



DESCRIPTION AND SUGGESTED USES

One of a pair of “Kangru Springshu” toy shoes from the 1920s. The toys were made by the Litchfield Manufacturing Company of Chicago, Illinois. They were advertised as being able to “put you on air when you run, jump, leap or dance.” Artifact compliments of Glorieta Private Collection.

SUGGESTED USES

1. Compare and contrast this item with the Toy Bank and the Tut-Tut Car. What is similar about these items? What is different here? What do you think the purpose of each of these “toys” might be?
2. The 1920s were known as the “Roaring Twenties.” How does this item reflect the idea of unlimited potential, movement and energy that infused the United States between 1920 and 1929?
3. “Kangru Sprinshu” is name of this toy. You might ask the following:
 - a. The words in the name are misspelled. Do you think it was on purpose? Why do you think the manufacturer would intentionally misspell the name of the product?
 - b. The name implies something to do with kangaroos. Why would the manufacturer want parents and children to make a connection with kangaroos?
 - c. What is different in post-WWI America that would prompt a manufacturer to promote a product using references to animals and places that were not common in the United States at the time?
 - i. *The influence of WWI is very important here.*