

How do you play marbles with a hole in the ground (like your grandparents)?

1. Two players compete against each other. Both players have to use marbles of different color. The goal of the game is to place all own marbles into the hole as first.
2. The game begins by throwing one marble from throwing line and aiming it into the hole. The player, whose marble is closer to the hole, decides who will start the odd games and who the even games.
3. First player starts by throwing all his marbles (one by one) from the throwing line in direction of the hole trying to hit the hole. Then throws his opponent.
4. Then the players continue in the game by flicking the marbles in direction of the hole. Player with more marbles in the hole (or player who has his best marble closer to the hole) takes first turn to flick. Players should flick their own marbles only. Players are alternating in the game after each flick (regardless of the fact if his marble hits the hole or not).
5. The proper flick is defined as movement of only one finger, while it could touch only your marble (one only). It is possible to flick using any finger. Flicked marble then could hit any other marble, the opponent ones too.
6. The player who puts all his marbles in the hole first becomes the winner of the game. The winner of the match is the player who has won given number of games (usually two or three games).
7. The marbles should be made from any non-metal material and its diameter should not be higher than 16.5 mm. The throwing line is 7.5 meters from the center of the hole. The hole has to be 7 - 11 cm in diameter.

**World Marbles Federation**

## ***The Game of Marbles***



### ***Clay Marbles***

The clay we use is Crayola Air-Dry Clay, a fine, natural earth clay that is safe and non-toxic and dries to a hard solid. This soft modeling material can either be reused or air dried overnight to preserve your creation; no baking is ever required. Smoother, finer, and less sticky than traditional clay, this Crayola modeling clay alternative is perfect for group activities. You can even soften the clay with water if needed, allowing kids to enjoy hours of fun making and re-making favorite creations. Once your child is finished creating, the air dried clay is great for painting. ***This product is designed for children ages 6 and older.***

### ***The History of Marbles***

People have been playing marbles and marble-like games for thousands of years. Historians believe that marbles started with cave people playing with small rounded pebbles or balls of natural clay. Clay balls have been found in the tombs of Egypt, in Native American burial grounds and in the ancient Aztec pyramids. For thousands of years, marbles have been one of the world's most popular, interesting and entertaining games.

In 1815 the earliest book on marbles was published in England; according to the book, marbles were made of china, clay, glass or even real marble at that time. In 1848 a German glass blower invented the marble scissors (a mold to make marbles) that revolutionized the process of making marbles. In 1890 the first machine made marbles were made in Germany and later that year in the United States – probably in Akron, Ohio.

In 1950 several changes occurred in marble making. First, in Japan, the cats eyes marble was created by injecting colored glass into the normal marble. Then in the U.S. people found out that if you bake your marbles before they cool you will get a crackled effect.

Perhaps the biggest event in marbles occurred in 1960 when Neil Armstrong (the first man on the moon) described the Earth out of his spaceship window as a “big blue marble.”

In the 1980s magnetic marbles became a sensation because of the “Toys in Space” program.

There has been a National Marbles Tournament since 1922; for many of those years it has been held in Wildwood, New Jersey. The group of girls and boys that compete in the tournament are fourteen years and younger with male and female divisions. The tournament is four days long. The National Marbles Tournament’s official game is Ringer, a game that originated from one of the oldest marble games Ringtaw.

Today, electronic marble games can be played on the Internet.

*Arizona Historical Society*

## **The Game**

There are lots of ways to play marbles, from a simple chalk line indoors to a hole dug in the ground outdoors. Check out [www.imarbles.com](http://www.imarbles.com) or google any other wonderful links to the marble world.

How do you play **Ring Taw** marbles like the kids in Dunstable did 350 years ago?

## **What you need:**

- At least 2 players
- An equal number of marbles for each player (other round items can be used if you do not have marbles).
- A flat surface
- Chalk/ masking tape/ or other materials to form a large circle
- A “taw”- marble/ ball slightly larger than the others.



## **Instructions:**

1. Prepare your arena. You can do this on many surfaces, including your living room floor. All you need is a flat surface with a circular border. If you are outside, you can draw your circle in the ground or with chalk. If you are inside, you can make a circle out of masking tape or other non-damaging items.
2. Each player will get an equal amount of marbles and lay them out in the circle.
3. Taking turns, each player will use the taw to knock their opponent’s marbles out of the ring.
4. Whoever knocks all of their opponent’s marbles out first wins the game.

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