

# PLAY GAMES WITH PEBBLES

If you have some pebbles or stones, then you can play all these games.

## Hopscotch

Draw the grid on the ground with chalk. Then, play this game on your own or in a group taking turns. If you step on a line, stumble or put the wrong foot down, you have to start again.

The grid



1 Throw a pebble onto square 1. Hop over square 1, and land on 2 on one foot...



2 Hop again and land with your left foot on square 3 and your right on 4...



3 Hop onto 5, 6 and 7, then hop onto 8. Jump around, then hop back to 2. Pick up the pebble...



4 Then hop onto 1 and hop off the end of the grid.

5 Next, throw the pebble onto square 2 before hopping along the grid. This time you have to hop over square 2. Hop back, stopping at squares 3 and 4 to pick up the pebble.

6 Keep playing until you have thrown the pebble onto all the squares. Hop up and down the grid each time. Remember to hop over the square that the pebble is on and pick it up on your way back.

## On target

Any number of players can play this game, but first you need to make a target...

1 Stick two sheets of newspaper together with tape.

2 Draw a small circle in the middle before adding two bigger circles around it.

Write numbers on the target for scores.



You could draw the target in damp sand if you're on a sandy beach.



3 Then, try to throw pebbles inside the target's rings.

## Nim

Nim is a game for two players.

1 Place 16 pebbles in four rows like this:



If you've got no pebbles, you can even play Nim with a pen and paper. Draw circles in rows and cross them out, to take them away.

2

Take turns removing as many pebbles as you like – but only from one row at a time. The winner is the person who forces the loser to pick up the last pebble.

## How many in hand?

Hide up to five pebbles in your hand and make a fist. Then, challenge people to say how many you're holding. If they guess correctly, they score a point. If not, you score instead. Keep playing until someone has scored 5 points.



Try to trick your opponents... Make a fist with an empty hand.

Squeeze your hand tightly or gently to disguise how many pebbles you're holding.

## Toss, pick up, catch

Play this game on your own using one hand only.

Keep your other hand behind your back.



1 Place five pebbles on a table in front of you.

2 Toss a pebble in the air; then quickly pick up another pebble and catch the first pebble before it lands.

3 Put one pebble aside.

4 Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you've picked up all the pebbles.

5 Now try tossing a pebble and picking up two, three or four pebbles together before catching the first.

This game is also known as jacks or fives.

The ancient Romans and Greeks played a game like this with small bones from the legs of sheep called astragalus bones.



# Usborne Activities

Find similar activities like this in **Never Get Bored Book**. Share your activities with us #UsborneActivities.

Illustrations by Various  
Copyright © Usborne Publishing Limited, 2025.

