



Traditional Games

A collection of group games from around the world



Welcome

Traditional games

All around the world, children love sport. It gives them the chance to have fun and be active. Yet sport is also a way of learning important values and life skills, including self-confidence, team work, communication, inclusion, discipline, respect and fair play. For this reason, sport is an important part of childhood.

Although some sports are universal, some are specific to a culture or country. In this pack are some great games that children play around the world.

UNICEF

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation for children, working in over 190 countries to help every child realise their full potential.

We work with families, local communities, partners and governments to transform the lives of children everywhere.

UNICEF provides health care, water, nutrition, education and protection for children. In everything we do, the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children are our priority.

As champion of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, we work to protect and promote the rights of every child.

UNICEF is working in partnership with Glasgow 2014 and the Commonwealth Games Federation to use the power of sport to transform children's lives in Scotland and throughout the Commonwealth.



Youth Sport Trust: Sport Changes Lives

Youth Sports Trust is a charity which is passionate about helping all young people to achieve their full potential in life and in sport through the delivery of high quality PE and sport.

They work to:

- give every child a sporting start in life through high quality PE and sport in primary schools.
- ensure all young people have a sporting chance by developing opportunities for those with special educational needs and disabilities.
- support all young people to achieve their sporting best in school and their personal best in life.
- Find out more by visiting www.youthsporttrust.org



International Inspiration

The charity International Inspiration (IN) uses the power of sport to involve, inspire and positively impact upon the lives of children, young people and marginalised groups

around the world – providing them with rights and opportunities that they may otherwise not have had.

Find out more by visiting www.internationalinspiration.org









The STEP framework

The STEP framework offers guidance on how to modify games to ensure people with a wide range of abilities can have fun taking part and progress their learning.

Think about:

| Space | Where? |
|-----------|------------|
| Task | What? |
| Equipment | With what? |
| People | With whom? |

Variations of the games based on this framework are given on the back of each card.

The Inclusion Spectrum

When playing these games, it is important that everyone can take part.

The Inclusion Spectrum is a useful model for ensuring this. It works on the principle that everyone can take part in activities at their own level of ability and be challenged in an appropriate way to improve.

It gives five ways to enable maximum participation:

- **Open activities** are set up in such a way that everyone can take part at their own level without modification
- Modified activities are variations or adaptations based on the STEP framework to ensure everyone is included
- · Parallel groups or team based on ability
- Separate practice for individuals or groups enabling successful integration
- Disability sport activities for non-disabled and disabled young people (reverse integration)

Always consult the participants about their needs and how to adapt the activity to enable maximum participation and enjoyment.





Road Tennis



An extremely popular, cheap and accessible variation of lawn tennis and table tennis which emerged in the 1930s, mainly played in urban areas.

Age: 11+

Players: Two (for "singles") or four (for "doubles"), plus someone to keep score.

Pitch: A 21x10 foot rectangle on a hard, smooth and level surface - ideally asphalt, concrete or an indoor wooden surface - split into two equal halves widthways. The court should be marked out in white lines. The long sides of the court are extended six feet at each end - these are called the "governor lines."

Time: Typically, a game lasts for 15 to 20 minutes and a set up to 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Rules: The game starts with a coin toss between the two players/teams. The scorer should do the coin toss. The winner of the toss has the choice of taking the first serve or choosing which side of the court to play on first.

The serve alternates between the two players/teams every five points. If playing doubles, the serve alternates between each player on the team between each point.

The two players/teams must hit the ball between each other. The ball can bounce once before being hit back.

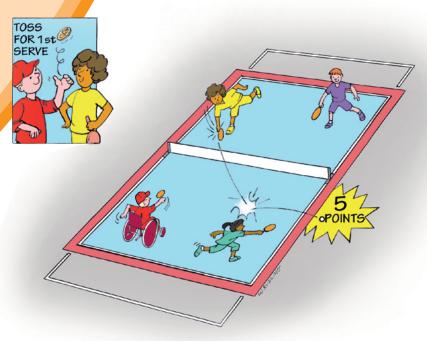
The first player/team to reach 21 points is declared the winner of the game, unless the players/teams have been tied at 20 points. If this is the case, the game is declared a "deuced game" and is won by the first player/team to lead by two points. During a deuced game, the serve alternates after each point.

