

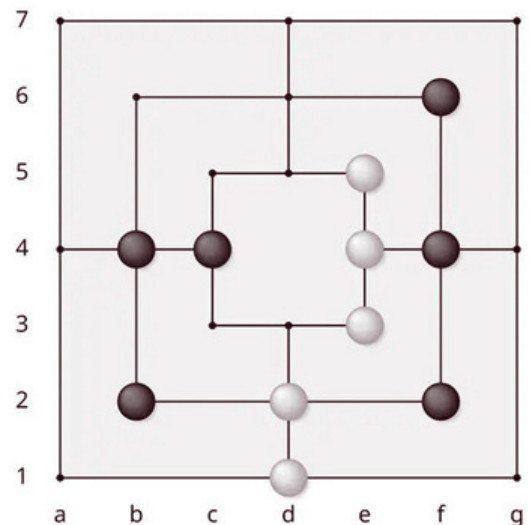
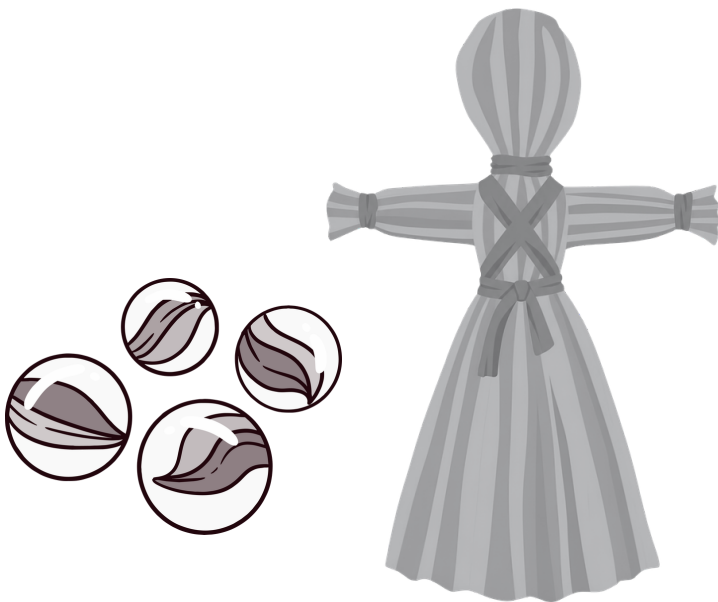
American Traditions



Program: Learn about the pastimes enjoyed by children of the Revolutionary Era.

Script: Take a moment and think about your daily life. What does your day look like? Do you go to school? Do you work a job? What do you do during your “free” time? (*spend a few moments discussing life today for children*)

Life for children was a little bit different during the Revolutionary times. Most children only did “school” when they were 6 to 8 years old and many learned at home. After learning to read and write, most children entered apprenticeships or similar contracts or worked to help their family on a farm or in a business or working as house servants for wealthier families. In general, only sons of wealthy families were allowed to continue formal education. However, even these working children engaged in play during their free time. Their games were often ones that required agility and skill and simple materials. Some games you may recognize like marbles, hopscotch, dolls and jacks. Some might be somewhat unfamiliar such as Hoops, Graces, or Nine Men Morris.



How to Make a Ball & Cup Toy

We are going to make a simple toy called a ball and cup. This game was played by both children and adults and there are many similar games from different cultures throughout the world. In Revolutionary times this would have been made by carving a small cup, attaching a handle and tying a ball to an attached string. We are going to use modern materials to cut down on the time needed to whittle the parts!



Items Needed:

Small paper cup

Large Craft Bead (Small Ball with Hole)

Craft Stick (Popsicle stick)

String or yarn (approximately 1 foot in length)

Directions

1. Take the cup and, using the scissors, create a hole in the center of the bottom of the cup.



2. Poke the craft stick through the opening (It should fit snugly)



3. Tie the string to the craft stick under the cup.



4. Tie the other end of the string through the large craft bead



5. To play with your cup and ball toy, try to get the ball into the cup by using only one hand on the handle of the toy to toss and catch the ball in the cup.

How to Make a Flute From Paper

Music was an important part of life in the Revolutionary times, as it is now. Both children and adults played instruments and sang songs. Some of these instruments were handed down in families, such as violins. Some instruments were made by ordinary people like drums and flutes. Take a moment to talk about instruments members or their families play (or would like to play). Do you have “family instruments” that have been passed through the ages?

