



## Christmas Parlour Games

Just like we do today, people living in the Victorian era loved to play games, especially at parties and with friends and family. Christmastime was no exception. A parlour game was a game played indoors with a group of people, often people from the upper and middle classes. The games were often played in the “parlour” of the home, a room where guests were entertained. Try out some of the games below this holiday season!

**Questions and Commands:** This game was very similar to Truth or Dare and basically followed the same rules. Each person would be asked a question or was given a command. If they refused to answer the question or the command they would have to pay a monetary fee or have their face dirtied with soot from the fireplace.

**Hoop and Hide:** Hoop and Hide was similar to modern hide and seek. One person acts as the seeker, and the other players hide. The seeker has to try and find all the other players. With Hoop and Hide, however, if a player is found hiding beside a bed they have to kiss the seeker.

**Pass the Slipper:** Players sit in a circle and one person stands in the middle of the circle. The person in the middle closes their eyes and a slipper is passed around behind the backs of the other players. Finally the players stop passing the slipper and the person in the middle opens their eyes and tries to guess who is holding the slipper behind their back.

**Charades:** The game of charades is believed to have been invented in France in the 1700s and was mentioned in the stories of writers Jane Austen and Charles Dickens. The game became very popular as an after-dinner adult party game in the Victorian era. A list of phrases and words would be created at the start of the game and two teams of players would play. Each team took a turn acting out their word or phrase, with no speaking allowed. The person acting out the phrase would have to only use body movements to give their team members clues in hopes that they would guess correctly.