



Make It Monday: Old-Fashioned Games

Today's AH-HA project gets your imagination and creative juices going as you learn an old-fashioned game and think about ways to use recycled materials to make new games.

Who:

- You and your family

What:

- What do you like to do to have fun? What are your favorite toys and games? Pioneer children loved to play just like you do. Do you think they would have played video games? Watched TV? Used an iPad? Of course not, but they still found ways to have fun.
- Some popular games of the 19th century (that's the 1800s) included: Hoop Rolling, Games of Graces (ring toss), Red Rover, dominoes, pick up sticks, Charades, Tiddly-winks, and card games. Do any of these sound familiar? Do you play any of these today?
- Some games that are popular today have been around for a long time. For example, did you know baseball was invented in 1840? The first set of official rules were created in 1845, the first official game was played in 1846 and the first women's team was formed in 1866! You can learn more about the game of baseball and people who played in by visiting <https://baseballhall.org/> the official website of the Baseball Hall of Fame.
- Often pioneer children would have to use materials they found around them to make their toys and games. They would learn to use a knife and carve or 'whittle' small pieces of wood into tops. Or maybe they would use a farm basket and a ball made of fabric to play a game like basketball.
- Corn Husk dolls were dolls made from the dried corn husks (that's the part of an ear of corn that we pull off before we eat

it). Corn husk dolls could be made easily and could be decorated in a lot of different ways. Both boys and girls made corn husk dolls. They could be used for pretend play like we would use action figures today.

- What items around your house could you use to make a new game or toy?

How:

- Guessing games like Charades were popular. This version called “Dumb Crambo” was a favorite in the 1800s. This is like Charades, but you must guess the mystery word by clues that are rhyming words.
- To play, you need two teams.
- Team one goes out of the room.
- Team two picks a mystery word and thinks of a list of words that rhyme with the mystery word. For example, if the mystery word is car, rhyming words might be jar, far, tar, bar, etc.
- Team one comes back in the room. Team two gives Team One the word that rhymes with the mystery word, so tar for example.
- **Team one** acts out what they think is the mystery word. So, they might guess the mystery word is car and pretend to drive a car. If they are right, they win a point. If they are wrong, they get two more chances to guess. If after three tries team one doesn't guess and act out the correct word, team two gets the point.
- Then the teams switch with team one picking the word and team two trying to act out the mystery word.
- For this game it is best to pick words with a lot of rhyming words.
- **Remember:** Unlike Charades, the team acting out the word is the one trying to guess the mystery word.
- Can you make up your own game? What would it be? What are the rules? Why not make up a game to play with your family

Extensions:

- Corn husks were not the only materials used to make dolls. Look around your house. What else could you use to make a doll? Think creatively. Make a whole family of dolls!
- In a way, being stuck at home is a bit like being a pioneer. What other games and toys can you make from the items you have around the house? Think about what you recycle. What could you make from disposable pie tins? Empty milk jugs? Empty egg cartons? Plastic lids? There are a lot of great websites with ideas out there but here are a few we found:
- <http://happysciencemom.com/trash-to-treasure-games/>
- <https://www.weareteachers.com/earth-day-crafts-classroom-activities/>
- <https://www.brighthub.com/environment/green-living/articles/71574.aspx>