

Resource 11.

Pilgrim and Wampanoag Traditional games

Pilgrim children spent a lot of time working but they were allowed some time to play. How many of these traditional games do you still play today?

- Draughts
- Naughts and crosses
- Hop frog (leap frog)
- All Hid (Hide and seek)
- Playing house
- Playing with dolls
- Bubble blowing (Pilgrims would have used clay pipes to blow the bubbles)
- Marbles
- Lummelen (Piggy in the middle)



Wampanoag children learned important skills from playing and watching the adults around them. Among other activities, they learned how to swim, shoot and dodge arrows, weave, sew, run swiftly, and play games of skill and chance.

Some games were played for sport or for settling a disagreement. One very popular game was called “the bowl game” or “hubbub.” It used a wooden bowl, and a

number of flat, marked playing pieces. One side of these pieces was dark, and the other side was light-coloured. The players bounced the playing pieces by bumping the bowl on the ground. Score was kept using scoring sticks that were passed back and forth, depending on who won each toss. As they bounced the game pieces, the players chanted “hub, hub, hub.”

Teachers! – have a range of these games out for pupils to choose to have a go at.