

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Toy Inventions in the Last 100 Years

It's been 100 days of school. That's a long time. A lot can happen in 100 days, but what about 100 years? Let's take a look at a few toy inventions that have come along in the last 100 years. Answer the questions that follow.

### The yo-yo

The yo-yo is considered the second oldest toy in history, the oldest being the doll. In ancient Greece (more than 2500 years ago), the toy was made of wood, metal and clay. The Greeks decorated the two halves of the yoyo with pictures of their gods. People in America didn't know what a yo-yo was until the 1920s though. Pedro Flores, a Philippine immigrant, began manufacturing the yo-yo in California in the early 1920s. A man named Donald Duncan saw the toy and loved it. He bought the rights to the toy in 1929 and improved the design. The toy reached its peak popularity in the 1960s. It is the first toy to ever go into outer space! Cool.

### LEGO

The company that makes the famous, little, plastic, interlocking bricks known as LEGO started as a small shop in Denmark. It was established in 1932 by master carpenter Ole Kirk Christiansen who was aided by his 12-year-old son Godtfred Kirk Christiansen. LEGO comes from the Danish words "Leg godt," which means "play well." In 1958, these bricks underwent a slight change in their design, which transformed them into the LEGO bricks we know today. LEGO bricks came to the United States in 1973. For over half a century, these small, little, plastic building blocks have sparked the imagination of children around the world and LEGO bricks remain one of the world's most popular toys.

### Pokémon

Pokémon was the brainchild of a Japanese man named Satoshi Tajiri who was born on August 28, 1965. As a child, Tajiri was fascinated with insects and loved to hunt and collect different species of them. In his early teens most of the areas where Tajiri liked to hunt for bugs were replaced with modern buildings or torn down. No longer having the opportunity to collect insects, Tajiri created a fantasy in his mind about his adventures. His thoughts eventually evolved into a complicated idea. Pokémon. The original name of the game was Pocket Monsters. Since this name was trademarked in America already they needed to change the name. They took parts of both names of **Pocket Monsters** to form the name Pokémon. The franchise was originally made for young women and teenagers, but developed more male fans instead. Even though Pokémon has been around since the mid-1990s it continues to be a very popular game for children. "Gotta catch `em all!"

### Questions

1. What is considered the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest toy in history? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When did it reach its peak popularity? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When did LEGO bricks start being sold in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was the original name of Pokémon? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is considered the oldest toy in history? \_\_\_\_\_