

Victorian Parlor Games

The Victorians were particularly fond of parlor games, a number of which have since been forgotten, though a select few have been passed down to successive generations and remain firm favorites even today.

Victorian families were among the first ever to be blessed with abundant free time. They enjoyed numerous interactive parlor activities, ranging from cards (euchre, bridge, seven-up) and board games (dominoes, checkers, chess) to 20 Questions and charades.

Young ladies and their mothers spent their leisure time learning needlecrafts, creating ornaments, and reading novels. Popular titles of the age include Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* and L. Frank Baum's *THE WIZARD OF OZ*.

Male and female family members alike frequently gathered around a parlor organ, a piano, or a player piano to have "a sing." New entertainment technologies of the year included the phonograph, a stand-alone console for playing back recorded audio programs, and the stereograph, a handheld device for viewing 3-D-like images.

Games today:

Write a list of games that you play with your family and friends.

Write a list of books that you have read with your family.

Write a list of music that you like and/or musical instruments you or your family members play.

Are there any items on your three lists that match what the Victorians played?