



Colonial Toys and Games

Colonial kids' lives looked very different. No electricity means modern toys that need batteries were impossible. Additionally, most kids lived on farms, so they had lots of chores. However, kids still found ways to have fun!

Play Colonial Toys and Games at Home

Noughts and Crosses: Use the attached board to play a timeless game, now known as "Tic Tac Toe!" Colonial kids called it "Noughts and Crosses".

Some Things Never Change: Can you figure out what popular game "hop frog" is today? To experience some Colonial life, try playing jump rope, hopscotch, dice or card games!

Craft and Game: Make a Whirligig

History of Whirligigs: Native Americans, American Colonists, and Europeans all played with whirligigs through the centuries. Wind the string up, pull in and out, and let momentum spin the string. Think of them as the Colonial fidget spinner!

Supplies	Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardboard circle, cut to the template size attached • 2 patterns from the attached template (or construction paper/crayons to make your own) • 2 ft string • Kitchen skewer • Scissors and glue 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Glue one pattern onto cardboard and cut around it. Glue the second pattern onto the reverse 2. Poke two small holes in the whirligig with the kitchen skewer 3. Thread string through both holes, tying a knot when you're done (this will create an equal amount of double string on both sides with the cardboard in the center). 4. Wind up the string, then pull your hands in and out. Let the momentum spin the string!

Did You Know? Whirligigs were popular with soldiers too, giving them a way to pass the time while marching many miles for hours on end! Learn more about Colonial Toys and Games at our Colonial Days Field Trips and Annual Events at the Park!