Today we are going to make a simple flute using paper. In the Revolutionary times, these flutes might have been made by whittling a piece of wood or by using a hollow reed. The flute is a tube with an air hole and a “fipple” inside above the air hole. The fipple splits and vibrates the airstream, which makes the sound.

Below is a link to an article about music in the Revolutionary era:

<https://will.illinois.edu/clefnotes/entry/songs-of-the-american-revolution>

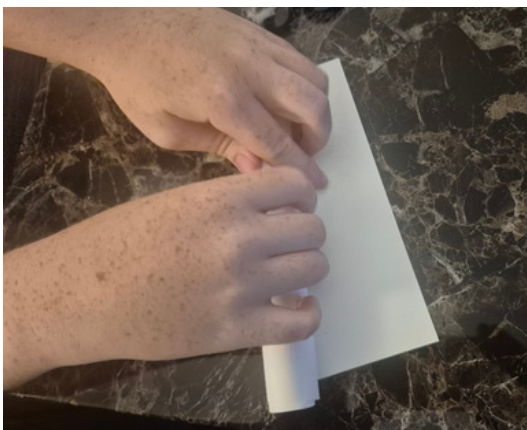


Items Needed:
Heavyweight paper like a magazine cover or cardstock
Scissors
Tape



Directions

1. Roll the paper tightly



2. Tape along the seam



3. Cut a small slit approximately an inch from one edge and a second slit a little below the first.



4. Cut off the slit to form a rectangular hole.



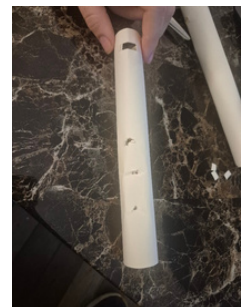
5. Using the end of the scissors, peel the inside layer away from the wall to form the fipple.



6. Put the top of the flute near the bottom lip and roll up. Blow through the opening.



7. If you want, add holes further down the flute. Cover and uncover the holes while blowing to change the note!



Name: _____

Date: _____

American Traditions: Children's Pastimes of the 18th Century

O J W H I T T L I N G T A Y E Y Z P P B K Z L P
N A N H A O N O T W S X X N K D W E T T H G P P
F C I I L P T O D Z R S U E B W U P Q J N S Q O
Q K L F N G O X R I B Y G I G I L R I H W K D B
A S L Q H E O T O C X M E K C S U U Z P I F Q C
T X P L K M M K G S W A S E E S H D F G K B P H
N B R S L I P E I N E L L A B D N A P U C N S C
F E F D D O T F N B I L W P A F S R N R R P C T
H R S F C G D E L S D N B O F U B N C Q O H C A
B K E F K O H G Y T M E N R R T H R I O A Y A M
S X C W M I N Z A H V O K I A R U O H P C K L G
E Z A L Z I N S F R I V R F P M A H Y J E T W N
N J R V H K A L L L B M F R J S L D S A R N I I
K T G S R C G L R V S R E Y I P E J N N O M I N
K C I L K K C O D J V M T C T S X J O A F W N N
U F M R L S T D F R D I C P Q G K X A M W S A I
X C A V O U J K A W U Z V V R X O R O F V O J R
V C Y N M Z X S T F A M F L X F E R K Y D R B G
E G G H T F Y U A F T H T U C Z F J F U I G L N
K S W M A N X H T I Q S W I Z U D L N P N M W T
Y F D C S A S N Y L M R C I H G L R U J A S E E
Q V K T L G N R A M T Z H C O K S F U T D E R V
R X R Y P V W O W O R W Q P D S E T I A E Y L P
Q H A V A K L C D B L I N D M A N S B L U F F F

