BRINGING INTERNATIONAL INTO THE PROGRAM

International Crafts and Games for all Branches
Festive colours are an important part of everyday life in Mexico. Brilliantly coloured piñatas, baskets, clothing, and pottery brighten the shop windows. Artists handcraft colorful “Platos de colores” (PLAH-tohs deh coh-LOH-rehs), which means “colorful plate” in Spanish. Their creations are useful as dishes as well as works of art.

Material: scissors; paper plate (Royal Chinette type); string or yarn; pain (black and neon colours); paint brushes; hole punch.
Mola (Guide)

Page 78-79-Crafts from World Cultures

Molas are created by the Cuna Indians of the San Blas Islands off the coast of Panama. These art pieces are made by cutting through layers of coloured cloth and then stitching the edges to create designs. Molas were once made in animal and plant shaped and used to decorate women’s clothing. Today, molas are often framed or made into pins and worn as jewelry.

Materials: solid colour fabric remnants or paper; pencil or chalk; scissors; glue; brush.

Patterns:
The Huichol (WEE-chol) live in an area of Mexico that is isolated by a high mountain range. The Huichol offer their art, such as yarn painting, to the gods. To make a yarn painting, the artist carves a design into wax and then pressed yarn into the lines. The Huichol gods include Grandmother Growth (Nakawe), who is believed to bring water and good harvest to the people and health and long life to the children.

Materials: cardboard; yarn in bright colours; scissors; glue; paintbrushes; pencil.

1. **Draw** picture on cardboard.
2. **Brush** on glue.
3. **Lay** yarn on lines.
4. **Fill** in picture with yarn.
Aztec Sun God (Pathfinder/Senior Branches)

Page 50-53 –The Kids Multicultural Art Book

The sun is an important theme in Mexican and Central American arts and crafts. The Aztecs, who lived in Mexico from about 1300 to 1500, carved a huge Sun Stone that functioned as a type of calendar. Clay suns are still made in Mexico in a place called Metepec by the Nahua Indians, who are descendants of the Aztecs.

Materials: salt dough; scrap white paper for patterns; rolling pin’ wooden board; cookie sheet; plastic knife; toothpicks; popsicle stick; tempera paint (different colours including gold) in cups; acrylic glass varnish; paintbrushes.

1. Trace the circle pattern onto scrap paper and cut out
2. Roll out a ball of salt dough on a wooden board or piece of wax paper
3. Press the pattern gently onto the dough slab and cut out. Roll extra dough into a ball
4. Remove the pattern and move the dough circle to a cookie sheet, if it loses its shape wet your fingers and reshape it.
5. To decorate, roll out another slap and a coil from the extra dough. Cut out triangular or other shapes to make the sun’s rays, eyes, eyebrows, mouth, tongue, and anything else you want to add to the face.
6. Connect the shapes by pressing gently with wet fingers. Smooth all edges down. (A Popsicle stick makes a good tool for smoothing and connecting dough pieces).
7. Make a small hole at the top for hanging. Use a toothpick to make other designs, too.
8. Bake at 250 for 45 minutes to an hour for small projects and up to 2 hours for a large project.
9. When cooled, paint with bright coloured tempera paints mixed with some acrylic gloss varnish to prevent chipping.
Asia-Pacific Region

Poi (Spark/Brownie)

Page 9 – Small World (UK guide Association)

Poi, are decorative balls on rope used by Maori women (New Zealand) in their traditional dancing. These balls were usually made from dried grasses but you can make them with rice or similar grain.

Materials: rice; 2 sealable sandwich bags (per girl); 2 plastic carrier bags (per girl); string; sticky tape; 0.5 meter of medium size rope.

1. Place a couple of handfuls of rice in each sandwich bag.
2. Put on bag of rice into each carrier bag and tie a piece of string to secure the end you will probably need to cut away the top of the bag to make the rice a snug fit.
3. Using the tape attach a bag to each end of the piece of rope.

