

A Game Box

Though some games require specific materials, most of what you need to play the games can be found wherever you live, around the world.



Baleros

These simple toys (usually made of wood) are a challenge to play alone or in competition with friends.



Quoits/Flat Pebbles

These objects are traditionally used in tossing games. You can use all kinds of flat objects such as stones, coins, seeds, pieces of wood or metal, or shoe heels. Beanbags or other small cloth bags stuffed with seeds may also be used as quoits.



Chalk

In many games it is necessary to mark the playing area with a starting and/or ending point or to draw a diagram to jump on or around. Depending on the surface, these markings can be made with a piece of chalk or a stick.



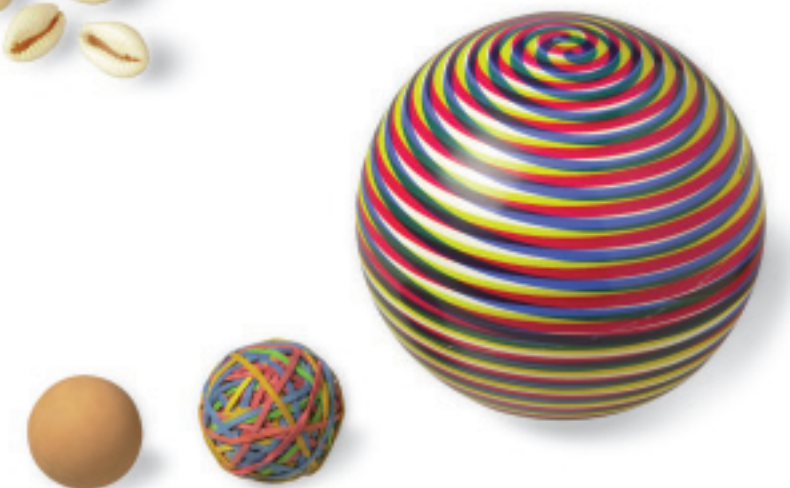
Dice

Dice may have two, four, six, or more faces, and they are often used to play traditional board games. A coin or a stick split in half can also make a good two-sided die. A die with four faces should be made from scratch.



Ball

Whether made of cloth or plastic, rubber or hide, the ball has been present in games played since ancient Roman, Greek, Mayan, and Aztec times.



Tops

Every country has its own version of a top. Some are made of clay, others of wood or stone. You can even make your own at home.



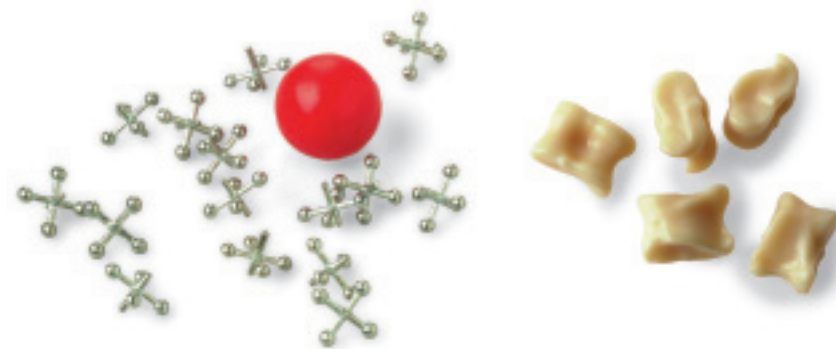
Marbles

Marbles are usually made of clay, glass, or steel, but sometimes you can even use dried fruit as marbles. Marbles, like many other objects used to play games, may also become collectors' pieces.



Pebbles, Bones, or Jacks

These small objects (often found in nature but are also sold in stores) are used to play a variety of games of skill or chance.



