

Native American Games

Lakota & Dakota





History of Games

- The First Peoples of the Americas had thousands of games for both individual and team competitions.
 - They had physical games, games of intuition and of chance.
- Team games were not found in most European countries until the early 1500's
- Slaves and Prisoners were the first people to take these team games back to Europe and Asia.
 - The Native American games of stickball, shinney, and footbag became baseball and cricket, hockey, and soccer.
 - Later, a bladder bag game was formalized into basketball.





Why do we need to relearn these games?

- Prior to the 1800's, indigenous people in America depended on older tribal members to teach them skills and games
- In the 1800's many indigenous people were removed from their homes and sent to boarding schools
- When they returned to their tribes, they did not have the skills and knowledge of games
- This meant that they lacked the cultural knowledge from their ancestors and many games died out or nearly died out
- Today, it is important to learn and practice these games as to build cultural identity for both the Lakota and Dakota people





“Games of Intuition”

- Neuroscience has shown that games are extremely important
- Games build observation and sensing skills
 - These skills are necessary in order for people to get along
- Skills developed by games such as physical endurance, coordination, dexterity, quickness, and strength were important for health then and still are today



COORDINATION



Coordination

The games bring values from the old tribal cultures:

- Honoring the person who gave the most challenge
- Respecting your competitors
- Having courage, persistence and skill
- Being humble even when winning





Ring Toss

(Napsiyohli)





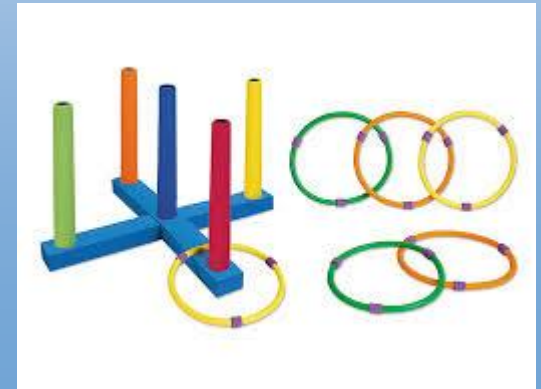
What does Napsiyohli mean?

Napsiyohli means ring (small finger ring) in Lakota



Napsiyohli Small Finger Ring (Ring Toss)

- Napsiyohli otherwise known as Ring Toss is a traditional Lakota game
- It was played by young children in the Lakota Tribe
- Ring Toss was incorporated into pop culture and is still a popular game for children at home and carnivals today





How to craft:

- Willow is the best material to use as it is easily peeled and pliable and readily found along the water's edge.
- To form the hoop, wrap the willow around a circular mold, such as a log of 3 inch diameter. Leave it to dry, which happens quickly.
- The spirals are then cut into individual rings that are joined with glue and sinew (artificial sinew can be used) wrapped at the join.



North Dakota Willow Tree



Skills Developed Through Playing

- Coordination
- Patience
- Timing



The most
powerful
warriors are
Patience &
Time





How to play:

1. Six hoops are tossed towards bucket, cone, or stick.
2. The player gently tosses the hoops in midair sees how many he/she can hoop for points.
3. It is a points-based game, so a point goal is set. (example 10)
4. If all hoops are made, the player automatically wins the round. If the player fails, it is passed on to the next player.
5. A more intense version is throw the hoops into the air and try and catch them with a stick (can be done with smaller hoops).



Inyankahmupi (ee-yahn-kah-ghmue- pee)

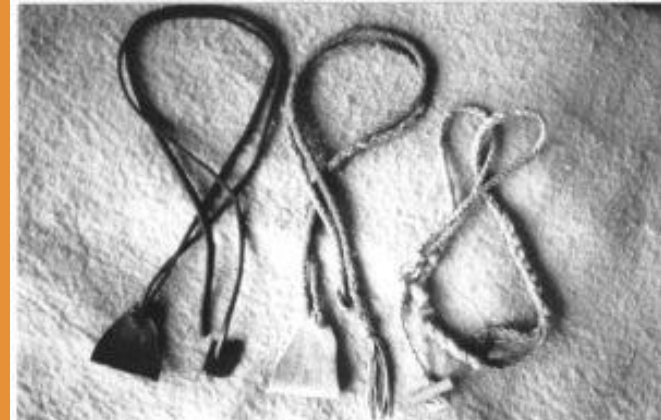
(Translated as "Slingshot")





History/Background:

1. Traditional Lakota Game
2. Originally played by young boys
3. Used as target practice, to kill small birds, to improved aim, muscle memory, and strength





Traditional Materials:

For the Sling:

1. Pouch ideally made of stout leather that is either rounded or diamond shaped
2. 2 strings of equal length made from sinews attached to the pouch
3. 3 slits are cut in the sling: two on either side for the sinews and 1 in the middle of pouch for the rock to rest
4. Small stones (golfball size) are selected for use