Fishing

Whirligig

Whizzer

Whittling

Kite

Blind Mans Bluff

Bow and Arrow

Corn Husk Doll

Cup and Ball

Drum

Flute

Graces

Grinning Match

Hoops

Jacks

Leap Frog

Marbles

Nine Men's Morris

Ninepins

Rag Doll

Sack Race

Seesaw

Songs

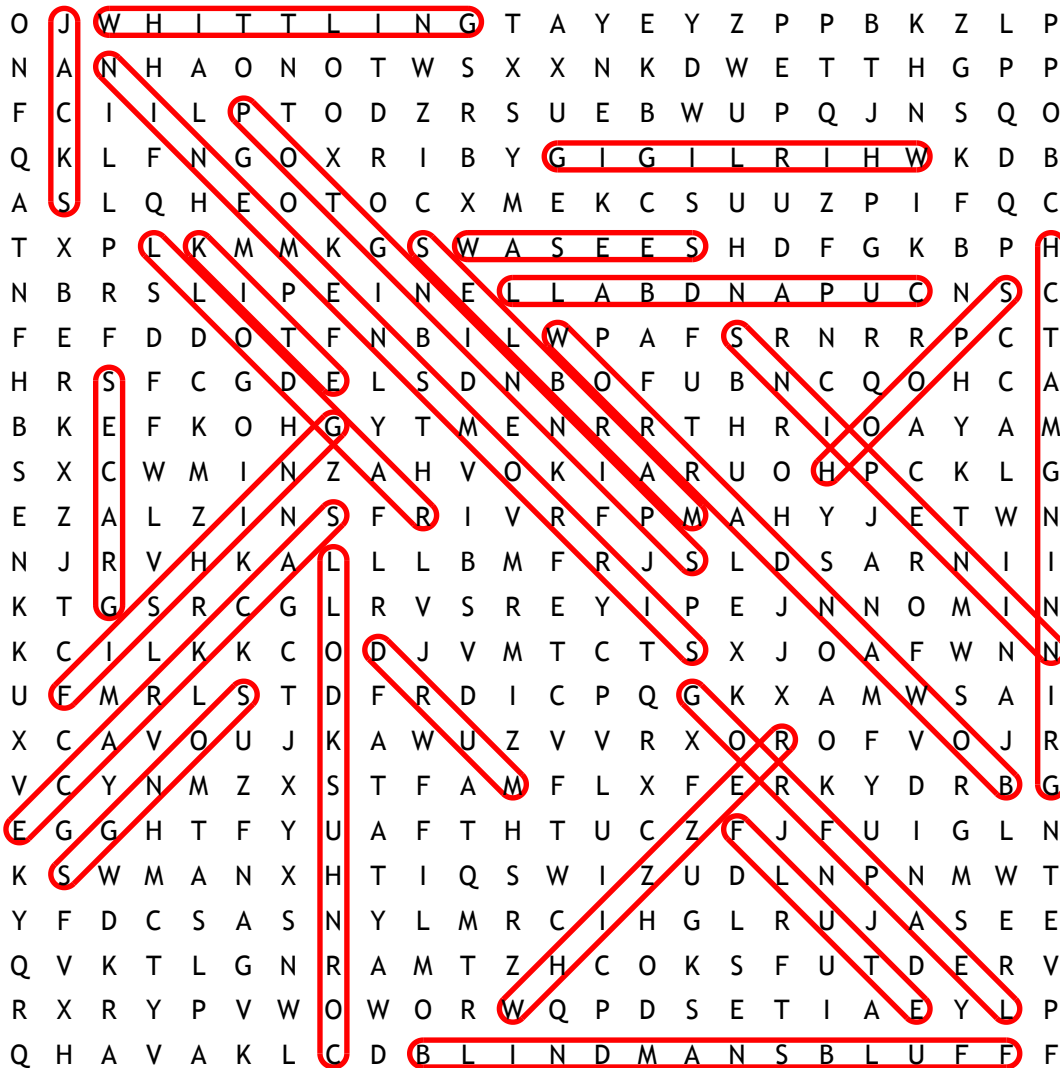
Spinning Top



Name: _____

Date: _____

American Traditions: Children's Pastimes of the 18th Century



- Fishing
- Whirligig
- Whizzer
- Whittling
- Kite
- Blind Mans Bluff
- Bow and Arrow
- Corn Husk Doll
- Cup and Ball
- Drum
- Flute
- Graces
- Grinning Match
- Hoops
- Jacks
- Leap Frog
- Marbles
- Nine Men's Morris
- Ninepins
- Rag Doll
- Sack Race
- Seesaw
- Songs
- Spinning Top