When a game is won, the players/teams change their playing ends.

Scoring

• If a player hits the ball and it lands outside of the lines, or doesn't reach the other side of the court, the other player/team gets a point.

- A set is the best of three games (the player/team who wins two out of the three games is the overall winner), or the best of five games, (the player/teams who wins three out of the five games is the overall winner).
- If a set reaches the third/fifth. game, the players/teams change ends after 10 points.





Equipment

- A, typically wooden, net, eight inches in height, placed over the centre line. This should extend beyond the width of the court by six inches on either side, and be painted white.
- A standard lawn tennis ball with the fur removed.
- Each player needs a racquet, which should be made of wood. The racquet should be no more than 11 inches in diameter at its widest point.

Safety

- Players should warm up before the game starts.
- The playing area must be clear of any obstructions, including at least 10ft around the court.

Adaptations and variations

Easier

- Space: Broaden the court.
- Task: NA
- Equipment: Use bigger racquets and a slower ball. Lower the net.
- People: NA

Harder

- Space: Make the court smaller.
- Task: NA
- **E**quipment: Use smaller racquets and a faster ball. Raise the net.
- People: NA

Inclusion

Try:

- Using different types of balls and racquets.
- Increasing the size of the court to facilitate wheelchairs.

Skills developed

- Endurance
- Teamwork
- Agility
- Speed
- Fitness

This activity can be used as

- A warm-up
- A skill development activity
- A game

- Community leaders
- Teachers
- Sports coaches
- Physical education teachers
- Parents
- Rehabilitation specialists
- Fitness enthusiasts
- Health professionals











unicef

For generations, this game has been enjoyed by children in Guyana, from the remotest regions to busy urban areas.

Age: 6+

Players: Two equal teams of at least four players.

Pitch: The pitch is drawn using chalk or a stone (if playing on earth). It consists of a vertical bar, crossed by three long, horizontal bars at the top, middle and bottom. At one end of the vertical bar is a circle.

Time: Unlimited.

Rules: There is an attacking team and a defending team. At least one player from the defending team stands in each of the bars.

The attacking team assembles in the circle. The game begins when one of the defenders tags one of the attackers in the circle. The attacker then become 'salman', and has to run to the end bar and back without being tagged by a defender. If salman is tagged, they are out.

Once salman passes the end bar and is on their way back, another attacking player becomes salman too, and begins their run of the length of the pitch. If the new salman is caught, they are out. Each attacking player takes a turn at being salman.

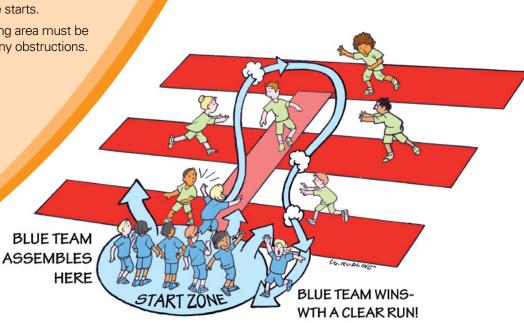
The teams swap over once every attacking player has been salman.

Scoring

- The defending team scores one point for each salman they tag.
- The attacking team scores one point for each clear run a salman makes.

Safety

- Players should warm up before the game starts.
- The playing area must be clear of any obstructions.





Easier

- Space: Increase the playing area.
- Task: Create a 'safe zone' at the top of the pitch where salman can pause before running back to the circle.
- Equipment: NA
- **P**eople: Reduce the number of players on each team to three.

Harder

- **S**pace: Decrease the size of the bars.
- **T**ask: Every salman must make a clear run for the attacking team to win.
- Equipment: NA
- **P**eople: Increase the number of players on each team.

Skills developed

- Teamwork
- Agility
- Speed

This activity can be used as

- A skill development activity
- A game

Who could use this card?

