

The Sticks Game

In Native American cultures games were often used to teach different lessons or to pass the time. Many games exist with different variations depending on the native group or region. One common game played in the southwest is the Sticks Game. This game is easy to play and fun to make. Follow the step below and enjoy taking turns to play with your family and friends!

Materials:

- 6 Popsicle sticks
- 10 Lima beans
- Brush and different colored paint or markers
- Water in a container (if you used paint)

How to play:

- Start by decorating all 6 sticks with any designs you might like. Only decorate one side of each stick leaving the other side blank. Look online (with parental supervision) for traditional Native American designs to add.
- Once they are dry you can start playing.
- Each player will be taking turns. One player will grab all 6 sticks in one hand and raise them about 5 to 6 inches off the table. Drop the sticks on the table.
- If all 6 sticks landed with the side with the designs faced up, that player will get 3 Lima beans out of the pile of beans. If they all landed faced down, the player will only take 2 Lima beans. If 3 sticks are faced down and 3 up, the player will take only 1 Lima bean. If other combinations happen, no beans are awarded. The other player goes next. Continue taking turns.
- Once all the 10 beans are gone, players will start taking beans away from each other depending on how the sticks land.
- The first player to win all 10 Lima beans wins the game!

**Another variation of the game is to add points to each player depending on how the sticks land instead of using Lima beans.*

