

Native American Heritage Day in a Box

Play the Chunkey Game

History

The Chunkey game was traditionally played by rolling disc-shaped stones across the ground and throwing spears at them in an attempt to train young Indigenous hunters. The game was usually played by two men. One would roll the stone and simultaneously both would throw their spears. The spear closest to the stone gained the most points. Games could be played for hours while spectators from the tribe would watch the activity.

What You'll Need

- Space to play the game
- Game pieces - drumsticks and the Chunkey Stone

Rules for Playing

Give each student a drumstick and have them hold onto their stick until the Chunkey stone is rolled.

Line up the students shoulder to shoulder on the starting line. Standing at the end of the line, the teacher will roll the Chunkey stone parallel to the line of students. Students will then throw their drumsticks at the Chunkey stone as it rolls by, aiming to hit the stone. Throws must be made from the starting line after the stone has started rolling but before the stone stops rolling. While throwing is taking place all students must keep their feet placed on the starting line. Students will remain on the starting line until all students have thrown their drumsticks. The teacher will announce when everyone can retrieve their drumsticks. Watch our Chunkey Game tutorial video on our website to see the game being played.



Scoring

1 point

If drumstick touches Chunkey stone

If no one touches Chunkey stone, award point to the closest stick

5 points

If the Chunkey stone stops on the drumstick

-1 point

If you step off the line before the teacher gives you permission to retrieve your stick

