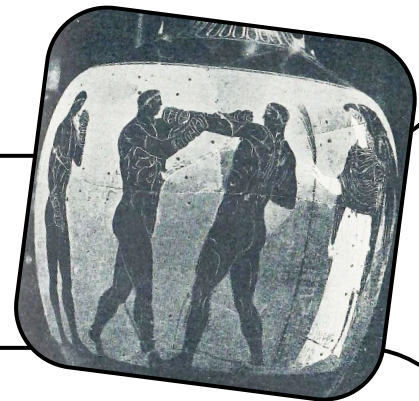


Discover:

# Games and Sports

## Key Facts

- Games have been played by people for thousands of years. They have often been marks of social status and were given as royal gifts.
- The earliest known game pieces found by archaeologists are 5000 year old painted stones.
- Sports in the ancient world were often linked to military training and were used as a way to determine fitness and teamwork.
- Cave paintings dating to around 15,300 years ago show running and wrestling.
- The first Olympic games were recorded in 776BC, and started out as a sprinting event. The modern Olympic games were started in 1896.
- In the middle ages, villages would compete against each other in ball games. They were often quite rough and people were frequently injured.



## Where to find more:

- The Atherstone Ball Game has taken place every year since the 12th century. Read all about it at Our Warwickshire: <https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/article/atherstone-ball-game-3>
- Just how did a pupil at Rugby school create one of the world's most popular sports? Find out here: <https://www.rugbyschool.co.uk/about/history/a-history-of-rugby-football/>
- Learn about the life of legendary boxer Randolph Turpin, who was born in Leamington Spa: <http://leamingtonhistory.co.uk/randolph-turpin/>
- Discover video and audio clips in the British Library's collections on children's play and games through time: <https://www.bl.uk/playtimes>

# Weird Sports through History

Warning: don't try these sports at home!

## Cheese Rolling

- Known for being played in Gloucestershire, cheese rolling still takes place once a year.
- Participants chase a large wheel of cheese down a hill. The first to cross the line is the winner.
- It may sound easy, but the hill is very steep and the cheese can get up to a speed of 70mph.
- The race is very dangerous and lots of people have been injured. It is now played with a foam wheel of cheese to make it safer.
- No one is quite sure why or when it started. It is possibly from an attempt to maintain grazing rights, or a pagan ceremony.



## Wife Carrying

- Introduced in the town of Sonkajärvi in Finland, this sport is now played in a number of countries around the world.
- Men race while carrying a married woman across a track filled with obstacles such as fences and streams.
- Wife-carrying is said to be based on tales of a gang of robbers who would literally steal women from villages in order to marry them. Legend says that new members of the gang would practice by racing whilst carrying heavy sacks over their shoulders.

# Weird Sports through History

Warning: don't try these sports at home!

## Shin Kicking

- As the name suggests, this sport involves two players kicking each other in the shins until one of them falls over, and shouts "sufficient!"
- Shin kicking was included in the 'Cotswold Olimpicks', a series of games played once a year in the early 1600s.
- Devised by local lawyer Robert Dover, the Cotswold Olimpicks were halted between 1642 and 1660 due to the civil war and following laws against sport on Sundays.
- Today the game is played with soft shoes, shin pads, and is limited to 3 rounds to prevent injuries.

## Tossing the Caber

- Tossing the Caber is a traditional Scottish sport and is part of the Highland Games today.
- Participants have to toss a large tree trunk (known as a caber) so that it flips over in the air and lands upright.
- The trunks are nearly 6m long and weigh nearly 80kg.
- The first record of caber tossing is from 1574 but it is likely that the game has been around for much longer.
- It is thought to originate from soldiers tossing tree trunks across frozen rivers so that armies could cross them in winter.



How to make:

## Finger Footballers

You will need:

