

## Traditional Māori and Pākehā Games and Pastimes

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| <p><b>Game/Pastime</b> Starter information adapted from <i>The Berkley Social Studies Programme</i>, Berkley Publishing 1995.</p>   | <p><b>Knucklebones</b> This game has been played all over the world.</p> <p>It was known to Māori as 'kōruru' and played with five pebbles. Pākehā often used small bones from the join in the knee of a sheep.</p> <p>The pebbles are placed on the ground in front of the player. To start the game, a single pebble is thrown in the air. The player then snatches a pebble from the ground and holds it while catching the other pebble. The player keeps doing this until all the pebbles have been snatched. Various other movements are also played.</p> |
| <p><b>Kites</b></p> <p>Kites were used by adults and children. Māori call kites 'manu' (bird) or 'pākau' (wing). They were sometimes made in the shape of birds with a head, wings, feet and colourful feathers.</p> <p>The frame for the kite was made using stems of rushes and strips of leaves, tied together with flax twine.</p> <p>Pākehā children also made their own square kites with pieces of light wood for the frame, string and brown paper glued over the frame. The tail was made from rolls of paper tied to a long piece of string.</p>  | <p><b>String games</b> String games were popular all over the world, including New Zealand. Māori call string games 'whai' and the figures made were given names and represented places and Māori legends.</p> <p>Children and adults created designs and patterns with a cord stretched between the hands. Sometimes, for complex figures, a helper was needed to hold the loops and sometimes the toes and teeth were used to hold a string.</p> <p>Pākehā children played a game called Cat's Cradle.</p>  |
| <p><b>Sledges</b></p> <p>Māori children used sledges that were usually made from planks of wood. Sometimes they had carved designs at the front – some with fierce faces and shell eyes.</p> <p>Pākehā children also made sledges – from all sorts of things, including the curved boards from barrels, old planks of wood, roofing iron and sometimes the leaves of nikau palms. Candle grease or lard was rubbed on the bottom of the sledge to make it slide faster and water was poured over the hillside to make a slippery track.</p>   | <p><b>Hoops</b></p> <p>Māori children made hoops by bending stems of vines into a circle and tying them. They would play a team game called 'porotiti' where they would throw a stick so it bounced over a line. The opposite team would try to stop it crossing the line by hitting it with a stick.</p> <p>Pākehā children would try to keep a hoop rolling for as long as possible by hitting it with a stick.</p>   |
| <p><b>Tops</b></p> <p>Two types of tops were popular amongst Māori and Pākehā: the whip top and the humming top.</p> <p>The whip top was used with a flax whip wound around the top. Children would make the top spin by quickly pulling the whip away, and keep it spinning by continuing to whip it. The challenge was to see who could keep their top spinning the longest.</p> <p>Humming tops were similar to whip tops except for their handles which were on the top. Some string would be wound around this handle and the children would pull the string quickly away to start the top spinning. It made a humming sound while spinning.</p> <p>Māori children call tops 'pōtaka' and made them from stone or wood. Pākehā children usually made theirs from wood.</p> | <p><b>Stilts</b></p> <p>There were many games that Māori and Pākehā played with stilts, including races through puddles and who could stay on the longest.</p> <p>Māori made stilts from forked branches with their feet in the fork of each branch. Pākehā made stilts from long wooden sticks with a block of wood nailed to each for them to stand on.</p>   |
| <p><b>Skipping</b></p> <p>Skipping was popular amongst Māori and Pakeha. They would skip in groups and by themselves chanting to the beat of the rope. Skipping ropes were made from flax ropes and vines.</p>  |   |