

Yes. Marbles are artifacts

From <https://forums.arrowheads.com/forum/information-center-gc33/pseudo-artifacts-geofacts-gc98/commonly-misidentified-modern-items-gc100/106891-balls-and-spheres-etc>

MARBLES

Yes, marbles are artefacts... they're just not Native American artefacts, and they may not be very old. Marbles as we know them were first made in Germany in the 1800's and were mass-produced from around the 1870's onwards. They were sometimes used as saleable ballast in empty ships sailing to American ports to pick up cargoes – hence their popularity in America. As demand increased, they began to be manufactured in America and there were major manufacturing companies in Ohio and West Virginia.



Most people think “glass” at the mention of marbles, but earthenware and clay marbles were made in the millions and are the most common dig find. Children – and probably adults too - lost them everywhere.



You wouldn't readily confuse the glass ones or those having colourful surface decoration with Native American artefacts but plain ones made of fired earthenware or clay can look and feel like stone. They're usually tan or pale grey colour but are sometimes dyed brown, red, blue, green or yellow and when hand-made may not be perfectly round:



[pic by the seller boomerville via Etsy]

These date from the 1860's and have lost whatever surface colour they once had. Note that the top one has the remnants of a “bullseye” design, which is not uncommon:

[pic by the seller MuseumTreasures via Etsy]

Typical sizes are usually around ½ inch to ¾ inch like most of those pictured above but larger ones exist – up to about 2 inches or so. These are around an inch in diameter and made from pipe clay:

These items can sometimes be identified by the fact that they have a few sizeable pores in the surface. There are Order copies of [Marbles For Good](#) (August 2020) by Rich Maxwell MS ED, at www.MarbleKeeper.com

Leaders: Downloads are a work in progress. Please feel free to send your ideas and feedback to author Rich Maxwell. Marblekeeper@gmail.com

a couple of examples at the top of the web-page linked below, as well as some good information about marbles in general elsewhere on the site:

<http://www.marblecollecting.com/marb...e/earthenware/>

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I thought you might enjoy seeing part of my cousin Curtis Yates's marble collection. Clark County, Missouri. Some are personal found on Indian camps and others were purchased at auctions, flea markets, etc. the black one and the one with the two stripes encircling the marble were both found on Indian sites.

There were Ioway, Oneota, Missouria, Salk, Fox, and Illinois Indian areas of influence in Northeast Missouri that all made pottery ware in the times they were around here.

Indian made pottery pieces in Northeast Missouri date back to the Late Middle Woodland

Period around the AD 200+ ybp time frame. I have a few shard examples of early pottery I have found but they are very thick and clumsily made and were marked very rarely. Indian made pottery was always fragile but very large vessels were made in our area to aid in processing large quantities of nuts and fruits. It was mostly too fragile to place directly in the fire so fire rocks were used to heat the contents.

This far up the Mississippi River the Cahokia Sphere seems to have had little influence on groups already living in this area. With the exception of the shell tempered pottery found around the Iliniwek Village State Historic Site in Northeastern Clark County, occupied ca. 1650-1680 by the Peoria Tribe of the Illinois Confederacy, all Indian pottery around here is grit tempered.



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Stick Balls

<http://peachstatearchaeologicalsociety.org/index.php/22-game-stones>



A reconstructed stick ball and the inner core stones courtesy of the Ocmulgee National Monument

Like its predecessor, Chunky, stick ball was a game of chance that brought people together from neighboring villages. As Chunky diminished in popularity during the 18th century, stick ball became the central focus and continues to be popular today among Native Americans. Not unlike major sports today, those who excelled at the game became local heroes much like a great warrior might have become.

Stick ball required skills similar to those required by warfare - strength, speed, endurance, and agility. The game was often referred to as "younger brother to war" and "little war." Early observers described the games as extremely chaotic and quite violent, not unlike a battle. Unlike lacrosse, stick ball was played with two hickory sticks of about 30 inches in length with leather webbing on one end. The cups on these rackets was a good deal smaller than a lacrosse racket. The balls were made from stitched hide stuffed with deer hair, often with a small stone or other solid object in the center.

The field size varied with the size of the teams, which could be any number of players as long as the teams were of even numbers. Goal posts could be one post, two posts, or two posts with a cross bar. Scoring required a player with the ball to touch or pass through the goal posts.