To dance with your Poi balls, hold one string in each hand and twirl them – they should not knock together.

![Illustration of a girl twirling Poi balls](image-url)
Kokeshi Dolls (Spark/Brownie)

Dolls are an important part of many Japanese festivals. One type of doll, the Koeshi (ko-KE-shee), is made of a long, round piece of wood, usually from the dogwood tree, and has a large, round head. Kokeshi dolls have no arms or legs, and their faces, hair, and clothing are all painted on with bright colours.

Materials: toilet paper roll; Styrofoam ball or 3" ball made from used aluminum foil; paper-mache mixture; newspaper strips; tempera paint in small cups (white, black); acrylic gloss varnish; printed origami or wrapping paper; construction paper (any colour); small piece of yarn or string; paintbrushes; pencil; glue and scissors.

1. Glue the foil ball to one end of the toilet paper roll.
2. Use paper-mache to cover the ball. Let dry.
3. Paint the whole doll with white paint with a bit of acrylic varnish mixed in. Let dry.
4. Mix a small amount of black paint with acrylic varnish. Paint on hair, eyes, nose and mouth as in the picture. Let dry.
5. Draw the kimono pattern onto the printed-paper and cut out. Wrap the kimono around the doll, overlapping the front, and glue into place. Make a sash out of construction paper and glue it down. Tie a small piece of yarn around the sash for the belt.
The Japanese doll festival of Hina Matsuri is celebrated on March 3. The traditionally dressed dolls used in the Hina Matsuri festival are not toys, but ceremonial figures of great value. Dolls are also displayed on Children’s Day (May 5) and are usually samurai figures dressed as feudal warriors. The two festivals are often combined.

Materials: cloths pins; scissors; origami paper or wrapping paper; glue; black marker and construction paper or scrap cloth for sash.

Kimonos – Have a kimono evening where everyone can dress up in a Japanese costume. Use dressing gowns for kimonos and long scarves for the sashes – obis. The girls can wear white socks with no shoes and carry Japanese fans.
Artists in Malaysia carved fans from sandalwood trees of the Bandi Forest. After carving and smoothing the fan sticks, the artists pierced tiny holes to create patterns. The fans were dipped into water before being used. This brought out the naturally scented oils in the wood. The handles of the fans were carved and the fans were given poetic names such as “Thundery-weather Flower”.

Materials: 6 pre-cut fan sticks (cut from a file folder or card stock) with 3 small holes in each; large needles threaded with heavy thread; brass paper fasteners; clear tape; markers; scent (if desired).
Indonesian Shadow Puppets (Pathfinder/Senior Branches)

Page 47 – A World of Ideas (UK Guide Association)

Shadow puppets are traditional in Indonesia. There is one tale about a prince who fights with a snake to rescue a princess. The templates below can be used to make puppets for the snake and the prince. Ask the girls to design their own princess. (For younger girls – Less intricate puppets may be more suitable. Either design your own or use the outlines from the templates but omit the detail).

Material: Tracing paper; stiff black paper; scissors or a sharp knife; garden can; sticky tape; paper fasteners; pin.

1. Trace the shapes from the templates and cut out the pieces for the puppets on the black paper or card. You may need very small scissors or a craft knife.
2. Join the pieces together using paper fasteners.
3. Prick out the tiny dots with a pin so that the light will shine through.

You may wish to enlarge the template.
Mehindi (Pathfinder/Senior Branches)

Internet

Mehindi is done with a substance made by the henna plant. Tattooing with henna plant. Tattooing with henna plants has been done since early Egyptian times. The henna plant Lawsonia Inermis is generally grown in hot, dry, climates, like Sudan, India.

