

1800s Pastimes

1. Tongue twisters are a fun spoken word game enjoyed by children as a pastime in the 1800s. Can you say these phrases quickly 5 times?

As I went in the garden, I saw five brave maids sitting on five broad beds, braiding broad braids. I said to these five brave maids, sitting on five broad beds, braiding broad braids, "Braid broad braids, brave maids!"

Peter Piper picked a peck a pickled peppers, A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked; If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?

2. The Elements

2 or more players

Materials: One small ball/object you can throw

Directions: Players toss a ball to each other. When someone passes the ball to another player, they call out "air," "earth," or "water." The player who catches the ball must quickly answer with an animal that flies if "air," lives on land if "earth," or lives in water if "water." If the player takes too long or gives an incorrect answer, they are out. The last remaining player is the winner.

Example:

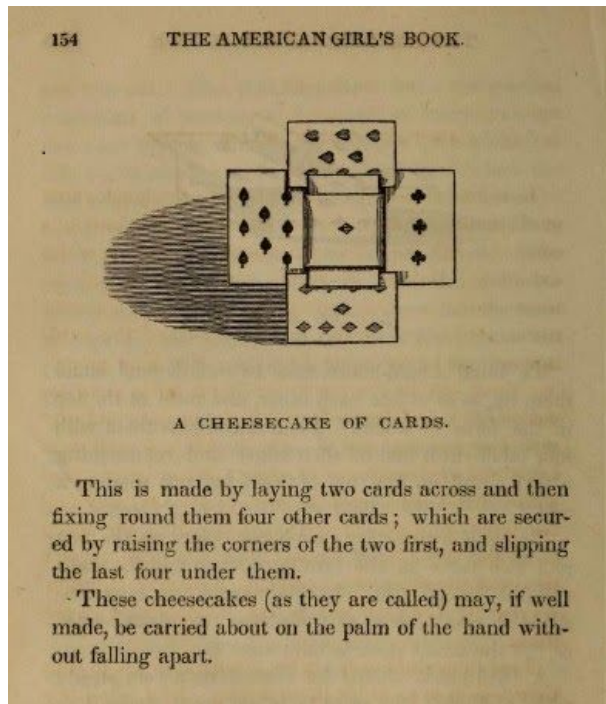
"Air" – an eagle

"Earth" – a sheep

"Water" – a whale

Children can play this together or with a caregiver

3. Playing cards was a common pastime in the Federal Period; you may have seen a set of cards set up in the oval drawing room if you've ever toured the mansion. This image comes from a book published in 1831 entitled *The American Girl's Book: or, Occupation for Play Hours*: can you recreate a cheesecake of cards?



4. Time to get creative! Cup-and-ball is a well-known toy enjoyed by many today and definitely by children in the 1800s. The great thing about them aside from training your hand-eye coordination is they are easy to make! Materials required include a cup, string, ball, and a pencil for your handle.



5. According to "The American Girl's Book" published in 1831, "an enigma describes the chief properties or characteristics of the thing to be guessed." Can you figure out what these three enigmas are referring to?

1. 'Tis true I have both face and hands, And move before your eye;
But when I move, I always stand, and when I stand, I lie.

2. There is a thing that nothing is, And yet it has a name,
'Tis sometimes tall, and sometimes short,
It joins our walks, it joins our sport, and plays at every game.

3. What force or strength cannot get through,
I with a gentle touch can do;
And many in the street would stand,
Were I not as a friend in hand.

A: 1. A clock! 2. A shadow! 3. A key!