

Family Fun with the Bytown Museum:

Victorian Parlour Games

While the Victorians were no stranger to outdoor winter fun, from ice-skating to tobogganing, they also spent a lot of time in their homes during the cold and dark winter season. Gathered around a fire in their living rooms, Victorian families and their friends would play parlour games. Pick from the games below and try some Victorian family fun!

Blindman's Bluff

Blindfold one of the players while everyone else spreads out in the room. Spin the blindfolded player three times to confuse them. The blindfolded player must then try to catch someone in the room. Once they have successfully caught another player, they must guess who it is. If they get it right, then that player receives the blindfold, and the game starts again!

The Sculptor

Choose one person to be the "Sculptor." The rest of the players are to spread out in the room and stand as still as possible (like statues!). The sculptor then goes around and arranges the other players in silly positions (raising arms, turning heads, lifting legs etc.). The players cannot laugh, move, or smile as the sculptor positions them. If someone does laugh, the sculptor becomes a statue and the player that moves becomes the new sculptor!

Pass the Slipper

Grab a small item or slipper for the game and form a circle with all your players. Select one player to stand in the center of the circle and close their eyes. Once the person in the center has closed their eyes, start passing the slipper behind your backs from one person to the next. However, the person in the center may open their eyes at any moment! Once they do, the circle must stop passing the slipper and the person in the center must guess who's back it's behind. If they guess correctly, the person holding the slipper becomes the next person in the center.

Post a picture of your
Victorian Family Fun and
tag **@bytownmuseum!**