In America, many different types of people wear Mehindi designs. In California, there are fancy Mehindi Salons where movie stars get beautiful designs on their hands and feet, Musicians, as well, believe mehindi to be trendy. But Indian people still wear the traditional mehindi for marriages and special occasions

Materials: henna design or template (or you can make you own design); henna ink or liquid makeup.
Europe Region

Danish Hearts (Spark/Brownie)

Page 29 – A world of Ideas (UK Guide association)

Traditionally these are made in red and white and used to decorate Danish homes at Christmas. They are very easy to make – at any time of the year!

Materials: circle tracer (sour cream lid); two pieces of colorful paper for each heart; scissors; glue; thread or ribbon; sweets or other small gifts to fill each heart.

1. Using the circle tracer – cut two circles in the colorful paper.
2. Fold both circles in half then slide one inside the other.
3. Glue them together to make a pocket.
4. Make a hole at the top and thread the ribbon through.
5. Place sweets or a gift inside the pocket in the heart.
Italian Carnival Masks (guides)

Page 78-81 – Kids Around the World Create!

Carnival in Venice, Italy is a time when people celebrate the coming of spring by dressing in costumes, having parades and going to parties and dances. One of the most important things about carnival is to wear a mask.

Materials: pencil; ruler; card stock or cereal box; scissors; tape; plastic straw; glue; decorations (sparkles, feathers, beads, gems, yarn, etc); paintbrushes; paint; bowl of water and paper towels.

1. Cut out a shape for a carnival mask – see templates.
2. Tape a straw to one side of the mask.
3. Add a nose if you like – see below.
4. Use paint and decorations to create a special mask.
Greek Worry Beads (Spark/Brownie)

Page 56-58 – Kids Around the World Create!

In the Middle East and Greece, some people have an interesting way to deal with worries. They roll a string of beads around in their hand to relieve tension. They call the beads “worry beads”. (In Guatemala – they make worry dolls).

Materials: yarn or string; scissors; 18-20 beads per girl (wooden or plastic); ruler

1. Cut a strand of yarn.
2. String the beads on the yarn. Leave about a 6-inch tail of yarn on both ends.
3. Tie the two ends of the yarn together in a knot close to the beads. Unravel the yarn ends. Trim the yarn ends a little shorter, if you like. With the worry beads in hand, you can forget your worries.

Tip: if you don’t have any yarn – use a shoelace.
Russian Nesting Dolls (guides)

Page 23 – Crafts from World cultures

Peasant families in Russia made matroshka “Nesting” dolls for their children. The men carved the dolls from hollowed out wood and the women painted the figures with brightly polished colours. At least two smaller dolls nestled within a large doll. The three dolls may have represented the grandmother, mother and daughter in a family. The dolls were also painted as characters in fairy tales and used to help tell the stories to children.

Materials: two plastic eggs (one large and one small); paint and white glue mixed in equal parts; paintbrushes; mild jug lids (for a base); sandpaper; scissors; glue; markers; damp paper towel to wipe off eggs.
Spanish Lace Work – Manitllas (Pathfinder/Senior Branches)

Page 28-29 – A World of Ideas (UK Guide Association)

Spanish Lace work – Spanish mantillas require patience but are fun to make! Try making a butterfly brooch.

Materials: tissue paper or tracing paper; fine netting; a needle and thread; stick pins; cotton of the same colour as the netting; scissors; safety pin/

1. Trace the butterfly below onto the tissue paper.
2. Cut out a piece of net the same size and pin it on top of the tracing.
3. Using the needle and tread weave the needle in and out of the holes in the fabric round the design. Be careful not to let the paper slip, but do not sew through it.
4. Fill in any areas you wish by weaving closely across the fabric
5. To turn the finished lace into a brooch, cut around the outside edge of the butterfly then sew the safety pin on the back.
Russia is famous for its lacquer ware. Craft workers made wooden utensils and paint them in luxurious designs of leaves, berries and flowers - vibrant in colour and rich in symbolism. White represents purity; yellow speaks of harvest; blue of the sky; and red - which is the most commonly painted colour - signifies happiness, hope and passion.