Young leaders













For hundreds of years this game, also called 'Tapping the ball', has been played in the remotest islands of Kiribati.

Age: 15+

Players: As many as you like – enough to form a circle.

Pitch: A clear space – this doesn't have to be particularly large, the game is often played in backyards and most of Kiribati's islands are very narrow.

Time: Unlimited.

Rules: The players form a circle. One player stands in the middle of the circle. They kick a ball a short distance into the air. The person nearest then takes over and kicks the ball on – never allowing it to drop on the ground. One after another, the players kick the ball to each other. The ball can be passed back to the player in the middle as well.

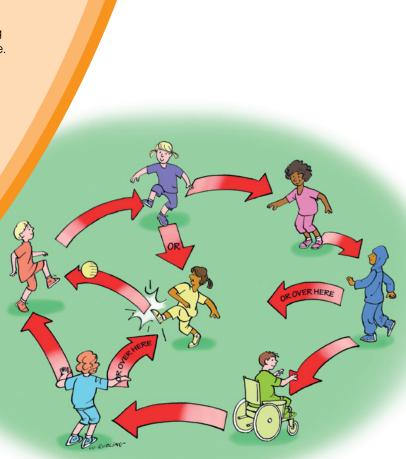
The ball should not be allowed to fall to the ground. Everyone should get a chance to participate. If any player drops the ball, they are out and have to leave the circle until a fresh round starts once every player has had a chance to kick the ball.

Equipment

 A ball. This is usually made from local materials – such as knotting dry leaves from a Panadanas tree.

Safety

- Ensure players are warmed up.
- Ensure the playing area is clear from objects that could hurt the players while running around – such as, in Kiribati, shells, coral and rocks that are embedded in the sand. In Kiribati players usually go barefoot.





Easier

• Space: NA

• **T**ask: Ball can bounce once between passes.

• Equipment: Use a larger ball.

• People: Only five people per game.

Harder

• **S**pace: Increase the size of the playing area.

• **T**ask: Ball cannot be passed to a player immediately next to you.

• Equipment: NA

• People: NA

Skills developed

- Teamwork
- Practice
- Speed

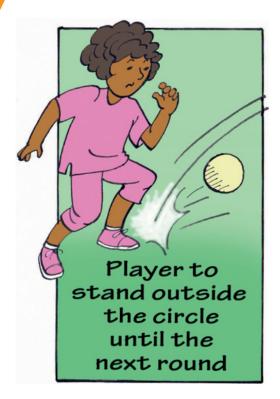
This activity can be used as

- A skill development activity
- A game

- Teachers
- Youth leaders
- Sports coaches
- Community leaders
- Parents











Circle sepak takraw



A kicking game from the 15th century played throughout South East Asia.

Age: 5+

Players: Teams of six.

Pitch: A 1m radius circle on any flat playing space bounded by a 4m radius circle.

Time: Unlimited.

Rules: The playing team stands anywhere in the 4m circle but not in the 1m circle.

A player starts in the centre of the 1m circle and tosses the ball to any one of their team members and then rejoins their team.

The first touch by this player must be a kick-volley.

All kicks or passes between players should cross the 1m circle and aim to be above head height.

Players should use a variety of skills such as kicking, heading, shouldering, kneeing and tipping with a toe. All parts of the body can be used except the hands and arms.

Each team has three tosses to keep the ball in play.

After the three tosses are completed, change the playing team.

The ball may not be passed to a team member immediately on the left or right.

A player may only touch the ball a maximum of three times before passing.

A player may not step outside the 4m circle or into the 1m circle.

Scoring

- Kick-volley, head pass = one point.
- Shoulder, knee, toe or other body pass = two points.
- Team total is the number of points gained from the three tosses.

Equipment

 A rattan ball or a ball of similar size, with a circumference of around 40/45cm.

Safety

 Ankles protected by socks or stockings and sports shoes.





Easier

- **S**pace: Use the whole playing area (both circles).
- **T**ask: No limit to the number of touches before passing.
- Equipment: Use a softer ball.
- People: NA.

