lag." "Long-tawl," "Nine holes," "Ring Taw."

Source: *Dictionary of British Folklore Vol 1 Traditional Games.*

Holy Bang marble game

A Game with marbles, which consists of placing a marble in a hole and making it act as a target for the rest. The marble which can hit it three times in succession, before finally being shot into the hole is the winning ball, its owner gets all the other marbles which have missed before he played.

Source *Strand Magazine*, ii 519.

TOFFEE.

Traditionally toffee is made from treacle and butter. Sometimes toffee is flavoured with vanilla.

BROWN PAPER.

THAUMATROPE

A thaumatrope is a type of toy made with string and cardboard. The thaumatropic effect was discovered in 1826. A thaumatrope has a picture on one side of the card and another on the other when the card is spun with the string the two pictures become one.

Instructions for making a thaumatrope are given in the 'Resource download' section of the Howick Historical Village education website pages. consider downloading the instructions and making one!

RUBBER

Known in Europe since the 15th Century, and first mentioned by Pietro Martyre d'Anghiera (1457 -1526) chaplain at the court of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. It's

widespread use began in the 19th century, after Macintosh and Hancock discovered suitable solvents for raw caoutchouc. The first rubber mackintoshes were made in 1824. The vulcanising process was discovered in the U.S.A by Charles Goodyear in 1839-41 and patented in England by Thomas Hancock in 1844.

Source: *The Origin of Everything. A Special Encyclopaedia for enquiring minds.*
Gordon Grimley

LEAD SOLDIERS

In the early part of the nineteenth century, J Hilpert was succeeded by Hilpert and Stahl. Most fine soldiers were of lead, but there were others made of papiermache.

Source. *Antique Toys* Gwen White

The early lead soldiers were called 'flats' as they were pressed flat and did not look like soldiers from the side.

LEAD

Heavy soft metal. Poisonous.

KNUCKLE BONES

A favourite toy originally made from sheep's bones. Sometimes called Jacks or five stones depending on the material used to make the toy.

SPINNING TOPS

The Maori spinning top is longer and thinner than the European spinning top. Maori children had spinning top long before the Europeans arrived in New Zealand. The potaka is a common top, the poro, a whipping top.

HANGING POCKETS

Girls wore "pockets" tied around their waist (like aprons) over their petticoats under their dresses, with a slit in the side seam of their dress to allow access to the pocket.

Hence the nursery Rhyme:

"Lucy Locket lost her pocket
Kitty Fisher found it.
Not a penny was their in it
but a ribbon around it.

If the tape broke or came loose a girls pocket could be lost.

POCKET RESEARCH SHEET

Name of Boy.....

Pocket date.....

Item

Number

Made from

Description/use/ information