Materials: 1 wooden spoon per girl; brightly coloured paints (gold and various colours); varnish; paintbrushes and water to clean up

1. Have the girls sketch out a design and paint them on the wooden spoons.
2. Paint the spoons gold and allow to dry.
3. Using a thin brush and black paint – draw an outline of flowers, leaves and buds onto the spoon. Allow to dry.
4. Fill in the black outline with bright colours of paint.
5. Varnish – one side at a time. Allow to dry.
Arab Region

Shakura Rattle (Spark/Brownie)

Page 27 – Crafts from World Cultures

Rattles were used as a “snake sound” in ancient Egypt to scare unwelcome visitors, Native Americans and Africans used rattles as musical instruments during ceremonies. Rattles were made from such materials as gourds, tortoise shells, horns, and clay. Crafters filled rattles with shells, beans. Seeds, pebbles, and other bits of materials.

Materials: 6 strings with beads tied to the ends; popcorn or beans; sturdy paper cups; masking tape; thin dowels or unsharpened pencils; tissue paper; paintbrushes; liquid starch; scissors and tempera paint (various colours).
Prehistoric Cave Paintings (Spark/Brownie)

Page 31-34 – Kids Around the World Create!

Prehistoric people painted pictures on cave walls and rock surfaces. These pictures showed the different seasons, people working, handprints and people hunting animals. Rock art from the desert in Jordan shows a herd of camels with their babies. These early forms of visual communication help us understand how prehistoric people lived because their art recorded their life stories.

Materials: pencil; ruler; brown paper; scissors; paintbrush; paint; small bowl of water; paper towels.

1. Cut out a piece of brown paper with a jagged edge to give it a cave like appearance
2. Crinkle the paper into a ball and then smooth it out.
3. Trace your hands onto the paper (you may wish to have a friend help you).
4. Paint over the outline of your hands with one colour of paint.
5. Add some prehistoric symbols. Let dry.
Ancient Egyptian Beads (Guides)

Page 21-23 – Kids Around the World Create!

People all over the world have used beads for a long time. Beads have been found in tombs in ancient Egypt. They were used as money, to show wealth, and to provide protection from evil spirits.

The ancient Egyptians made jewelry with beads. They believed that being buried with jewelry would bring luck and protection from evil. Traditional Egyptian jewelry used charms and beads of different shapes and sizes made from gems and clay.

Materials: scrap paper; pencil; homemade dough or store bought self hardening clay; ruler; paintbrush; plate; toothpick; and twist ties; paint; water; paper towels; egg carton; acrylic sealer spray; scissors and yarn.

1. Use paper and pencil to design beads for a necklace.
2. Use dough to create beads of ¼ inch to ½ inch thick by about ½ inch to and inch long.
3. Poke a hole in each bead with the toothpick or blunt end of a paintbrush.
4. Place the bead on a plate to dry.
5. Use the toothpick or twist ties to hold the bead while painting them.
6. Paint beads different colours and let dry by sticking the toothpick in the egg carton.
7. Once dry – spray with a sealant.
8. String beads and charms onto yarn or string and tie a knot.
Egyptian Paper Beads (Pathfinders/Senior Branches)

Page 90-91 – Kids’ Multicultural Art Book

The people of Egypt have been making beads since the time when the great pyramids were built, 5000 years ago. They wore wide collars of beads made from gems, glass, or ceramics for decoration.

Materials: magazine or flyer pages; yarn; metal washers or buttons; paintbrush handle; glue and scissors.

1. Cut magazines in 1-inch strips and spread glue all over each strip.
2. Place the paintbrush handle on one end of paper strip. Fold the end of the strip over the handle and glue it down.
3. Roll the paintbrush (and paper)-gently pull the brush out. Leave the bead to dry.
4. Place paper beads on yarn with a washer between. (Tip: dip the end of the yarn in glue and allow to dry – this will make it easier to feed through the beads).
5. Make strands different lengths and wear together.
Hieroglyphic Names (Pathfinder/Senior Branches)

Page 39 – Small World (UK guide Association)

Hieroglyphic shapes were used inside an oval shape “cartouche” to identify a name. You can still find this technique used today to form pendants on a chain.