Harder

- **S**pace: Make the playing space larger.
- Task: Each player can touch the ball a maximum of two times before passing.
- Equipment: Use a smaller ball.
- **P**eople: Reduce the number of players in a team.

Inclusion

An adaptation for this game could be to use hands and arms.

Skills developed

- Kick-volley
- Heading
- Coordination

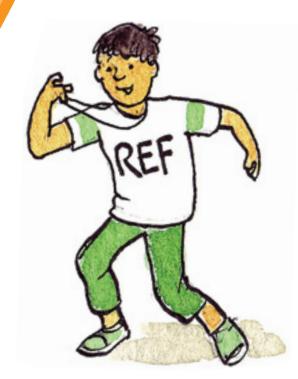
This activity can be used as

- A skill-development activity
- A game

- Teachers
- Young leaders
- Sports coaches
- Community leaders
- Students











Ki-o-Rahi



This Maori game is also called 'The Game of Stars' or 'The Games of Peace'. It evolved out of multiple archaic games based on the story of legendary figure Rahi.

Age: 5+

Players: Two teams of seven players, though this can be adjusted depending on the size of the playing area. One team is the Kioma and the other team is the Taniwha - this switches every quarter.

Pitch: The playing field consists of three concentric circles - the playing zones - intersected by a pathway, the Te Ara. At the end of the Te Ara, on the outside of the largest circle, is a small circle with a radius of 1m, called the Te Marama. The inner circle, or Pawero, has a radius of 4m - with a target, the tupu, placed at the exact centre. The middle circle, or Te Roto, has a radius of 11m, and the outer circle, or Te Ao, has a radius of 21m. These distances can be modified to fit smaller spaces.

Seven posts, or pou, are evenly spaced around the Te Ao area.

The pitch can be marked on a playing field or gymnasium. Small cones can be used to mark the boundaries.

Time: Four 10 minute quarters.

Rules: The Kioma team play in the Pawero and Te Ao. Three Kioma guard the tupu in the Pawero, and the other four players are in the Te Ao. Kiomo can swap between the Pawero and Te Ao by running through the Te Ara.

The Kioma have to stop the Taniwha team from hitting the tupu with the ball, or ki. The players in the Pawero can use any part of their bodies to block the ball from hitting the target. They can also catch or intercept the ki and throw it out to their own players in the Te Ao. They must pass the ball out of the Pawero within five seconds.

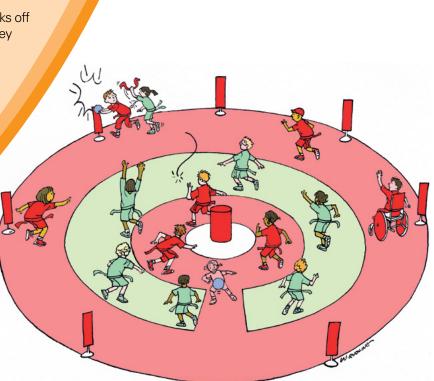
The Kioma are also trying to tag the pou in the Te Ao with the ki. Once they have tagged one or more pou, they must run with the ki through the Te Roto to the Pawero and touch the ki down, without a Taniwha tagging them with both hands on the hips or tackling them.

If they are tagged or tackled, they have three seconds to pass the ball to a teammate or it goes to the Taniwha.

Kioma without the ball cannot stop or interfere with a Taniwha player who is tagging the Kioma with the ki.

A Kioma in the Te Marama kicks off to the Kioma in the Pawero; they then try to pass it out to their teammates in the Te Ao.

(continued on page 2)





Rules ctd.

The Taniwha score points by throwing the ki at the tupu from the Te Roto: if they enter the Pawero, the hit does not count. They can only have the ki in the Te Roto for ten seconds before trying to hit the tupu or passing it out.

If the ki goes loose, any team can pick it up and play with it.

Teams can mutually decide to vary the rules before playing the game – a traditional process called Tatu.

Scoring

- The Taniwha team scores one point for hitting the tupu.
- The Kioma team scores one point for each pou tagged in the Te Ao, but only if the move is finished by touching the ki down in the Pawero. So, tag one post and touchdown equals one point, tag two posts and touchdown equals two points. There are seven posts, so it is possible to score seven points. Touching the ball down is known as a try, or Tupu Manawa.