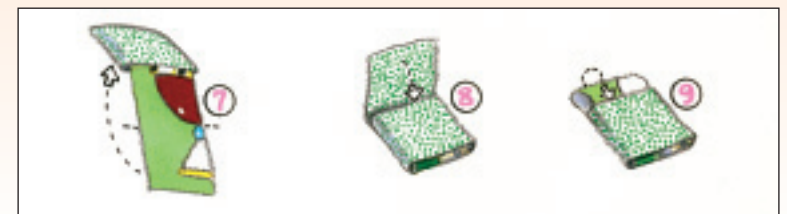
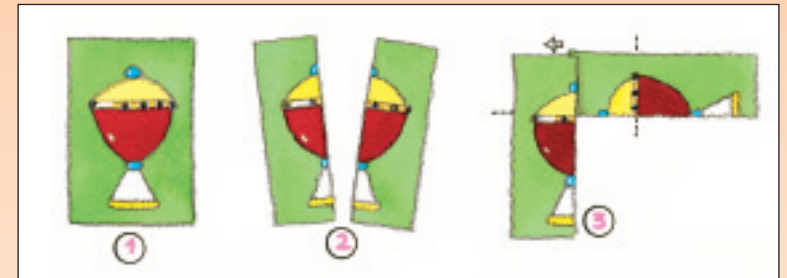
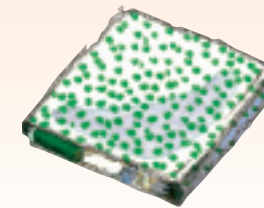
Cartetas

Cartetas can be made from old money, playing cards, or matchboxes.



DO YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE A CARTETA?

- 1-2. Divide a playing card in two approximately equal halves.
3. Arrange the two pieces so they form an L.
- 4-5-6. Fold the horizontal piece toward the back, then once more around to the front.
7. Fold the vertical piece forward just once.
8. Fold the vertical piece forward again so it will fit between the other two folds.
9. Cartetas show the card value on one side and the back of the card on the other side.



Boards for Games

Game boards can be made with simple materials; you can draw them on the ground or on a piece of wood. Some of the games included in this book require a playing board, and at the end of the book you will find different examples of boards that you can copy and then fasten to a hard surface.



Who Starts!

In many games, the players must decide who will be It, who will start the game, or what the order of the players will be. Making this decision can be a game in itself.

