

*Baker Street Elementary*

Presents  
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



# *Baker Street Elementary*

*The Life and Times in Victorian London*  
*# AB009 -- Victorian Games and Toys - February, 2022*



*Welcome to topic # AB009... Today, we will be discussing Victorian games and toys... Thanks so much to AboutBritain.com for use of their summary text for this lesson...*



*Whatever did children and adults do for play and to fill leisure time before television, computers, cell phones, and video games?*



*Was it boring to live in  
Victorian Britain, with  
nothing to do but sit  
around the house all day?*



*Inside the house, the Victorians were quite creative when it came to play time.*



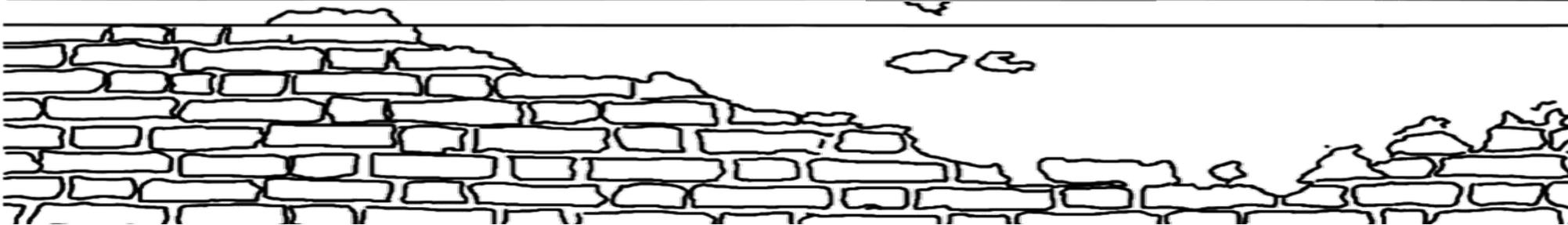


*Not just children, but adults  
would participate in Victorian  
games during the evenings.*





*Card games were especially popular with the grown-ups.*





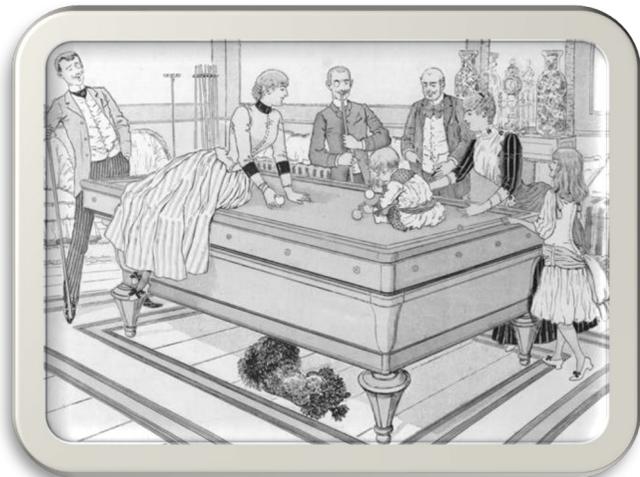
*Whist and Bridge would provide hours of after-dinner entertainment for the older set.*



*For both adults and youngsters, Skittles (on the order of bowling) and Charades, a Victorian game which is still played today, would be enjoyed by all generations.*



*Billiards grew in popularity.  
Although starting out as a  
'manly' sport, both sexes were  
soon enjoying the game.*