Equipment

- A tupu usually a large drum.
- Small cones for boundary markers.
- Seven large cones or poles for pou.
- A ball.

Safety

- Make sure the ball is not too hard, a tennis ball or a softballsized soft rubber ball is suitable. The game could also be played with a volleyball.
- Replace all tackling with a twohanded tag touch to the hips, or use ripper rugby tags if available.

Adaptations and variations

Easier

- Space: Make the pitch smaller.
- Task: Remove the touchdown component so the Kioma only have tag the pou the target.
- Equipment: A larger ball.
 A larger target.
- **P**eople: Fewer Kioma allowed in the Pawero to guard the tupu.

Harder

- Space: A larger pitch.
- **T**ask: Allow full contact tackling (be mindful of the playing surface.)
- Equipment: Use a smaller ball. Reduce the size of the target.
- **P**eople: Allow more Kioma in the Pawero to guard the tupu.

Inclusion

Try:

- Using a large, soft ball that can be thrown with two hands.
- Increasing the size of the pitch to facilitate wheelchairs.

Skills developed

- Quick hand passing
- Team strategies
- Ball handling
- Throwing
- Running
- Tackling

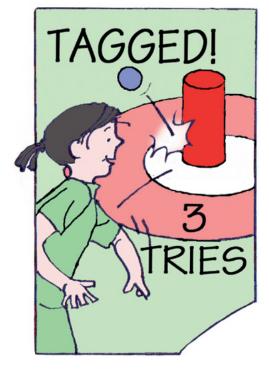
This activity can be used as

- A skill-development activity
- A game

- Teachers
- Young leaders
- Sports coaches
- Community leaders
- Parents









I Okwe

unicef

A throwing and catching game said to be 'as old as man', played all over Nigeria.

Age: 11+

Players: Two or more.

Pitch: 2m x 2m for two players, a larger space is required for

more players.

Time: Unlimited.

Rules: Two or more players are required to play this game.

The playing space required depends on the number of players, for example 2m x 2m for two players.

Throw all seven playing objects on the ground.

One player picks one of the objects and throws it up. Before it comes down, he or she picks up one of the remaining six objects on the ground and then catches the object thrown up.

Continue to throw one object up and continue to pick up the other objects on the ground one by one with the same hand, until all six objects have been picked up. Repeat the activity and continue to increase the number of objects picked up in one turn until all six objects have been picked up at once to end the game.

If before picking up the object on the ground the one thrown up falls to the ground the player loses his or her turn and another player takes over.

The stage at which the player loses their turn is where they continue from when it is their turn again.

The throwing and catching action should be completed using the same hand.

If either more or fewer objects are picked up by mistake the player loses his or her turn.

Scoring

 Score one point for completing the task of picking up six objects.

Equipment

 Small roundish objects that have a smooth surface like pebbles, rubber seeds and beads.

Safety

- The objects should be smooth.
- The objects should be thrown away from players' faces.













Easier

- **S**pace: After throwing, move the objects on the floor closer together before the game begins.
- **T**ask: Reduce the number of objects to be used in the game.
- **E**quipment: Use softer textured objects.
- People: Work in pairs one thrower/catcher and one gatherer of objects.

Harder

- **S**pace: After throwing, move the objects at least 10cm apart.
- **T**ask: Increase the number of objects in the game.
- Equipment: Use smaller objects.
- People: NA.

Inclusion

Try:

- playing the game on a table; or
- objects may be touched or pushed aside while a partner throws and catches one object.

Skills developed

- Catching
- Throwing
- Reaction time

This activity can be used as

- A skill-development activity
- A game

- Teachers
- Young leaders
- Sports coaches
- Community leaders
- Students











An aiming game that forms part of South Africa's heritage.

Age: 6+

Players: Two equal teams with a minimum of five people.

Pitch: 8m x 4m. **Time:** Unlimited.

Rules: Three tins are placed on

top of each other.

