

## Quoits A home-based lesson plan

### Historical Background



Quoits is a traditional game that involves throwing a ring onto a spike on the ground. Games similar to quoits were played as far back as ancient Greece. English colonists brought the game to the Americas where it was a popular colonial game for children. Children would make their own rings out of branches or strips of leather, while those who could afford them bought heavy, iron rings. In the 1800s, Americans started to use old horseshoes instead of expensive metal rings. Quoits is still a popular game in England, Scotland, and Wales. Quoits is still played in the United States although the game of horseshoes is more popular.

The spike is traditionally called a hob. Quoit rings can be made of wood, metal, rope, or rubber. Typically, people playing backyard quoits will use wood or rope rings. It was also popular to play quoits on the deck of **passenger ships** to pass the time on long journeys. People only played with rope rings on ships so they did not damage the ship's wooden deck.

The rules vary but a typical way of playing is with two players, each with two rings, and one hob. The players take turns throwing their rings at the hob. If a player throws a ring onto the hob, this is called a "ringer" and is worth two points. Each ring that lands closer to the hob than your opponent is worth one point. Players play until one person reaches a set number, usually 21, and is declared the winner.

Quoits improved children's hand-eye coordination, gave them an opportunity to practice addition, and provided a fun break from all their household chores such as fetching water from the well, collecting firewood, and taking care of farm animals.



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Key Words

*Passenger ship* - a ship with the main purpose of transporting, or moving, people rather than things, such as mail or exported goods. Passenger ships include cruise ships, ferries, and ocean liners. Before air travel, ocean liners were the main source of transportation across oceans. Many immigrants arrived in American on ocean liners.

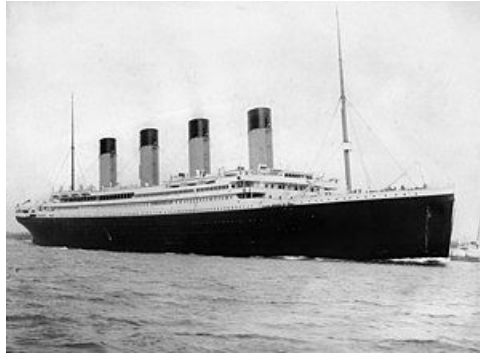


Photo credit: Wikipedia

Activity - Make your own game of quoits!

Supplies:

- Various materials from around the house that can be used to make rings and a hob
- Scissors, glue, tape, etc.

\* This is a great activity to use recycled materials. Parent/guardian supervision is recommended.



Instructions:

1. Use whichever material you choose to make four rings. You can use a piece of rope, a flexible branch from a tree, pipe cleaners, etc.
2. Use whichever material you chose to make the hob or spike. You can use a water bottle, paper towel holder, etc.
3. Play with two players at a time. Each player takes turns throwing their rings at the hob. Each ring that lands on the hob are worth two points. Each ring that is closer to the hob

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than the other player's is worth one point. Have everyone help keep score. Play until one player reaches or surpasses a set number, such as 10.