Card

Pen

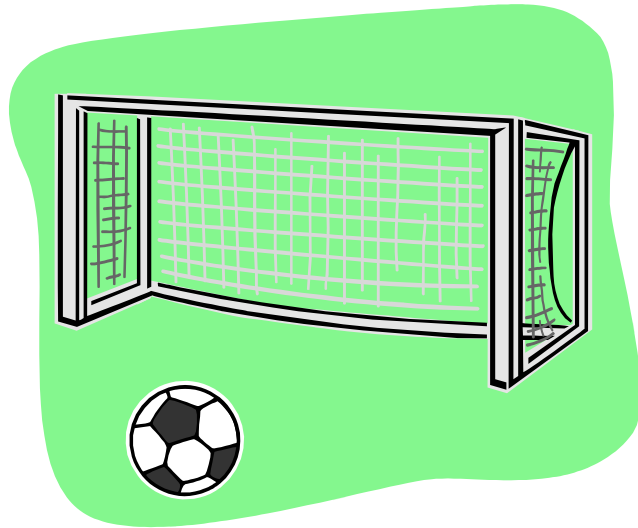
Tissue paper

Newspaper

Glue

Tape

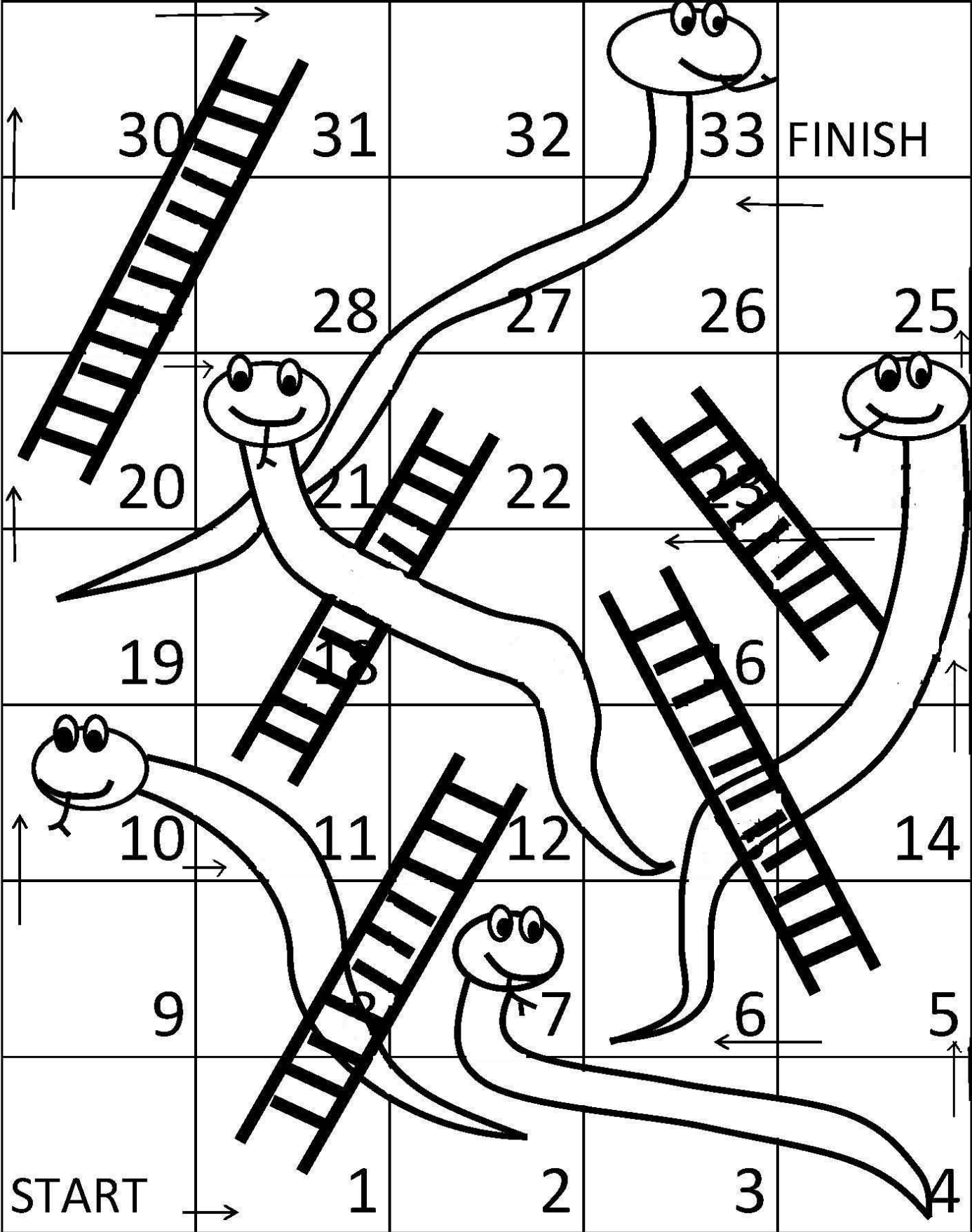
Scissors



1. First you need to make your football boots. Draw two boot shapes on a piece of card and cut them out.
2. Scrunch up a small ball of newspaper and tape it to the toe end of the boot.
3. To make your sock take a piece of thin card. It needs to be the same length as your index finger.
4. Wrap the piece of card around your finger so it fits snugly and ask someone to help you tape it together.
5. Tape the tube you have just made onto the heel end of your foot.
6. You will need to repeat steps 3, 4 and 5 so you have two socks for your feet.
7. This is the basic shape of your finger footballer. Use the tissue paper to decorate and cover the basic shape. You might like to strengthen it with more tape.

