
The Land of Dissected Toys



Observe the inner workings of toys that have been partially taken apart.

As the *Toys* exhibition was developed we discovered visitors want to handle real toys, but the toys in the exhibition will not withstand such heavy use. Instead, send out an explainer with a cart who can let visitors handle toys that have already been opened.

Related exhibits: all

Time: 5 minutes

Ages: Families

Staff: Floor staff or volunteer. Use a cart or counter in or near the exhibit space, where visitors can approach in small groups to look closely at a toy.

Safety issues: Small or loose parts.

Materials:

- Several deconstructed toys with moving parts. Check local thrift shops and basements for unused and interesting toys.

Procedure:

1. Remove key screws ahead of time so that the toys' insides are exposed.
2. Encourage visitors to look at the different parts inside the toy and let them play with the toy. Relate any exterior movements to what's going on inside.

Questions to Ask:

Can you find parts in the toy that are like those in the exhibit?

Can you find a gear, cam, linkage, or circuit board?

Observe a motion. Can you figure out what part inside makes that motion?

Science Content:

Encourage visitors to observe, identify, and connect the motion and mechanisms of the different components in each toy.