(Other materials may be substituted for the rocks: foam, plastic, or rubber balls)

How to play:

1. Place the small stone in the center of the pouch
2. Twirl the pouch with the rock over your shoulder
3. Release the stone to see how far you can send it

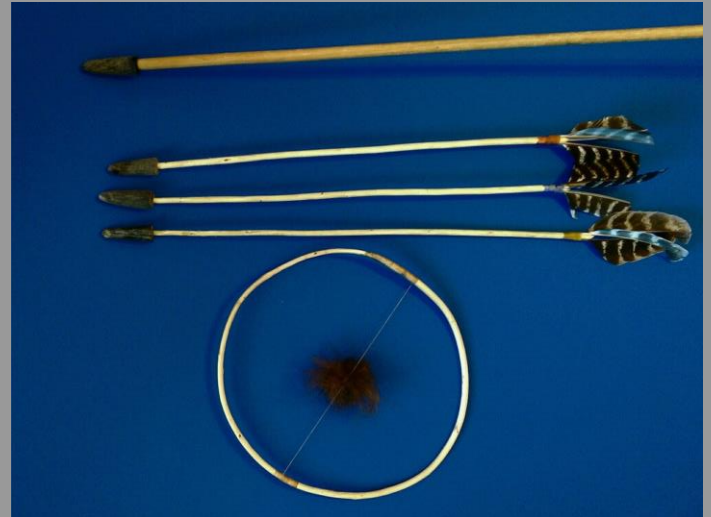
Other forms of a rock sling:





Tate kahwogyapi

Translated as “Wind chaser/They are chasing the wind”





History/Background

1. Played by young boys
1. Played during times when the wind was strong
1. Materials for this game included green willow branches and buffalo fur



Traditional Materials:

Traditionally, the wind chaser hoop was made from a peeled willow shoot the width of about a half inch. While the willow shoot was still green and soft, it was then shaped around a round object of about 1 foot in diameter so that it would dry in the shape of a hoop.

Sinews were then stretched across the diameter of the hoop with a tuft of buffalo fur attached in the middle to catch the wind more easily.

How to play:

1. Traditionally, this game would be played by young boys on a windy day.
2. The boys would roll the wind chaser hoop until it was carried off by the wind
3. The boys then see who can catch the wind chaser hoop first
4. Once caught, the game starts over
Taught speed, agility, and the virtues of sportsmanship



Tchung-Kee

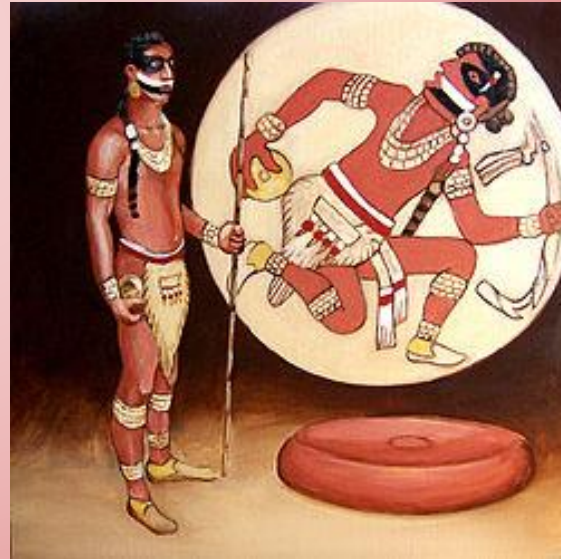
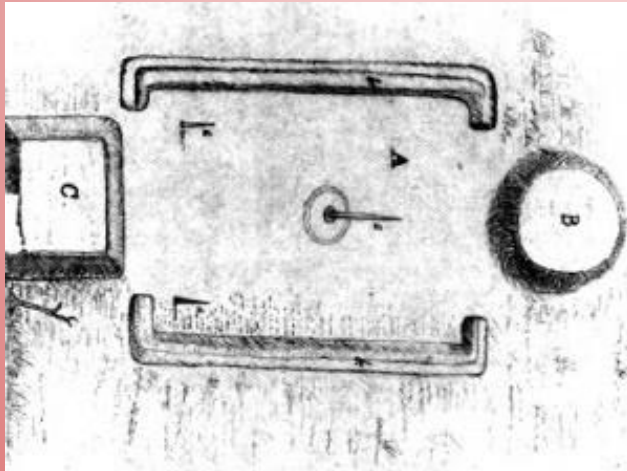
“The hoop and stick game”