Material: photocopy of cartouche template (see below); hieroglyphic alphabet; pens and pencils (glue; wrapping paper and scissors are optional).

1. Inside the cartouche write your name using the hieroglyphic alphabet.
2. Make the hieroglyphic pictures more realistic by coloring them.
3. Decorate around cartouche with little hieroglyphs – girls can draw them or cut them out of wrapping paper.
Africa Region

Adinkra Sponge Stamps (Spark/Brownie)

Page 112-113 – Kids’ Multicultural Art Book

The Asante of Ghana make Adinkra cloth. Beautiful fabric patterns are made from symbols that are stamped on the cloth in squares of pattern. Four Adinkra symbols with special meaning are love (the heart); strength (the plus sign)’ rhythm (Capital “I”) and patience (the crescent moon).

Materials: sponges; paper or material; scrap paper; paint (black and other colours); paper plate for paint; black felt tip pen; black marker; pencil and scissors.

1. Trace symbol onto scrap paper and cut out.
2. Place pattern onto sponge and use a felt tip pen to dot trace the pattern onto the sponge.
3. Cut around the dots with scissors.
4. Squeeze paint onto plate. Dip sponge into paint and make a pattern of four on paper or cloth.
Masai Beaded Collar (Spark/Brownie)

Page 88 – Kids Around the World Create!

Masai women of Kenya, a country in eastern Africa, wear stiff beaded collars around their necks to let men know that they are available for marriage. Sometimes a woman has so many collars that she stacks them, one on top of the other.

Materials: paper plate; scissors; crayons or markers.

1. Cut the middle out of a paper plate to make a ring. You may cut through one side to make it easier to slip it around the neck.
2. Use crayons and markers to color the collar to resemble beads.
3. Make more than one collar and stack them.
4. You can also use glue and yarn to decorate the plates or sequins or other materials.
The Wodaabe (wee-DA-bee) people of Niger wear leather pouches decorated with cowrie shells, beads, copper and more, around their necks. Other Africans use found objects like large safety pins and even pieces of zippers in their arts and crafts.

Materials: brown paper or poster board; gimp or string; aluminum foil; pencil; glue; tape; scissors; hole punch and decorations (beads, buttons, etc).

Fold paper in half and cut out the shape of your pouch. Be sure to cut only three sides, leaving the folded side intact.
Cut a flap on one side. Tape a piece of foil on the inside of the flap opening.
Use hole punch, to punch holes around the three sides that require stitching.
Use string or gimp to stitch through the holes, leaving enough string to tie a knot in and make a handle.
Decorate the front of the pouch with beads, etc.
Zulu “oops” Basket (Pathfinder/Senior Branches)

Page 61-63 – Kids Around the World Create!

In the Hluhluwe (shah-SHLEW-ee) area of KwaZulu Natal (wah-ZU-LU-NAH-tahl) a province within the Republic of South Africa, village women weave beautiful baskets of palm and rush reed. The Zulu women teach their daughters, some as young as 5, the traditional art of basket weaving. The children weave small baskets called “oops” baskets because sometimes they make mistakes as they weave. The baskets are great for holding nuts and candy.

Materials: scissors; plastic container (yogurt, etc); ruler; yarn; masking tape; paper clip.

1. Cut slits into the cup from the rim to the bottom of the cup. You must have an uneven number of strips. (11,13,15,or 17 strips works well.
2. Cut a piece of yarn approximately 6 meters in length. Insert the yarn between two strips. Slide it to the bottom and fasten to the inside of the cup with a piece of tape.
3. Begin to weave the strand in front and behind the next strip, pushing the yarn down to the bottom. Tape the end of the strand.
4. Cut a second piece of yarn approximately 6 meters in length and begin at the next strip.
5. Continue to weave until you reach the rim of the cup. Secure the ends of the yarn. Using the paper clip weave the end in so that it doesn't unravel.