Manuhan

Philippines

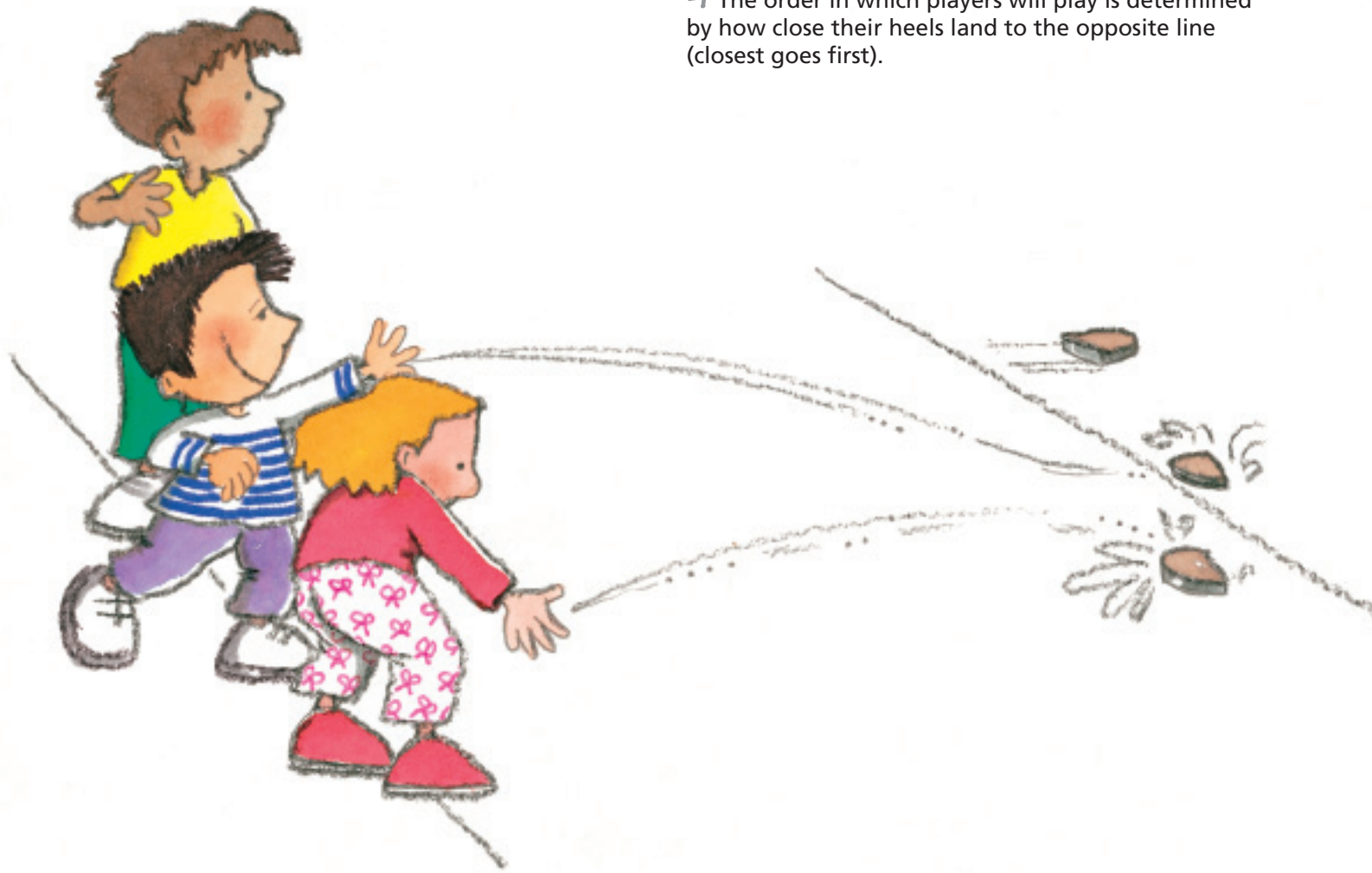
- **Number of players:** 3 to 8
- **Material:** quoits for each player (a flat shoe heel, a flat pebble, or any other small, flat object)

1 Two parallel lines are drawn on the ground about 4 yards apart (the distance may be agreed on beforehand).

2 All players stand on one of the lines.

3 The players take turns throwing the shoe heel toward the opposite line.

4 The order in which players will play is determined by how close their heels land to the opposite line (closest goes first).



Zic, zac, zuc

Traditional game in Catalan-speaking areas
(Spain, France, Italy, and Andorra)

- **Number of players:** more than 6

1 All players stand in a circle with the tips of their right feet touching each other.

2 At the same time all the players say, "One, two, three, zic, zac, zuc, one, two, three."

3 Each player then either moves his or her foot outside the circle or keeps it where it is.

4 Whichever group—the players who moved their feet or the ones who didn't—is in the minority keeps playing, while the others are out. Repeat "one, two, three, zic, zac, zuc, one, two, three" with the remaining players.

5 The last player is It.



DID YOU KNOW?

In Casablanca (Morocco), this game is played dropping the hand so it can be turned palm up or palm down. Before dropping the hand, the player says, "A la me set!"

The Shoemaker

Mexico

- **Number of players:** 2
- **Material:** a pebble

1 A player hides the pebble in one of his hands and makes two fists.

2 The player moves his fists up and down while saying, "Where does the shoemaker live, upstairs or downstairs?"

3 After the question, he places one fist on top of the other.

4 The second player guesses which fist holds the pebble and says "upstairs" or "downstairs."

5 The player with the pebble opens the indicated hand. If the pebble falls out, the player who guessed correctly is the winner. If the pebble does not fall out, the winner is the one holding the pebble.