# Snakes and Ladders

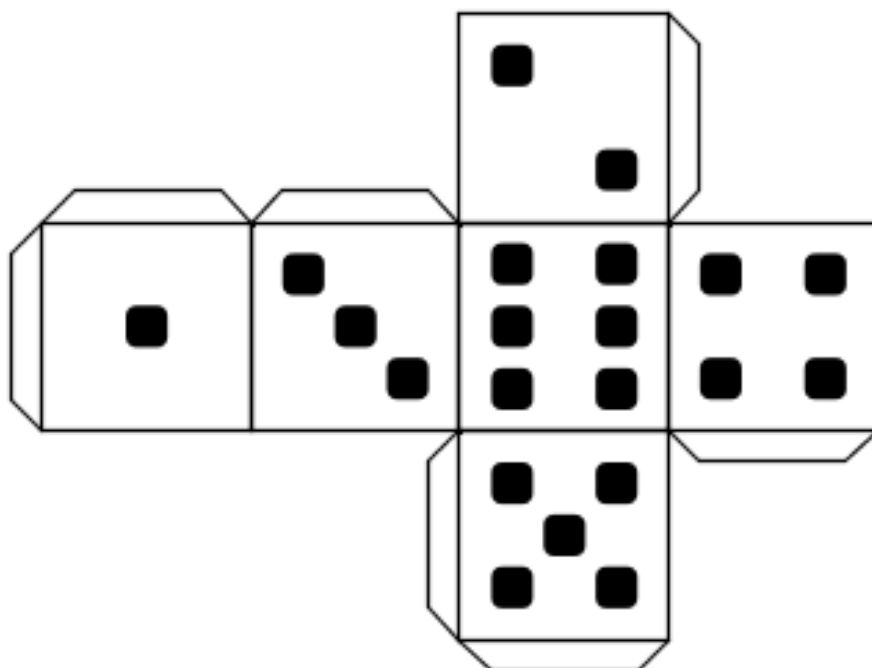
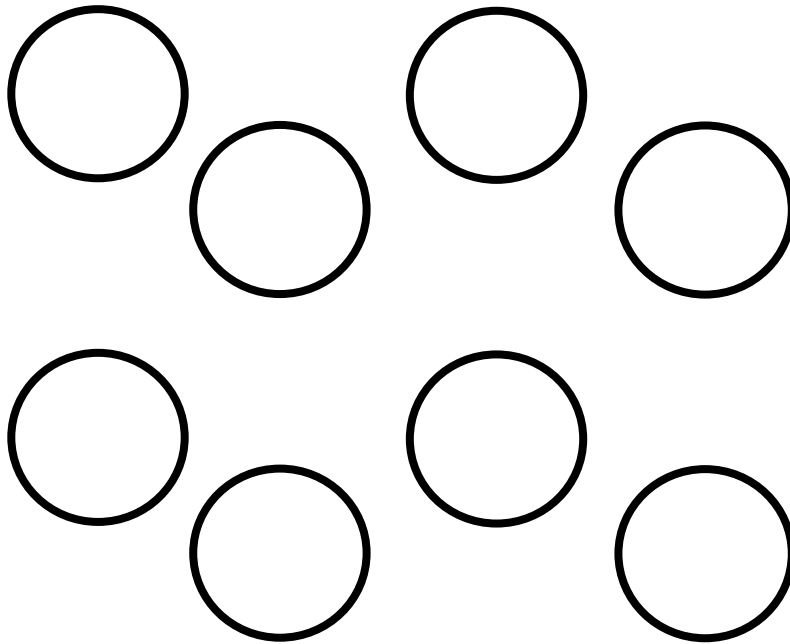
Colour in and stick this sheet onto A4 Card. Cut out the board below. Take the second counters and dice sheet, and also stick this onto card and cut out. Fold up and stick your dice together as instructed. You are now ready to play Snakes and Ladders!



## Snakes and Ladders

## Counters and Dice

Colour in and cut out the counters and dice below. Stick them onto card. To make the dice, fold at the lines and also fold and glue tabs so that it all sticks together as a cube.



# Sports and Games

## Word Search

All the words in the word search are sports and games. Can you find all the words?

S R T Y H A H S P Z Z E S V F  
W J Z C D Q K O E L Q Z S Z O  
W A X C K I C U P N Y E B K O  
L F N M P W D L U S L X M K T  
F B R P Z J C S V B K B O U B  
J N I N O H T A R A M O H P A  
S N G J O H S A G H W P T Q L  
G R N R Z E M X N S L H E C L  
H G E S P I N N I N G T O P H  
E O G D F V S F M T E N N I S  
X B C F N M C U M C O T P X U  
H G F K E U N U I D D M L V D  
O I I X E B O S W O H Y F U J  
P W E O G Y J R S M H H Y H Q  
Y Z H L K L V L U S Z X Z K O

FOOTBALL

MARATHON

SPINNINGTOP

HOCKEY

MARBLES

SWIMMING

HOPSKOTCH

ROUNDERS

TENNIS

SKIPPING