![Diagram of basket weaving process]
Andinkera was a king in Africa who wore robes covered with intricate designs. During a battle, King Andinkera was killed by the Ashanti, who took his robe as a trophy. Today, African clothing is often printed with Andinkera symbols. The colorful printed cloth is worn for many occasions by both men and women and is considered an elegant form of dress.

Materials: sticky back foam; wood block; ink pad; craft knife or scissors; cloth or paper.
Games

Region – Western Hemisphere

Cielo, Luna, Mar (sky, moon, sea)

Country of Origin – Chile
Age Group – Spark/Brownie

This game is usually played on a set of stairs. It is also usually played with two players. It can be adapted for bigger groups. It is also a great game to play as the girls are arriving. Small groups can take turns.

**Preparation** – The stairs are labeled with Sky, Moon and Sea. One player is the caller. The other person is the jumper.

**How to play**
1. The jumper stands at the bottom of the stairs.
2. The caller shouts “sea”, “sky” or “moon”.
3. The jumper jumps one step at a time onto the step called by the caller.
4. The caller keeps calling until the jumper misses.
5. Then the jumper becomes the caller.

**Adaptation** – If you feel that the stairs are too dangerous you can write the words on the ground in boxes (use chalk on a cement floor or make pictures to put on boxes on the floor). Then have the girls jump from box to box in the same way they would stairs. You could have several sets ready so that girls can join in and more girls can play. The only adaptation is that they are playing on a flat ground.

Shoo Winter Out

Country of Origin – Tierra del Fuego, Argentina
Ages – Guides

This game is best played with a large group of girls in a large open area outdoors or in a gym.

**Preparation** – Break the group into two teams. To identify the teams you may wish to have half of them wear their scarves and the other half take their scarves off. (In Tierra del Fuego the children in one group mark their foreheads with a piece of coal) Name one team WINTER, the other SUMMER. Mark off a circular playing area approximately 4.5 feet in diameter.

**How to play**
1. Summer team stands in the centre of the circle, and the winter team stands just on the inside of the marked area.
2. Both teams cross their arms across their chests-players must remain like this for the entire game. Anyone who drops her arms is out of the game.
3. During a set amount of time, the summer team tries to shove the winter team out of the circle using only their backs and shoulders. Winter team members who are pushed out of the circle become a member of the summer team.
4. When the time is up the teams change roles.

Trier
Country of Origin – Trinidad
Ages – Pathfinder/Senior Branches

This game involves quick reflexes and lots of practice. Children in Trinidad play this anywhere they can find a few small pebbles. This game can be played with any number of players.

Preparation – Each player needs 5 pebbles or dried beans.

How to play
1. Players should practice throwing their beans up in the air and catching them. Once the players have mastered throwing the beans with one hand and catching them all with one hand they can go onto the next step.
2. The second step is for the players to throw the beans up but rather than catch them in their palms they must catch them on the back of their hands. Finally, with one smooth motion, tell them to flip the beans resting on the backs of their hands to their palms.
3. Players score points by how many beans they end up catching in their palms.
4. At the end of three rounds, the player with the highest score wins.

Region – Asia Pacific

Pusa at aso

Country of Origin – Philippines
Ages – Spark/Brownie

Pusa at Aso means cant and dog in the Filipino language of Tagalog. This game teaches the children how to work together while having fun.

Preparation and Set Up – Pick two players – one to be the cant and one to be the dog. Have the other players join hands and make a large circle. The dog stands on the outside of the circle, the cat on the inside.

How to play
1. On the count of three, the dog tries to run into the circle and catch the cat. Both the cat and dog can run in and out of the circle as they wish.
2. Players in the circle are there to help the cat. To prevent the dog from catching the cat, players can raise and lower their joined hands making it hard for the dog to pass by.
3. If any player in the circle feels that the dog needs a break then she can yell, “Open the gates” and everyone releases their hands.
4. When the cat is caught then a new cat and dog are chosen.
5. To add to the excitement and a change to the game a leader or girl may wish to yell “Switch” and then the cat must try to chase the dog.

