



# Chunkey: A Native American Game

(Suggested Ages: 6+)

## Gather

- A "spear" - pool noodles, rolled newspaper, toilet paper tubes, gift wrap tubes
- A Chunkey stone - roll of duct tape, hockey puck, ball, roll of socks



## Let's Play!

1. Roll the chunkey stone across a level surface, outside is best!
2. Throw your "spear" to try and get as close to the chunkey stone as possible.
3. The person with the closest spear gains a point.
4. Play for 10 throws and the person with the most points wins!

## How Does it Work?

Chunkey is a Native American game invented around 600 AD by indigenous peoples of the Cahokia region, which is near modern day St. Louis, Missouri. Chunkey was a very popular game, much like football or baseball are today. While different cultures had their own rules, the main idea was that a large ground stone disc (the "chunkey") would be rolled across a field by a player from one team. One or multiple players from the other team would then throw their sticks at the stone, trying to get as close as possible to the stone once it had stopped rolling. Chunkey tournaments could be as casual as a backyard game of flag football, or as important as a professional event.

## Take it Further!

To learn more about the game of chunkey, visit this blog post from George Washington's Ferry Farm:

<https://livesandlegaciesblog.org/2019/10/17/when-games-are-serious-business-chunkey/>

To learn about and try some other Native American games, visit:

<https://mvac.uwlax.edu/past-cultures/native-knowledge/games/>