The first player has three attempts to knock the tins down.

The player throws the ball from outside the marked playing area.

If successful the player runs out, re-builds the tins, draws a square around the tins and hops over the tins three times.

If the ball misses or is thrown too far the players shout 'Thayma' until the ball is returned.

If after three throws the player has been unsuccessful, the first player from the opposing team becomes the thrower.

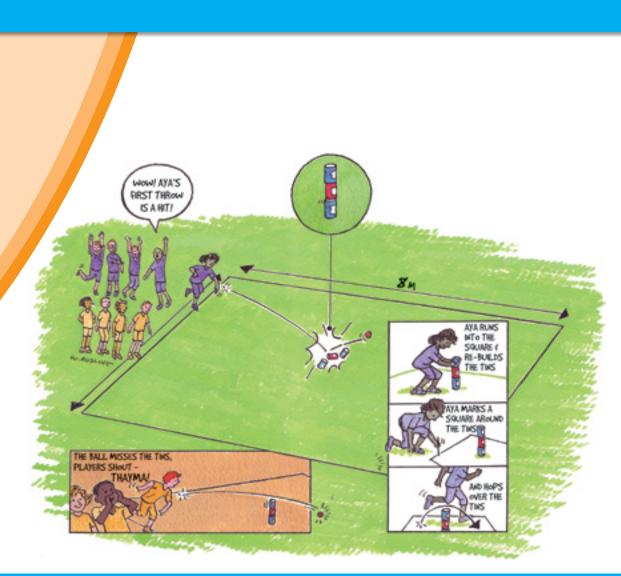
Equipment

• Three tins, plastic blocks or other stacking objects.

• A small ball.

Safety

• A flat playing area free of debris.





Easier

• Space: Decrease the space.

• Task: NA

• Equipment: A larger ball.

• People: NA

Harder

• Space: Increase space.

• Task: NA

• Equipment: Four stacking objects.

• People: NA

Skills developed

- Balance
- Hand-eye coordination

This activity can be used as

- A skill-development activity
- A game

- Teachers
- Young leaders
- Sports coaches
- Community leaders
- Students













An invasion/tagging game believed to be more than 4,000 years old, played all over Asia with minor variations.

Age: 12+

Players: Two teams of seven players - a 'raiding' (attacking) team and an 'antis' (defending) team. Plus three reserves per team, who can be swapped in for a player at any time.

Pitch: 13m x 10m divided into two halves.

Time: Two 20-minute halves with a five-minute half time.

Rules: Each team occupies half of the playing area.

A raider attempts to cross into the antis' half to tag one of their players and return to his or her own half.

A raider takes a deep breath at the start of his or her turn and must hold this breath while attempting to tag an antis and return to his or her own playing space.

A raider is sent off if he or she takes a breath before returning to his or her own half or goes out of the playing area. If an antis player is tagged they leave the playing space.

The remaining members of the antis team form a chain to attempt to stop the raider from returning to his or her own half.

If the chain breaks or the antis step out of the playing area they lose a player.

Players are only allowed back into play when their team has completed a successful raid.

The teams change over when all the antis or raiders are out.

Scoring

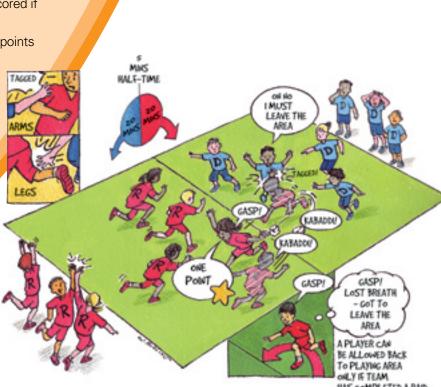
- If a raider makes a successful tag they score one point.
- If the antis team catches the raider before they return to their own half they score one point.
- An Iona (two points) is scored if all antis are declared out.
- The team with the most points at the end of the match is the winner.

Equipment

 A flat playing area clear of debris.

Safety

• Tag on the torso.





Easier

• Space: Increase the space.