Background & History

- Originally played in the Cahokia region (near St. Louis, MO)
- Chunkey stones took time to make, were considered valuable, and were often communal property of a village.
- The game could be played casually, Chunkey tournaments were a big deal with a lot of entertainment and costumes, often drawing people from far away to participate and watch.
- “Ancient Super Bowl”





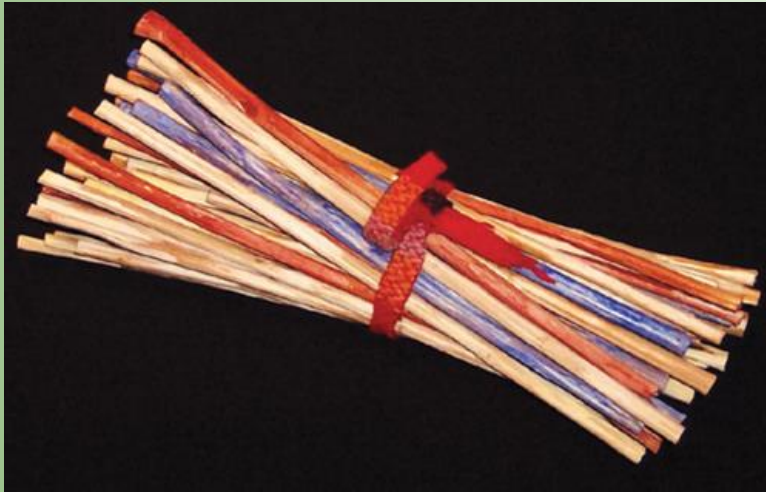
How do you play?

1. A large ground stone disc (chunkey) was rolled across a level field by a single player
2. One or multiple players from the opposing team would then throw sticks (also called chunkey) underhanded at the stone.
3. Aiming to get as close as possible or to touch the stone once it stopped rolling.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpccDCKeQts>



Icaslohe econpi: "Game of Bowls"





History/Background

- Icaslohe econpi was traditionally played by women and children.
- It was traditionally played on a smooth flat surface like ice or packed snow
- It could be played with more than two people by adding more pins and having two or more people on each side.
- The traditional ball was usually a river stone and sanded or carved down. Pipe stone and alabaster were readily carved.
- Cottonwood was commonly used for pins and willow was commonly used for counting sticks.



Materials Needed

Materials:

- Wooden pins or dowls
- Shooter marble or round stone
- Scoring sticks or hank of beads



How to Play

Step by Step:

- Stand up wooden pins on a table or flat surface
- Two people take turns rolling the stone back and forth
- When a pin is knocked over you win a 'bet' such as a scoring stick or beads





Hoop and Arrow or Tahuka caṅhdeška (Tah-huka Cha-ha-desh-ka)





Materials Needed

4-8 Webbed hoops 8-14 inches in diameter

The hoops and spears were commonly made of either willow or ash wood

Rawhide was webbed within the hoops in dreamcatcher or other styles

Spears 4-5 feet or about chest height





Background/How to Play


A game commonly played by men to practice their spear throwing before hunts

In this game there is two teams ranging from two to eight players

The teams take turns rolling or tossing the hoops back and forth while the other team tries to throw the spears through the hoop

Points awarded based on how close the spear is to the cante or “heart” of the hoop, most points wins





Let's Review the new words we learned:

Napsiyohli - ring

Inyan onyeyapi - slingshot

Tate kahwogyapi - wind chaser/they are chasing the wind

Ptehincala unkiyepi - we are young ones

Tchung-kee- the hoop and stick game

Icaslohe econpi- game of bowls



Reflection

- What do these Native games have in common with modern games played today?
- How do these Native games reflect your own experiences with sports and games?



Some Native Americans in Pro Sports Include:

- Billy Mills
- Jim Thorpe
- Charles Albert Bender
- Ellison Brown
- “Injun Joe” Kapp





Billy Mills

- Billy Mills was born in 1938 to the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Tribe.
- He was the second Native American to win an Olympic gold medal.
- He's also the only American to get a gold medal in the 10,000 meter race.





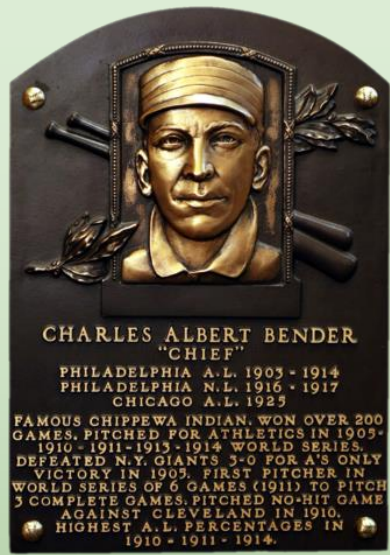
Jim Thorpe

- Born May 28th, 1887 near Prague Oklahoma
- Member of the Sac and Fox Nation
- His Native Name was Wa-Tho-Huk which means “Bright Path.”
- Football, baseball, and track and field
- Won 2 gold medals in the Olympics: Pentathlon and Decathlon
- First Native American to win a gold medal for America
- Played for 6 different pro football teams
- President and co-founder of American Professional Football Association which was later to grow into the NFL
- Association Press named him “the greatest American football player”





Charles Albert Bender (1884-1954)



Born in Crow Wing County Minnesota and full blooded Ojibwa Indian

Attended Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania where he was discovered by legendary coach Glenn “Pop” Warner for both football and baseball.