**Mah Kha Diew (mah-kah DEE-o)**

**Country of Origin – Thailand**
**Ages – Brownie and Guide**

In Thailand children like to play tag. Mah Kah Diew is a different tag game from ones that we know. In this game the children tag each other with their feet. The name of the game actually means “Horse with one leg”.

**Preparation and Materials needed** – Draw a circle with a piece of chalk. Make it large enough for all of the players to hop in and out of. Chose someone to be IT.

**How to play**
1. IT stands in the circle
2. Players move in and out of the circle by hopping
3. Players inside the circle can be tagged by IT. But IT can only tag people with her foot.
4. Once IT tags a person they become the new IT.

**Train Stations**

**Country of Origin – Sri Lanka**
**Ages – Pathfinder/Senior Branches**

This game originally used the names of all of the train stations in CEYLON, which is now Sri Lanka. It can be adapted to use different countries, towns, streets, local train stations or metro stations, bus stops etc.

**Preparation and set up** – The girls all sit in a circle with a leader in the middle. All of the girls chose a country, street etc (whatever theme you chose). Have the group all say what place they have chosen out loud one by one so that everyone knows what is around the circle.

**How to play**
1. The leader says, “A train runs from __________ to __________.”
2. The two people whose location is called out run and switch places.
3. At the same time the leader tries to run and take one of the places.
4. The person left standing is the next leader.
5. If the leader wishes she can say “All trains run express” and then everyone needs to change places.
6. If the leader wishes she can call three stations at one time.
7. The group can make it as complicated as they wish to. This is a memory and concentration game for all involved.
Region – Africa

Big Snake

Country of Origin – Ghana
Age – Guides

This game develops skills in cooperation, coordination and quick reflexes.

Preparation – Pick one person to be the SNAKE. The snake goes to one corner of the area, which is designated as the snake’s home base.

How to play
1. At the sound of a whistle the snake comes out of her home base. The snake tries to catch the other players. Tagged players become the body of the snake. They join hands with the snake and then continue to try to catch the others.
2. The original snake is always the leader and determines which order her body goes in. Only the snake’s head and tail can tag other players with their free arm.
3. The other players that are trying not to be tagged can try to cause the snake to break by twisting and turning. If the snake does come apart it has to return to its home base to re-group and join up again. (This gives the players who are trying not to be tagged a little chance to breath and rest while the snake re-teams).
4. The games ends when everyone is caught.

Catching stars

Country of Origin – Zaire
Ages – Spark/Brownie

Since the beginning of time people have been fascinated with the stars. For this game you will require a large area to run around.

Preparation – Divide in to two groups. Name one the stars (about a third of the group), and one the catchers (the rest of the group). Set up two parallel boundaries about 6 meters apart. The catchers stand in the middle of the boundaries while the stars stand on one of the boundaries.

How to play
1. The catchers start the game by reciting together ‘STAR LIGHT STAR BRIGHT HOW MANY OF THE STARS ARE OUT TONIGHT?’
2. The stars respond ‘MORE THAN YOU CAN CATCH’.
3. Then the stars make a mad dash to the other boundary – trying not to be tagged by the catchers.
4. Tagged stars become catchers.
5. The game continues until all of the stars are caught. The last person caught is the winner.
Ampe

Country of Origin – Ghana
Ages – Pathfinder/Senior Branch

This is a game where you need to have quick reactions. This game has been adapted in all parts of the world. In Ghana the game is a matter of getting the right foot forward so to speak.

Preparation – Make partners. The two people that face one another. They will compete against one another. Label one person even and one odd.