• Task: NA

• Equipment: NA

• People: NA

Skills developed

- Aiming
- Throwing
- Changing direction
- Coordination

This activity can be used as

- A warm-up
- A skill-development activity

- Teachers
- Young leaders
- Sports coaches
- Community leaders
- Parents

















unicef

A tagging game of uncertain origin played widely by children in Tanzania.

Age: 5+

Players: Two teams of six.

Pitch: A grid (i.e. boxes with corridors) drawn on the ground the approximate size of a volleyball court.

Time: Unlimited.

Rules: Two teams of six players.

A grid (ie boxes with corridors) drawn on the ground the approximate size of a volleyball court.

The defending team's players position themselves along any corridors within the grid.

The attacking players position themselves outside the grid at one end.

On a signal, the attacking team moves from box to box in an

attempt to get to the opposite end of the grid.

The defending team aims to tag the attackers whenever they pass through a corridor space.

Scoring

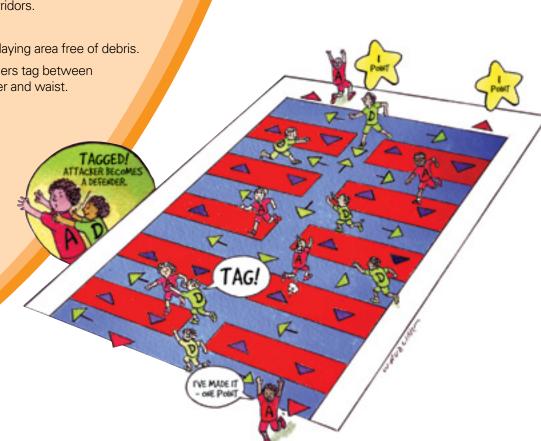
- Each member of the attacking team who reaches the opposite end of the grid without being tagged scores one point.
- The attacking team repeats the activity back to the starting line scoring in the same way.
- When an attacker is tagged in a corridor he or she becomes a member of the defending team.
- When the attacking team has had two attempts to score points the teams change over.

Equipment

 A playing area the size of a volleyball court marked with grids and corridors.

Safety

- A flat playing area free of debris.
- Defenders tag between shoulder and waist.





Easier

- **S**pace: Decrease the size of the corridor areas.
- Task: Attackers score one point for every box reached successfully.
- Equipment: NA
- People: Increase the number of attackers.

Harder

- **S**pace: Increase the size of the corridor space.
- **T**ask: Attackers must cross the grid there and back to score one point.
- Equipment: NA
- People: Decrease the number of attackers.

Inclusion

An attacker could score one point for each box reached successfully.

Skills developed

- Running
- Stopping
- Changing direction
- Teamwork
- Planning and strategies

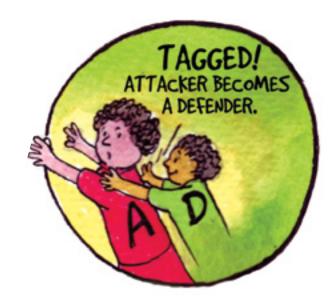
This activity can be used as

- A warm up
- A skill-development activity
- A game

- Teachers
- Young leaders
- Sports coaches
- Community leaders
- Students











A rolling, bouncing and clapping game traditionally played in schools and local communities in Trinidad and Tobago.

Age: 6+

Players: One to five players.

Pitch: 8m x 8m equally divided into eight boxes. The boxes are numbered one to eight

consecutively. **Time:** Unlimited.

Rules: The aim of the game is to roll and bounce the ball in turn into each box starting with box one through to box eight and back again from box eight to box one.

While the ball is being bounced in each box the player must clap hands the same number of times as the number in the box.

At the start of the game the player must roll the ball from behind the playing area near the first box.

The ball is rolled into box one, retrieved in box one and bounced once in box one — when the hands are clapped once — before the player steps one foot into box one.

The player continues stepping into each box in turn until box number eight is reached.

Players must not step on any lines during their turn.

The player continues from the starting point – roll the ball into box two, step one foot into box one, retrieve the ball in box two and bounce it twice, clapping hands twice after each bounce, then step one foot into box number two and continue stepping into each box in turn to reach box number eight.