Started in the Major Leagues in 1903 as a 19 year old and played 16 professional seasons with the Philadelphia Athletics (1903-14), Baltimore Terrapins (1915), Philadelphia Phillies (1916-17), and the Chicago White Sox (1925)

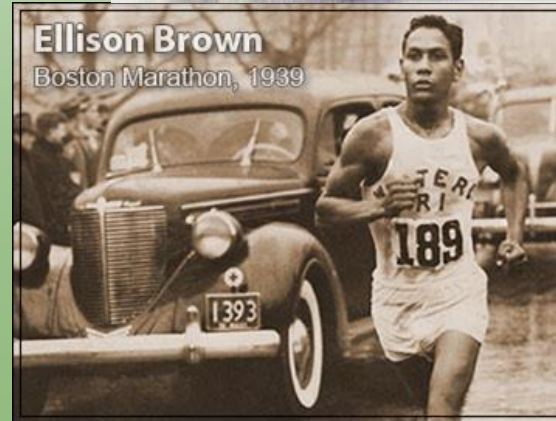
Won 3 World Series with the A’s during the 1910s and is regarded as one of the most clutch pitchers of all time, he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1953

“If I had all the men I’ve ever handeled and they were in their prime and there was one game I wanted to win above all others, Albert would be my man” - Connie Mack, Winningest manager in baseball history



Ellison “Tarzan” Brown

- Known as “Tarzan” Brown for his running, but know as Deerfoot among his people.
- Born 1914
- Descendant of the last known royal family of the Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island
 - Lived in a shack on the border of the reservation in Charleston, Rhode Island
- He ran like it was a hobby. He won when “he felt like it”
 - He would also take second at times if he felt it would better serve his family.
- Won the Boston Marathon twice in 1936 and 1939
- Competed in the 1936 olympics in Berlin
- Inducted into the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame in 1973.
- Married Narragansett woman Ethel Wilcox and had four children
- He died in 1975 in Westerly, Rhode Island.



“Injun Joe” Kapp

- Hall of Fame NFL Quarterback
- Born in Santa Fe, NM
- Attended college at the University of California
- Teams Played for:
 - Boston Patriots
 - Minnesota Vikings
 - BC Lions (CFL)
 - Calgary Stampeders (CFL)
- Led the University of California to the Rose Bowl in 1958
- Led the Minnesota Vikings to their first Super Bowl Appearance
- Was also an actor, head coach, and general manager



DAY OF SERVICE 2020 - FORT YATES



St. Bernard's Mission School







“The Playing Field”

Traditionally, many games were played in open flat spaces near the village(s). This space just outside of Fort Yates may have been a playing ground hundreds of years ago.



ND Studies Standard

H.3_5.3 Describe the North Dakota Native American Essential Understandings.

H.3_5.5 Describe multiple causes and effects of contemporary global events and developments in relation to North Dakota.

H.3_5.9 Explain how individuals and groups contributed to North Dakota.



PE Standards

S1.E13.5a: Throws underhand using a mature pattern in non dynamic environments (closed skills), with different sizes and types of objects.

S2.E5.5c: Recognizes the type of throw, volley or striking action needed for different games and sports situations.

S4.E4.4a* & b: Recognizes the movement performance of others both more and less skilled. Accepts players of all skill levels into the physical activity.



Resources:

<https://extension.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/2019-11/P-00137.pdf>

<https://prod.wp.cdn.aws.wfu.edu/sites/88/2012/04/Fun-and-Games-Teachers-Guide.pdf>

<https://livesandlegaciesblog.org/2019/10/17/when-games-are-serious-business-chunkey/>

<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/Safe%20%26%20Healthy/PE%20Standards%20Final.pdf>

International Traditional Games: Montana. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.traditionalnativegames.org/>.

<http://blog.nativepartnership.org/native-americans-in-pro-sports/>

<https://teachingsofourelders.org/native-american-games/>

<https://news.runtowin.com/2010/08/27/billy-mills-1964-10000m.html>



Resources Cont.

Traditional Lakota Games-<https://vimeo.com/433749027>

<https://baseballhall.org/hall-of-famers/bender-chief>