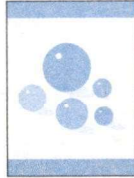


MARBLE MADNESS

ELECTIVE ADVENTURE



SNAPSHOT OF ADVENTURE



Long before board and video games, kids played with marbles. Those little balls of glass are just as fun to play with now as they were back then. In this Adventure, you'll play several different marble games. You'll also learn special words only marble players know and discover how to use marbles in mazes, obstacle courses, and more. Are you ready? Then grab your taws, aggies, and cat's eyes, and let's play marbles.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Make a marble bag.
2. Learn five words that are used when talking about marbles.
3. Play three different marble games.
4. Build a marble racetrack with at least two lanes.
5. Build a marble maze.



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REQUIREMENT 1

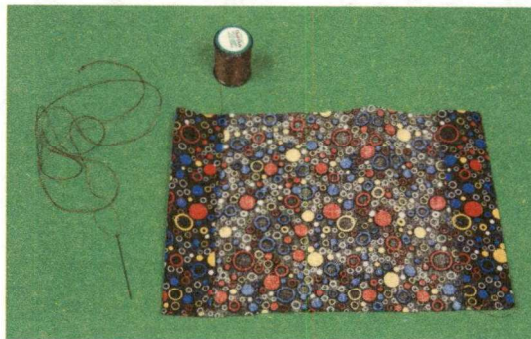
Make a marble bag.

To make a drawstring bag to hold your marbles, you will need:

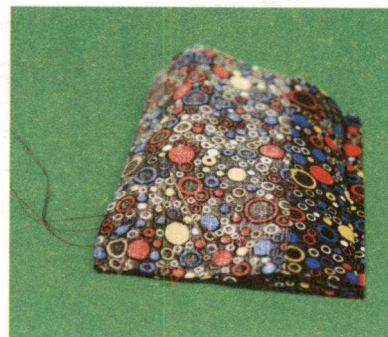
- ▶ A piece of fabric about 5 inches by 9 inches
- ▶ Needle and thread, for sewing by hand, or a sewing machine (and an adult to help operate it)
- ▶ A safety pin
- ▶ A shoestring or piece of cord about 3 feet long
- ▶ Scissors

DIRECTIONS

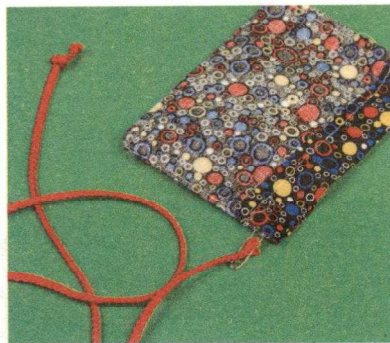
Fold the long ends of the cloth over about 1 inch and make a crease. Sew along the cut edges of the fabric to form two pockets.



Fold the fabric in half so the printed side is on the inside. Sew along both edges — but not over the pockets you formed in step 1.



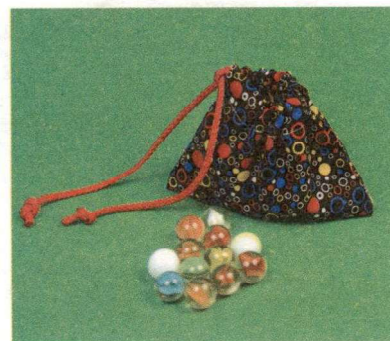
Attach the safety pin to one end of the shoestring or cord. Put the safety pin in the end of one of the pockets and push it through to the other end.



Next, put the pin in the closest end of the other pocket, and push it through to the other end. Remove the safety pin and tie the ends of the shoestring or cord in an overhand knot.



Turn the bag right side out. Fill the bag with marbles. To close it, scrunch the fabric at the top together and tie another overhand knot where the shoestring or cord comes out.



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REQUIREMENT 2

Learn five words that are used when talking about marbles.

Marbles have been around for a long time. Your grandparents may have played marbles, and so did their grandparents. No one knows for sure where and when people started playing with marbles, but marbles have been found in Egyptian tombs and in pueblo ruins in the southwestern United States. Early marbles were stones, nuts, fruit pits, and other smooth, round objects.

Here are some fun facts about marbles:

- ▶ When he was young, the Roman emperor Augustus played with marbles made of nuts.
- ▶ In 1503, the town of Nuremberg, Germany, passed a law that marbles had to be played outside the town limits.
- ▶ In the 1700s, people played using chips of marble, which is how the game got its name.
- ▶ In the early 1900s, marbles were made by machine for the first time.
- ▶ The British and World Marbles Championship has been played in Tinsley Green, England, every year since 1932, but the tradition began there in 1588.



Here are some fun facts about marbles:

- ▶ **Cat's eye** marbles have a swirl of color inside.
- ▶ **Taw marbles** are between one-half inch and three-fourths of an inch in diameter and are used as targets.
- ▶ **Alley marbles** are made of alabaster or marble. Some are made of glass to look like alabaster or marble.
- ▶ **Aggie marbles** are made of the mineral agate. Some are made of glass to look like agate. True aggies are good shooters because they are harder than other marbles.
- ▶ **Commie or common marbles** were originally made out of clay. They are the plainest looking marbles.