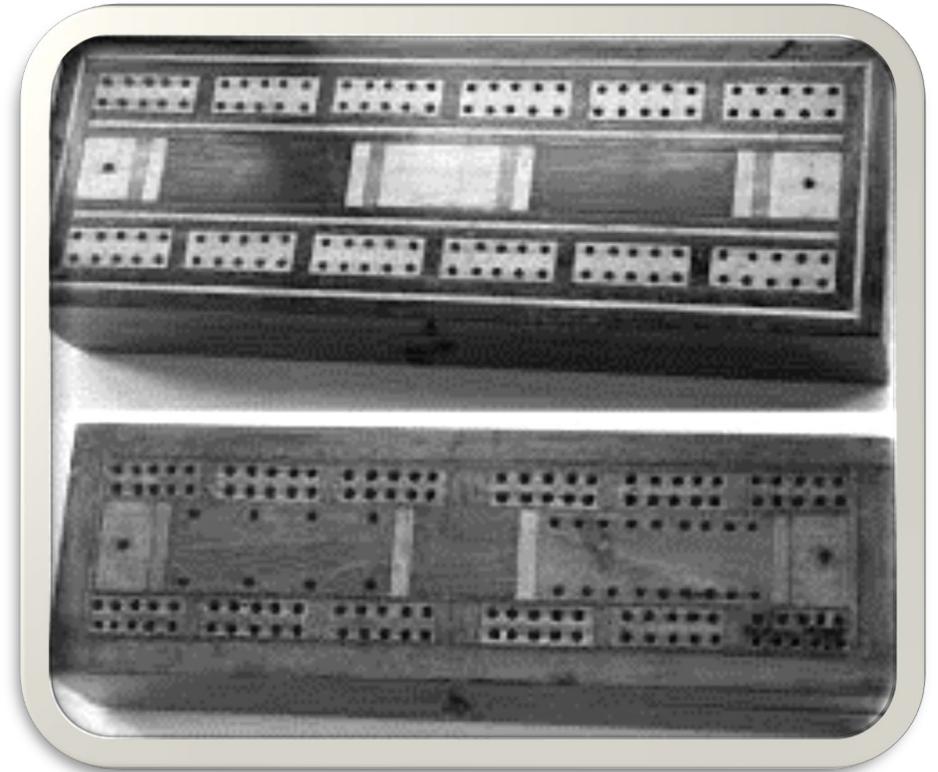
*Blindman's Bluff was always guaranteed to bring a smile to a face, and could be quite tiring with people running away so as not to be caught.*



*On the quieter side, "I'm Thinking of Something" was quite similar to the game of "Twenty Questions", which is still played today.*



*For the Victorians, games like Checkers, Chess, Backgammon, and Cribbage were always easy to reach from the shelf.*



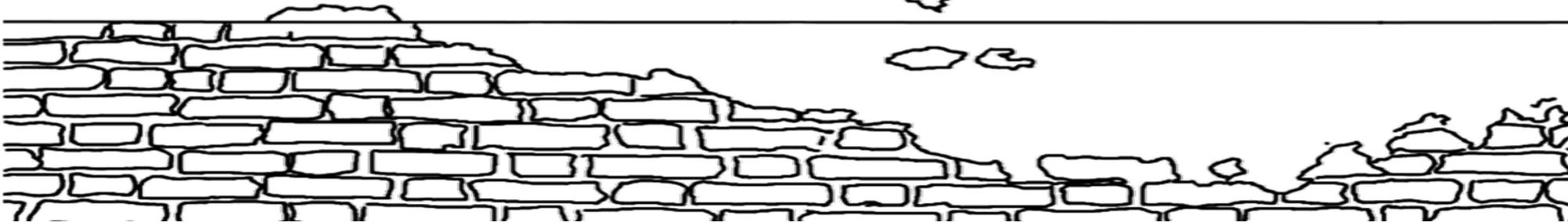


*For outdoor fun, introduced in the mid-1800's, Croquet was quite a genteel outdoor game for women.*





