

Great Pioneer Projects You Can Build Yourself

Make Your Own Ring and Pin Game

1 Tie the string to the crasse end of the pencil.

2 Wrap tape over the knot to secure the string in place.

3 Tie the other end of the string to the plastic ring (if you don't have a milk jug ring, cut a ring shape from a plastic lid).

4 Holding the pencil point up, allow the string to hang loose. Swing the ring up and try to catch it on the point of the pencil. See how many times in a row you can catch the ring!

supplies

- 18-inch length of string
- pencil with an eraser
- masking tape
- plastic ring from a milk jug or a plastic lid



Native American Games and Toys

Native Americans played many games. The games varied by tribe, and many were based on physical skills. The point of many of the games was to help improve hunting skills. Foot races improved speed, hide-and-seek games were good practice for being silent, and archery games sharpened a hunter's aim. Are you surprised that Native Americans of long ago played the same types of games that you still play today?

Native Americans game used items found in nature or as equipment at all. With a little imagination, natural items could be turned into fun activities to occupy children and adults alike. Tree bark was used for a game called Ball, and Triangle Seeds acted as marbles. Nutshells were used as dice, and sticks or bones became musical instruments. One tradition that the Native Americans passed to colonists was the art of making corn-bark dolls. With materials that were readily available—and free!—children in the colonies could make baby dolls to play with.

Nearly every native tribe played a version of the game commonly called Ring and Pin. A target was fastened to a string, with a pin at the other end. The player tossed the target into the air and tried to spear it with the pin. The games differed



Corn-bark doll

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