What did kids do all day? Go to school? Work on farms? Work in factories?

What did kids play with in 1850?

What did they wear?

How would a child’s life have been different if he or she was a young slave? An immigrant? A child in a city? On the Oregon Trail?

Use these clues to ask and answer good questions...

Examine your primary sources carefully! Ask questions and take notes.

Person
- Who are you?
- What do you do all day?

Object
- When were you created?
- Why were you created?
- Who created you?
- Who used you?
- How?

Text
- Who wrote you?
- Why?
- Who read you?
- Where were you discovered?

Image
- Who or what do you show?
- Who created you?
- Who saw you?

Keep looking for more clues! Ask questions of all of your sources.

Library
- Research and read about children’s lives in the 1850s.

Museum
- Look at clothing or toys used by children in the 1850s and see what curators say about them.

Computer
- Search for objects and images from the 1850s and for summaries written by historians.

Now put your clues together. Use the evidence you gathered from your primary and secondary sources to solve the mystery!