

All around the world, children play all sorts of different games. You don't need expensive games or lots of space to play a great game, just some imagination!

Play can be inside or outside, and you can play on your own or with lots of friends. Some games are calm and quiet, whilst others are very noisy! Some games like football, chess and jigsaw puzzles are popular in lots of countries so they have the same rules and equipment wherever they are played. But some games are only well known in certain countries.

Here are five games that children in different countries like to play:



Pilolo - from Ghana

Pilolo is a hiding game using sticks, stones, coins or other small items. One child hides the objects. It's then a race for all the other players to find one of the hidden items and get back to the finish line first. You need quick eyes and quick feet for this game!



Statues - from Greece

One child is 'it' and stands in the centre of a large space, counting loudly. The other players walk around waiting for that child to shout, 'statue'. When they hear this word, the players freeze like statues. Anyone who is moving is out. Then, the child who is 'it' tries to make the others laugh or move. The last player remaining as still as a statue is the winner and becomes the new 'it'. This game can be great for practising your balance if you are standing in an awkward position.

Oonch Neech – from Pakistan

The name of this game means 'up down'. It involves lots of running around. Children have to be 'up' off the ground, such as on a chair, or 'down' where they must be touching the ground. One child is 'it' and has to catch the others. It uses up lots of energy and is great fun.



Kangaroo Skippyroo – from Australia

In this game, one child pretends to be a sleeping kangaroo with its eyes shut. When a player touches the kangaroo's shoulder, the kangaroo has to guess who it is. This game is all about guessing.



Pass the Parcel – from the United Kingdom

A parcel, covered in layers of paper, is passed from child to child to the sound of music. Whenever the music stops, the child holding the parcel removes one layer of paper and then passes the parcel on. The game stops when a lucky child removes the last piece of paper and wins the present inside. This game is often played at parties. Another person (usually an adult) is needed to start and stop the music during the game. This game is mainly about luck.

