

Spike's Object Activity

#SpikeDinosAdventures

Theme; Homes



Homes - Toilets!

Spike spotted this toilet in the Local History gallery and wondered what it was doing in there. This is what he found out! This is a Victorian toilet that was in use in the old Museum Curators flat until 1998. It was made by Doulton & Co. (Ltd) who were based in Lambeth between 1858 and 1956. In the 1850s a quarter of Maidstone houses still had no sewers and the town's water supply was through the public conduits, wells and handpumps.



But when were toilets invented? People have had 'toilets' in some form all the way back to the Stone age. But the modern flushing toilet was first invented in 1596 by Sir John Harrington. But it didn't catch on. At this time—the 16th century, toilets were called jakes. However a man called Alexander Cumming got the patent for a flushing toilet in 1775 and Joseph Bramah improved the design in 1778.

Flushing toilets were a luxury and didn't become popular until the late 1800's. If you were wealthy at this time you might have had an inside flushing toilet. If you weren't you might have had to share an earth closet, outside with your street of neighbours. So you might have had to queue. Toilet paper was first sold in Europe in 1928 and soft paper wasn't invented until 1942. Before this families used newspaper!

Activity; Make a toilet roll superhero—see the next page for instructions.

Spike's Craft Activity

Make your own Toilet Roll Superhero



Step 1. Gather your materials. You will need a toilet roll, scissors, tissue paper or felt, black pen, white paper, paint and brush, glue.



Step 2. Use the paint to paint the toilet roll, leaving about a quarter unpainted. Leave it to dry.



Step 3. Draw 2 eyes on the paper and cut them out.

Spike's Craft Activity p2

Make your own Toilet Roll Superhero



Step 4. Cut two strips and a small square from felt or tissue paper. These will become the belt and head band of your superhero.

Also cut a larger square and cut a corner out like in the picture. This will become the cape.



Step 5. When the paint is dry, stick all your felt or tissue pieces onto the tube. Stick on the eyes and draw on a mouth.



Step 6. Finally stick on the cape.

You can add extra decoration to personalise your superhero.

Well done.