Continue this cycle from the same starting point to boxes three to eight.

If the player successfully reaches box number eight then he or she turns round to complete a victory lap, still standing on one foot.

Bounce the ball eight times in box eight clapping eight times between each bounce.

Turn around on one foot and repeat in box seven before stepping on one foot into box seven.

Repeat from boxes six to one.

A player who fails to complete an action in the game is replaced by the next player in the group.

The first person to complete the task is the winner!

Equipment

• A tennis ball or similar.

Safety

 A flat playing space free of debris.





Easier

- Space: Larger boxes.
- **T**ask: Throw up instead of bounce.
- Equipment: Use a bean bag instead of a ball or a larger ball.
- People: NA

Harder

- Space: Smaller boxes.
- Task: NA
- Equipment: Use a smaller, harder ball.
- People: NA

Skills developed

- Coordination
- Bouncing
- Throwing
- Balance

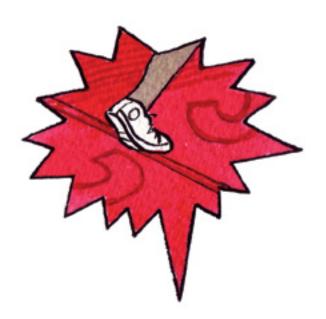
This activity can be used as

• A game

- Teachers
- Young leaders
- Sports coaches
- Community leaders
- Students













A dodging and tagging game played widely throughout Zambia.

Age: 5+

Players: Two teams, with a minimum of three players per team up to as many as you like.

Pitch: An open flat playing space with no specific boundaries.

Time: Unlimited.

Rules: One player from team A – the dodgers – begins by filling a bucket with sand from a pile, and transferring the sand to a sand pit.

Team B – the taggers – take it in turns to throw a soft ball at the dodger from an agreed distance.

When tagged (hit with the ball) this player goes to the back of team A and the next dodger steps forward to continue filling the sand pit.

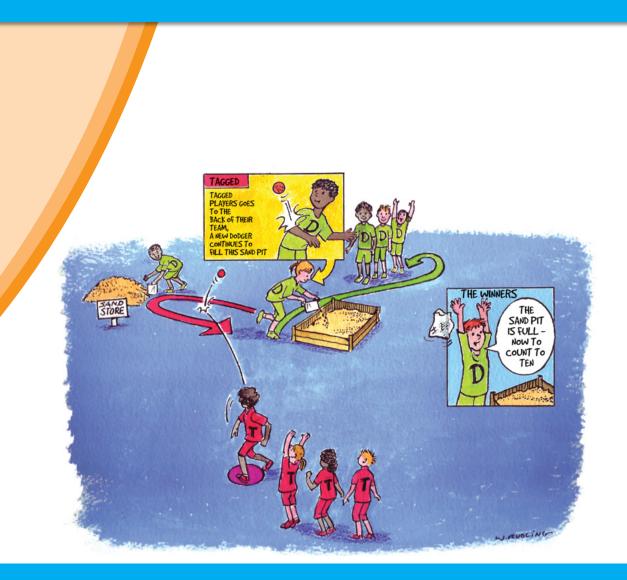
The game continues until either the dodgers fill the sand pit and count to 10 or the taggers eliminate the dodgers before they complete the task.

Equipment

- An ichimpombwa (traditional Zambia ball), soft ball or similar.
- A bucket or similar vessel.
- A sand pit.
- Sand.

Safety

• Players can only be tagged below shoulder height.





Easier

• **S**pace: Taggers move further away.

• Task: NA

• **E**quipment: A larger bucket or vessel to fill.

• **P**eople: Decrease the number of taggers.

Harder

• **S**pace: Taggers move closer.

• Task: NA

• Equipment: NA

• **P**eople: Increase the number of taggers.

Skills developed

- Aiming
- Throwing
- Changing direction
- Coordination

This activity can be used as

- A warm-up
- A skill-development activity

- Teachers
- Young leaders
- Sports coaches
- Community leaders
- Parents