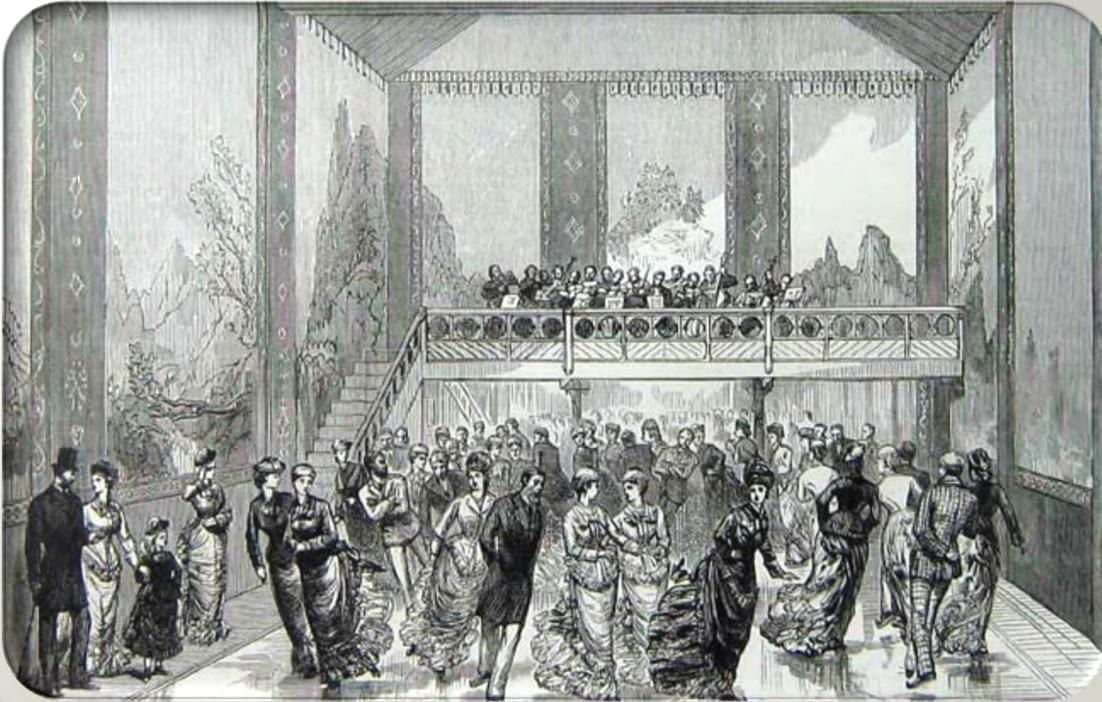
*As it didn't require great strength,  
it was felt that this game was  
appropriate for 'the weaker sex'.*



*Ice Skating was an approved winter-time sport for ladies. In 1876, however, it was finally not necessary to wait for cold weather in which to skate.*



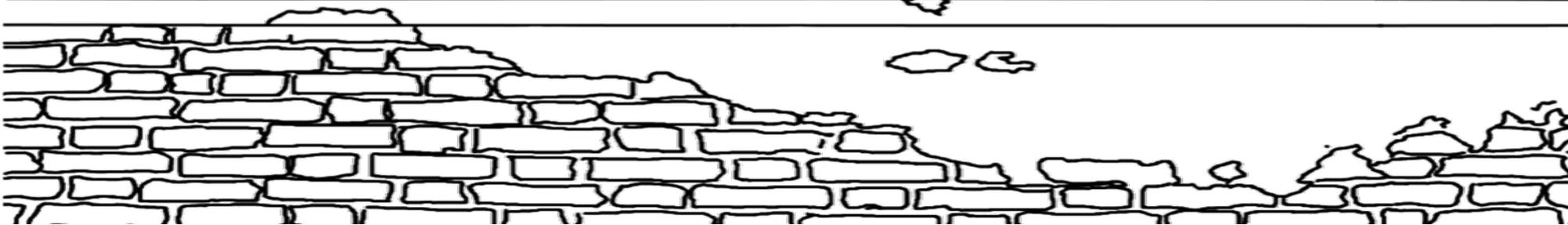
*The first artificially refrigerated ice rink was crafted in Chelsea, London.*



*Horseback riding was often learned at an early age while some women went for grander outdoor exploits... mountain climbing!*



*Imagine clambering around in a corset and bustle as was the style for Victorian clothes!*



*Victorian toys and games such as marbles were enjoyed by both boys and girls.*



*Victorian marbles were usually made of glass or clay, although wealthier players had marbles made out of real marble!*





*Tops and Jacks were Victorian games and toys that could be played either in a group, or just solo.*