Like many games and sports, the game of marbles uses some special words. You have already learned some of them, like shooter and alley marbles.

Here are some more:

- ▶ **Bombies** is when you drop your marble onto another marble.
- ▶ **Duds** is when you knock two or more marbles out of the ring with one shot.
- ▶ **Keepsies** is when you keep the marbles you win in a game. Don't play for "keepsies" if you don't want to lose your marbles!
- ▶ **Friendlies** are when you give back the marbles you've won at the end of a game.
- ▶ **Knuckle down** is when you put one knuckle of your shooting hand on the ground as you shoot.
- ▶ **Histing** is when you lift your knuckle as you shoot.

What marble words do you and your friends use?



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REQUIREMENT 3

Play three different marble games.

There are many different games of marbles, and each game has its own set of rules and directions. Here are three games to try.

RINGER

You will need at least two players for this game.

- ▶ Draw a ring on the ground about 10 feet across.
- ▶ Put 13 marbles in the middle of the ring arranged in an X shape. They should be about 3 inches apart.
- ▶ The first player kneels outside the ring and uses their shooter to try to shoot a marble out of the ring. If it misses, the player's turn is over and they pick up the shooter. If the shooter hits and stays in the ring, the player can shoot again from where the shooter stopped. If the shot hits and the shooter goes out of the ring, the player's turn is over. The player keeps any marbles that go out of the ring.
- ▶ When the first player's turn is over, the second player takes a turn, etc.
- ▶ Keep playing until time is up or most of the marbles have been knocked out. The player with the most marbles is the winner.



PLUMS

This game is for an even number of players.

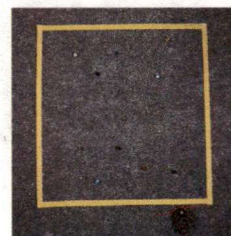
- ▶ Draw two parallel lines about 6 feet apart.
- ▶ Each player puts the same number of marbles (called "plums" in this game) on one line a few inches apart. The players stand behind the second line.
- ▶ Players take turns shooting at the plums from behind the second line. They keep any plums they knock off the line.
- ▶ Keep playing until time is up, if a time limit has been set, or until all the plums have been picked. The player with the most marbles is the winner.



DROPSIES

This game is good for two, three, or four players.

- ▶ Draw a square on the ground about 2 feet long by 2 feet wide.
- ▶ Each player places five marbles inside the square.
- ▶ The first player stands on one side of the square with their feet outside the line. That player drops a shooter from above waist height onto one of the other players' marbles to try to knock it out of the square. If that happens and the shooter stays in the square, the player keeps the marble that rolled out, and they get another turn. If a marble is knocked out, but the shooter also rolls out, the player keeps the marble that rolled out and their turn ends.
- ▶ Keep playing until time is up or most of the marbles have been knocked out. The player with the most marbles is the winner.



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REQUIREMENT 4

Build a marble racetrack with at least two lanes.

See whose marbles are the fastest by creating a marble racetrack. You can make the lanes out of many materials, including felt board, cardboard, PVC pipe, or swimming noodles cut down the middle. For lane separators, use straws or small dowels. Don't forget to mark the start and finish lines.



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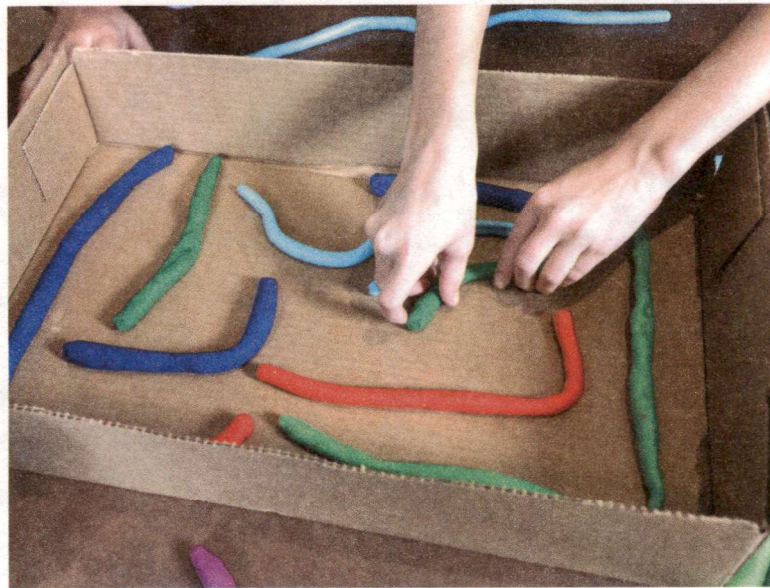


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REQUIREMENT 5

Build a marble maze.

A maze is a game in which you try to get from start to finish by navigating around a series of twists and turns. The more corners and dead ends the maze has, the more challenging it will be. Start with a flat surface. A box top works well because the lip around the edge will keep your marble from rolling away. Sketch your maze on the surface, and then glue straws or other dividers on the lines you've drawn. Once the glue has dried, you'll be ready to challenge the maze. How fast can you get through it?



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