

A Memory Tool for Your Favorite Childhood Toys & Games

Use 5W's to Remember the Play that Shaped Your Life

Here are 10 questions that can help stimulate your memory or a loved one.

1) The Toy You Took Everywhere

Who gave it to you or played with you?

What was the toy (brand/model, color, special feature)?

When did you get it (age, birthday, holiday)?

Where did you carry or keep it?

Why was it your constant companion?

2) The Board Game That Ruled Family Night

Who usually won (or cheated!)?

What game was it?

When did game night usually happen (weekend, summers, holidays)?

Where did you set it up (kitchen table, living room floor)?

Why did that game bring out the best, or worst in everyone?

3) Your First “Build It” Set

Who helped you build with it?

What did you build.

When did you finish your proudest build?

Where did you display it (bedroom shelf, living room)?

Why did constructing things feel so satisfying?

4) Outdoor Neighborhood Games

Who was always “it” or the referee?

What did you play (kick the can, tag, Red Rover, stickball)?

When did the whole block show up (after school, summer evenings)?

Where was “home base”?

Why do those games still feel bigger than any organized sport?

5) The Toy You Saved Up For

Who encouraged (or matched) your savings?

What was the toy?

When did you finally buy it?

Where did you see it first (catalog, TV ad, store window)?

Why did paying for it yourself make it unforgettable?

6) Trading & Collecting Craze

Who did you trade with?

What did you collect (baseball cards, marbles, comics, toy soldiers)?

When did you score your best trade?

Where did you keep your collection safe?

Why did collecting feel like treasure hunting?

7) A Toy That Came with Rules (and You Broke Them)

Who enforced the rules (parents, older siblings)?

What was the toy or game (model rockets, BB gun, chemistry set)?

When did the “rule-breaking” moment happen?

Where were you (garage, backyard, schoolyard)?

Why is that memory still hilarious, or a little scary?

8) The TV-Advertised Toy You Begged For

Who finally bought it (or refused)?

What was the product (Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots, Slinky, Lite-Brite)?

When did the commercial hook you?

Where did you first play with it?

Why did it live up to, or fail the hype?

9) The Game That Sparked Sibling Rivalry

Who were the rivals?

What was the game?

When did the biggest showdown happen?

Where did the epic battles take place?

Why did it matter so much to win?

10) The Toy You Passed Down

Who did you give it to (child, grandchild, niece/nephew)?

What was it, and is it still working/complete?

When did you pass it along?

Where is it now?

Why does seeing it in new hands make you smile (or cringe at the wear and tear)?

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