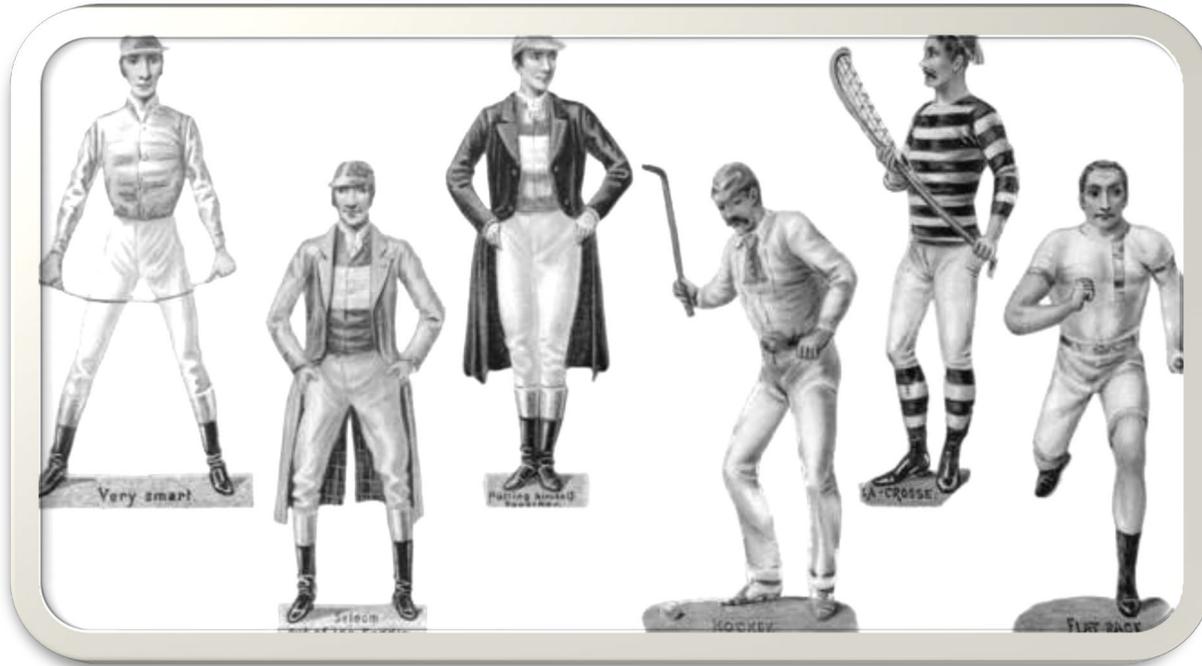




*The first rules for Badminton were written in India in 1873, and this game hasn't much changed.*



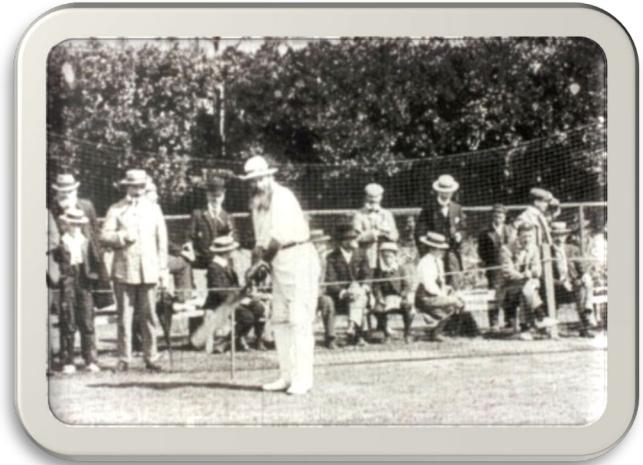
*Formerly known as "Hit and  
Scream", this contest  
became quite the rage for  
people of all ages.*



*For fields sports, the Victorian game of cricket was organized for county championships in 1873. The bat which is used to this day was invented in 1853.*