How to play
1. Together the two clap their hands and shout one, two, and three. On three each sticks out a foot.
2. Scoring – if player’s stick out facing feet (left for one and right for the other), evens wins a point. If the players stick out opposite feet (the same feet), odd wins a point.
3. Once this is mastered, the game gets harder. On the second clap players jump once before sticking out a foot. The game can continue with players making up movements to do before shooting out their legs (i.e., jump, hop, turn around etc).

Region – Europe

Gooddag

Country of Origin – Sweden
Age – Sparks and Brownies

In Swedish Gooddag means Good Day. This game is often played at the beginning of the school year as a way for the children to get acquainted. Because of its name and easy rules, it is also a fun way of introducing special words from another culture the Unit is studying.

Preparation – Players hold hands and form a big circle. One person is chosen to be it.

How to play
It runs around the circle and taps one person on the shoulder. This person and it run in opposite directions. The other players leave this person’s spot open. When the players meet, they shake hands and say to each other “Gooddag”, and then race in opposite directions to the empty spot. The player to the spot first is safe, the other is the new It.

Adaptation – You could use other languages such as
Nations

Country of Origin – Czech Republic
Ages – Guide and Up

Preparation and Equipment needed – mark out a circle area, you will need a soft ball.
Pick one person to be a leader and have the rest of the group chose a country to
represent. Each girl takes a turn to say which country they wish to be.

How to play
1. To start the players all stand around the circle with one foot touching the circle.
The leader starts in the middle of the circle with the ball at her feet.
2. To start the game the leader yells out one of the countries that is represented.
3. The girl who is representing that nation has to run into the centre of the circle and
grab the ball. When she does this she yells “STOP”.
4. Everyone must freeze.
5. The called nation then tries to hit another nation below the belt with the ball.
   Neither player can move their feet in order to throw or avoid the ball.
6. If the person is hit she runs to get the ball and returns to her place where she
   was when she was hit by the ball. She then tries to hit another nation.
7. This continues until someone misses. Then the game starts again.

Region – Arab

Tug of War

Country of Origin – Afghanistan
Ages – All

Originally the tug of war was a dramatization of the battle between nature’s good and
evil forces. It has been said to represent rain and drought or predict weather or the
results of harvest. In Afghanistan a tug of war is between two people. The two people
use a piece of wood and not a long rope as we do here in Canada.

Supplies needed and Preparation needed – Baseball bat or a wooden board
approximately one meter long. Players draw a line on the ground.

How to play
Players stand on opposite sides of the line facing each other.
Each player grasps the board. The object is to pull your opponent across the line.
Haft Sang

Country of Origin – Iran
Ages – Guides and up

In the streets of Iran you will see groups of children playing a form of tag called Haft Sang (pronounced HAHFT SANG), which means seven stones. This game teaches teamwork and strategy.

Preparation and supplies needed – 7 stones, and a ball is needed. Players need to be divided equally into two teams. Players from one team put the stones in a pile. Players from both teams are scattered from 4-6 feet away from the pile of stones.

How to play

1. The players from team two each take a turn trying to knock over the pile of stones with the ball.
2. If a team two player scatters the stones, a team one player must attempt to pile them up again.
3. Team two player tries to stop this by throwing the ball at any team one player – the team one player who is piling the stones should try to be shielded by the others on her team.
4. If the person is hit they are out. If the person who is piling the stones is hit she too is out and another must take her place piling up the stones.
5. If a player from team one succeeds in piling the stones before all of her teammates are tagged out, the team gains a point.
6. The first round ends when team one has succeeded in piling up the stones or all of the players are tagged out.
7. Then team two piles up the stones and team one tries to knock them over. (Roles reverse).
8. There is no specific end to the game. One may wish to decide the number of points needed to win the game.
Resources

Arlette N. Braman. *Kids Around the World Create! The Best Crafts and Activities from Many Lands.* John Wiley & Sons, Inc 1999


*A World of Ideas: The ultimate activity pack of program ideas from around the world.* The Guide Association (United Kingdom)