



Shell Game

Game country of origin: Fiji



"This game was quite common in Fiji when I was growing up. Perhaps other Pacific Islands have similar variants of it".

"Because Fiji is surrounded by the ocean and the beach, there is an abundance of shells on the sea shore and beaches to gather for this game. The most common shells used are the small cowrie shells but any type of shell can be used as long as there is an upside and a downside.

This game was created to keep young children distracted and occupied especially during rainy season".

Contributed by: Laisa

Age Group Suitable for: 5+

Number of players: 2+

Indoor

Equipment: 4 shells of similar kind and size for each player

Instructions

1. To start the game, each player throws all four shells like a dice on the floor. The aim is to get all the shells to land either all upward or downward. If all four shells fall upward (which is more difficult) the player commences the game with 8 points. If all four shells fall facing downward, then the player starts the game with 4 points. It will take some time to get the shells to fall together one way or the other, therefore starting the game may take a while.
2. Once all the players get to start the game, draw a line between two shells (as a divider between the shells, not to connect the shells).
3. Flick one of the shells across the line and try to hit the other shell to score a point. Repeat with your remaining two shells. If a player misses hitting the shell, he/she loses the turn. Each player takes it in turn to flick their two shells and try to score the maximum two points each time.
4. The winner is the player who gets the most points, or the first one to reach an agreed number of points.