

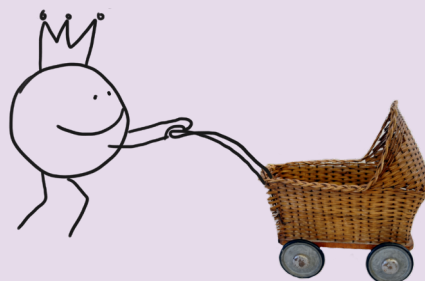
Dolls

'Oh you doll, you great big beautiful doll' (1911 song by Seymour Brown and Nat D. Ayer)

Dolls have been an important part of children's lives for thousands of years. The first dolls noted by historians with certainty go back to the times of Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome.

Dolls are important because they give us someone of our own to care for, to dress, to read to, to take out with us on special treats, to scold when they are naughty and praise when they are good. And they love us in return (well, we think they do) no matter what.

The Dolls of Victoria: An unveiled toy story



You can see an amazing collection of old dolls on the Victorian Collections website. It's called 'The Dolls of Victoria: An unveiled toy story' and was curated by Marysabel Ramos. It features dolls from museums around Victoria, including this porcelain-headed doll (c1880-1890) from the Orbost and District History Society collection.



Click on the image to read about the dolls of Victoria.



Creating a digital doll collection

This is the cover of the First Book of [The Victorian Readers](#), produced by the Victorian Education Department in 1928 and read by generations of Victorian school children.



And here is Lesson 9 featuring Edna and her doll.

We've all had special dolls or toys in our lives. If you send us a photo of a special doll (or toy) in your life, we'll add it to our digital doll collection. Please share your doll's story with us.

1. What is your doll's name?
2. Why is it so special to you?
3. Tell us some of your memories of your favourite doll.

Send your story (and picture) to us by emailing office@historyvictoria.org.au

Can you connect the dots?



Every doll needs somewhere to live

One of the world's most beautiful dolls' houses is known as the Queen Mary's Dolls' House. It was built in the 1920s for Queen Mary, the wife of King George V.

The house is fully furnished and even has lifts that work, electricity and running hot and cold water. It is a treasured part of the United Kingdom's Royal Collections Trust and you can read all about it and explore the dolls house for yourself on their website.

<https://www.rct.uk/collection/themes/trails/queen-marys-dolls-house>

Another amazing dolls' house, the Pendle Hall Dolls' House, is part of the Museums Victoria Collection.

Pendle Hall Dolls' House

Image courtesy Museums Victoria. Maker Felicity Clemons.

You can read about the Pendle Hall Dolls' House and see pictures of each of its rooms here.

<https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/articles/5561>



A walk in the bush

In the days before computers and the internet, children spent far more time outside playing. They played games like hopscotch and chasesy, or played cricket or footy in the street with their friends. Sometimes they went for long walks, like the girls pictured here.

Group portrait of four girls in a bush setting c1914. Photographer Paul Merlo. The middle girl is holding a doll. RHSV collection. GN-GN-0392.



Use your imagination and **write us a story** about the girls in this photo. Here are some of the things you might like to write about

1. What are their names?
2. Where do they live?
3. What are they doing in the bush?
4. What sort of things do they enjoy doing together?
5. What is the name of the doll?
6. If you really want to be imaginative, write your story from the doll's point of view.
7. Why not add your own drawing of the girl in the middle holding a doll.

We'd love it if you shared your story (and drawing) with us by emailing us at office@historyvictoria.org.au

Do you enjoy doing jigsaw puzzles? We've made the photo of the four girls into a jigsaw puzzle and you will find it here. Have fun putting the photo back together again!
<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=2551dd94e79c>

Colour me in :)

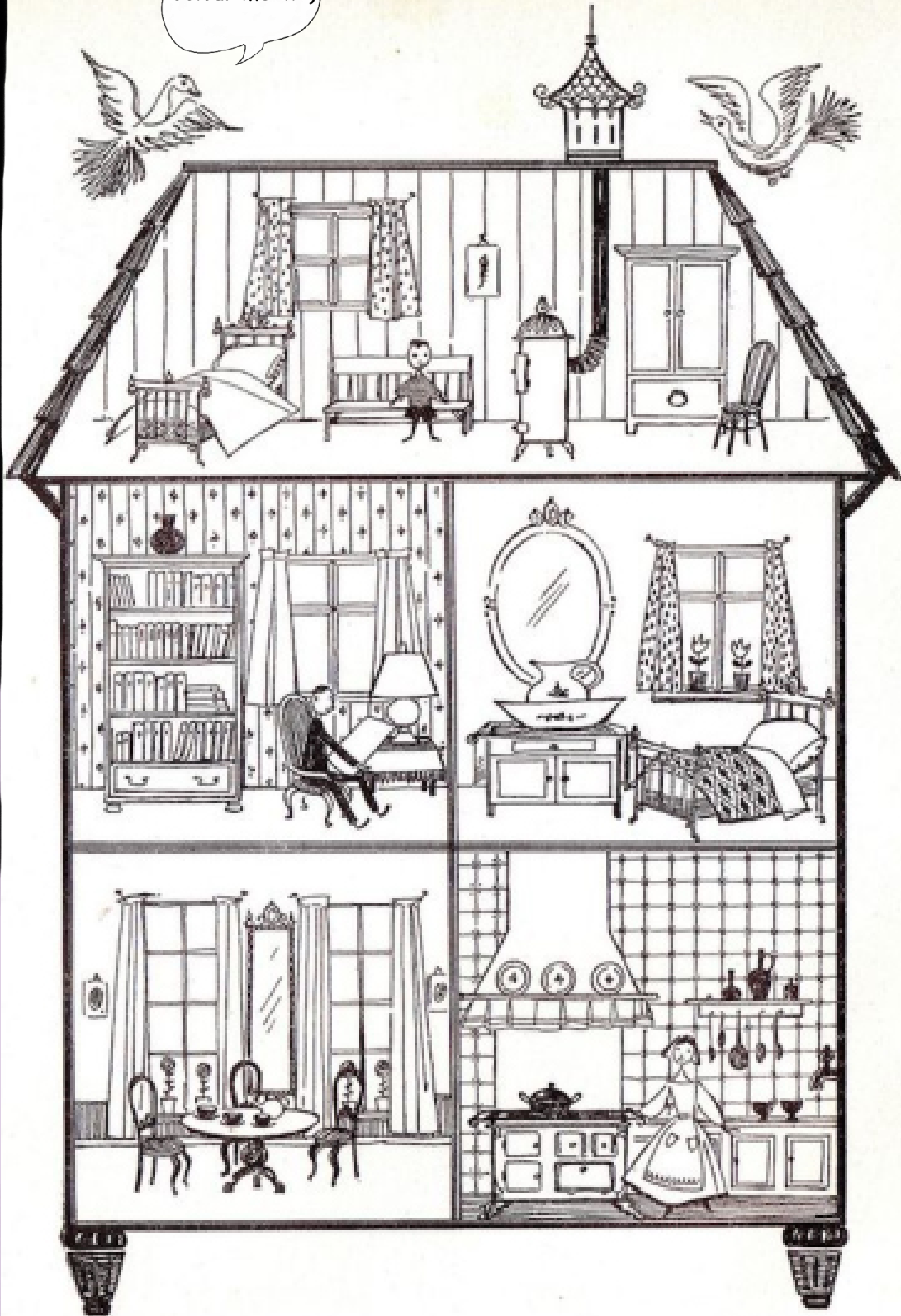


Illustration from the book "Ons Jeugdboek" by A.D. Hildebrand.