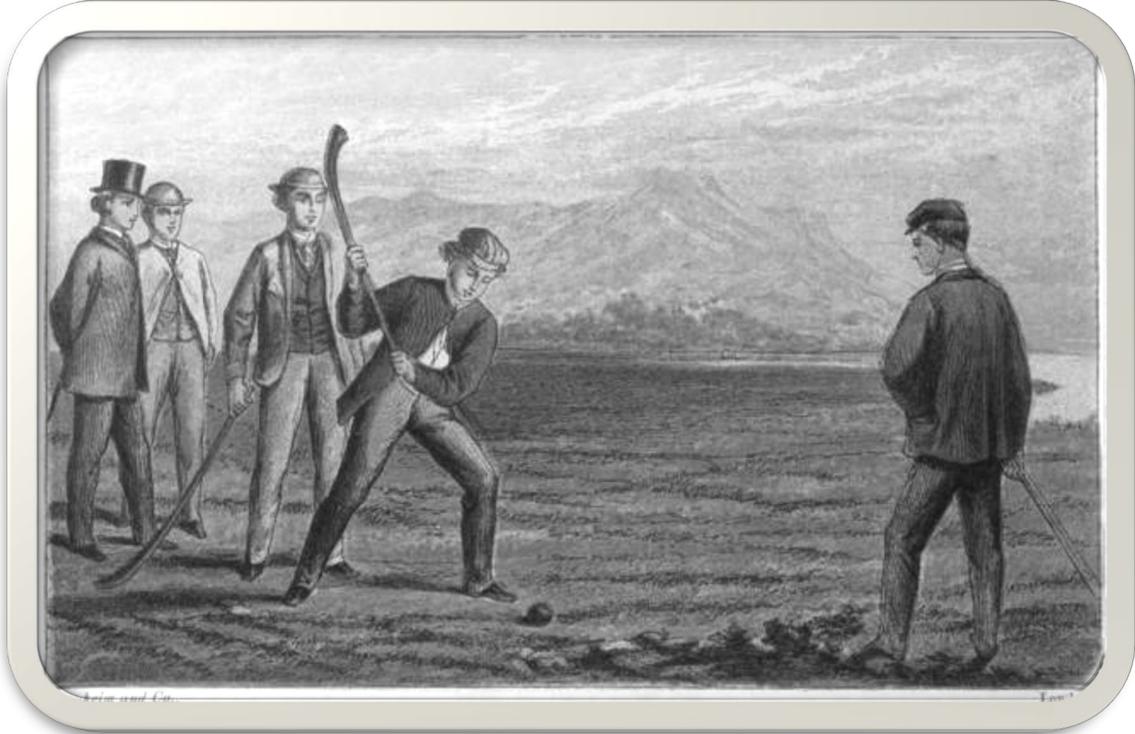
*During the Victorian period,  
cricket was very much a  
wealthy man's sport.*



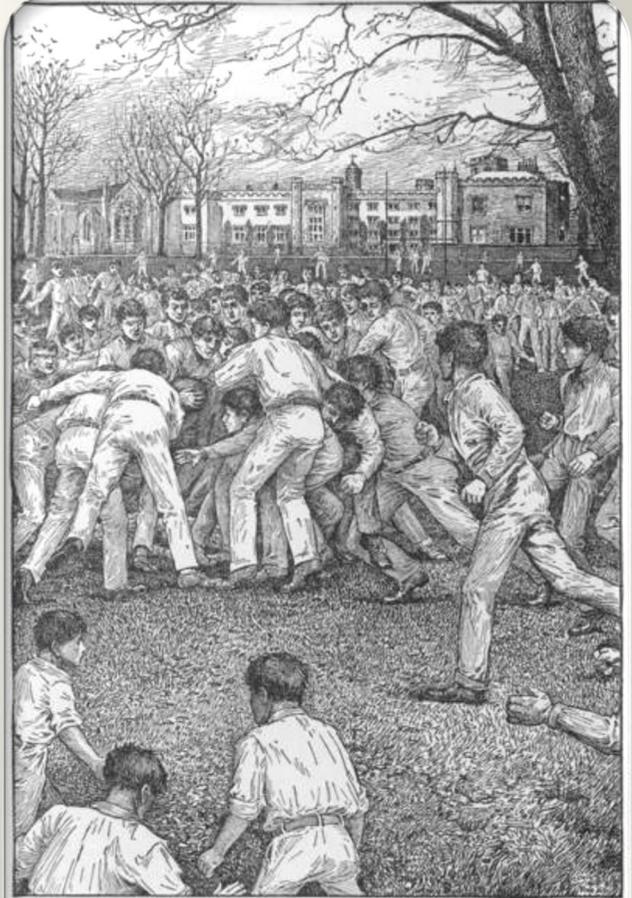
*The following year, the rules for lawn tennis were formalized and both men and women would play.*



*Clubs for golfers were set up in the later part of the 1800s. The bag to carry the utensils for golfers, the golf bag, came into being in 1880.*



