**Queimada (A Brazilian Game of Tag)**

How to play Queimada

To play this game, you form two teams. Each team has a field and there is a place called the cemetery. One person from each team starts in the cemetery, so he's dead. The rest of the team starts in the field.

The person who is at the cemetery always starts the game by throwing a ball to the opposite side where his partners are. The "living people" from this team have to catch the ball and throw it against the other team. If someone from the opposite team touches the ball, he is burnt, so he is dead. The "dead ones" go to the cemetery, and the game finishes when every "living person" from one team dies.

I played this game a lot when I was around eight years old. I would call all my friends, and we would spend all afternoon long playing!

**Mr. Daruma Fell Down (A Japanese Game of Tag)**

How to play the game

First, the person who is 'it' (the tagger) yells to other children, "Mr. Daruma fell down!" When the tagger yells, the other children run as far away as possible. Then he turns his back to them. Next he calls out again, "Mr. Daruma fell down!" After that, he turns around and looks for the other children because he has to catch them.

When a child moves and is caught, he has to go to jail. The other children have to get close to the tagger and hit his back; however, they cannot move when the tagger looks at them.

Therefore, they have to run as fast as possible while the tagger's back is turned and he is yelling, "Mr. Daruma fell down!" Whenever a child hits the tagger's back, other children can escape from the jail.

When the tagger catches all but one child, the game is almost over. In that part, the tagger is given many chances to catch the child because he can yell quickly.
When the tagger has tagged everyone, a new game starts. Then, a new tagger is selected by a finger-flashing game. My friends and I used to play this game because it was exciting and we had a lot of time to play outside!

**The Hunter**

How to Play the Game

Here is how we played it. This game was played with five to ten children. First, we chose one player to be the hunter (to be it).

Then the hunter counted from one to ten with his or her eyes closed, so that everyone could quickly run and hide somewhere. Then he or she started searching for the other children.

If the hunter found someone from the group, the member would try to escape and the hunter started chasing him or her. Then, the hunter had to catch him or her. The hunter had to find all the members in the group and tag them.

If the hunter couldn't catch all of the members, he or she had to say, "Clear, and start over; but if the hunter caught all of them, he or she joined the other children and the first one who was caught became the new hunter.

I enjoyed this game because it was exciting and fun; we got to run and jump. Playing it, my friends and I were able to see each other a lot and have a good time together.

**Sardines (Germany)**

How to Play

The person who is 'it' has to hide; then the other children have to seek the person who is 'it'. Whenever a child finds the person who is 'it', he or she has to hide with the person who is 'it'.

Soon, only one person is left to seek for the person who is it and all the other children. As soon as the last child, who is the loser, finds the 'it' group, the game is over. The next person who is 'it' is the loser of the first game.
**Sam Pal Sun (Korea)**

How to Play
There are five people on each team, and one team is the defense team and blocks the other team to prevent them from going to the area which is marked with a flag. Cooperation among team members is the key to winning.

In this game, we can learn how to move fast and wisely and how to follow rules because we can't change the rules in any case.

If you are the defending team, each one on your team has responsibility for your own line and own section. If you can't block the other team members by tagging them, your team will lose the game.

This is a good game, not only because it is fun, but also because it gives us a lot of opportunity to learn cooperation and responsibility!

**Gallinita Ciega (The Blind Hen)**

Paola Martinez from Mexico

How to Play

To play this game, you need a handkerchief or a cloth and more than three people to play. The game starts when you choose somebody to be the hen. Then you put the handkerchief over the hen's eyes and turn the now blind hen for a few seconds.

After that, everybody runs and the blind hen has to catch somebody and guess who that person is and say what his or her name is. If the blind hen is right, that person becomes the new blind hen. If not, the hen is blindfolded again and the game continues.

**Stop (Columbia)**

How to Play

To play Stop, you only need a ball. To start the game, one child who is selected by the toss of a coin, takes the ball. The rest of the children
stand around that child, who has to throw the ball up and say one of the children's names. The rest of the children have to run away as far as possible.

He has to say, "Stop!"

The child who is named has to get back to catch the ball. If the named child catches the ball in the air, he can immediately say another name and run away. If he doesn't catch the ball in the air, as soon as he catches the ball, he has to say, "Stop!" Then all the other children have to stop running. The one who said stop looks to see which child is near him and walks 3 long steps, and tries to hit that child with the ball by throwing it at him.

If the child who is trying to hit the other child doesn't hit him, he has to start the game again by throwing the ball up and saying another name. However, if he hits the other child with the ball, that child has to start the game.

I remember that I played this game when I was between 9 and 14 years old. I really enjoyed playing it with my friends. It was a lot of fun, and we played it frequently. Nowadays, however, children this age don't play this kind of game; maybe it is still played by 7- and 10-year olds.

**Korebe (Turkey)**

How to Play

The game is played by about 5 to 10 children. At the beginning of the game, one person is chosen to be 'it', and then the eyes of that kid are covered with a kind of blindfold. When the game starts, the person who is 'it' —the blindfolded person—tries to catch the other kids. If someone is caught, that child becomes the new 'it', and the game starts over. Every child in Turkey knows this game!

**Commander (Taiwan)**

How to Play
First, we choose a person to be a commander, who turns his back to everyone. As he counts one, two, three, everyone moves closer to him. After he finishes counting, he turns and looks at everyone. Nobody is allowed to move at that time. If somebody moves, the commander can point to that person and he is out. If someone is able to reach and touch the commander, he wins the game.

**Sun and Ice (Mexico)**

How to Play

To play this traditional game, you form two teams. There is no age limit or limit of number of players. The players on one team run after you. When one touches you and says freeze, you can't move. You stand still until one of the players on your team comes and touches you and says sun. Then you are free to run again.

**The Knife (Taiwan)**

How to Play

The players divide into two groups. Each group selects a base like a wall or a tree. When the game starts, everyone uses his/her hand like a knife to touch the head or the leg of the members of the other group. If someone is touched, he/she is out.

However, the people who are out can be saved. When the connection of the hands is cut by any other member who is not out, all the members who are behind the "cut point" are saved.

The first person of each group has to touch the base of the enemy, and other members who are out have to hold the hand of the first person in the line of people who are out. When all the members of either group are out, the other group wins.

**Keep the Ball (Mexico)**

How to Play It
To play this game, you form two teams. There is no limit on the number of players. It's played with your hands and sometimes with your feet. You play with a soft ball and before the game, you decide the rules: for example, the time of the game and the size of the field.

The game starts when somebody throws the ball up to the sky. The player who catches the ball has to keep the ball for his team. He has to throw the ball to his partners and each person on the opposite team has to try to 'steal' the ball. You can't return the ball to the person who gives it to you. When the time is up, the team that has dept the ball wins.

Keep the Ball is a game that keeps you moving all the time, and I enjoyed it because we laughed a lot, especially when some of us didn't catch the ball.