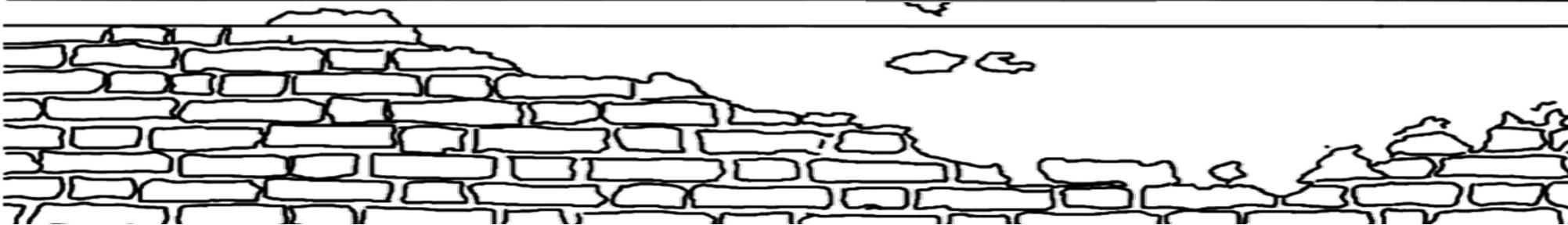
*The Football Association was formed in 1863 - football was usually only played by men. The Rugby Football Union was formed in 1871.*



“GET’ UP THERE—THERE’S A LITTLE FELLOW UNDER YOU!”

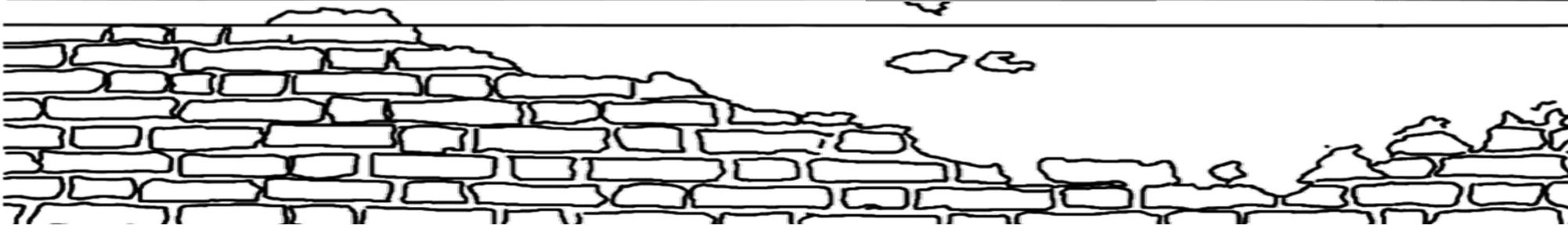


*Being one of the rougher Victorian games, 71 deaths were attributed to this team sport between the years of 1890 and 1893.*





*Rugby has some similarities to American football... while in Great Britain 'football' refers to the game which is called 'soccer' in the United States.*



*For leisure time, day trips to the seashore were mini-holidays which families would enjoy.*



*Boarding the train to Blackpool, a resort which began with one ride in 1896, was to begin a day filled with fun.*



*Maintaining a scrapbook, filled with items of interest, would consume afternoon hours for both adults and children.*



*Playing the piano and holding impromptu concerts and dances were quite popular amongst families and their friends.*



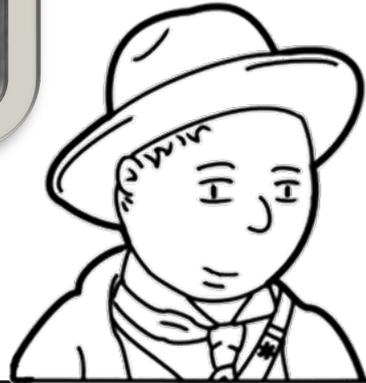
*For the young ladies of the family, sewing or creating decorative embroidery kept idle hands busy, as well as the making of ornaments for Christmas.*



*For the Victorians, games, toys and physical activity could be set aside for a few unhurried hours of reading.*



*Rudyard Kipling, Charles Dickens,  
and Elizabeth Barrett Browning were  
popular friends on bookshelves.*



*Again, thanks to  
AboutBritain.com for their  
help... So we have completed  
topic # AB009 in our series...*

*Yes, but we'll be back  
with another topic  
soon...*





**Original Source Material for this topic:**

1) <http://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/victorian-games-and-toys.asp>



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IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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