

Play Hubbub

What is Hubbub?

During the summer holidays we have an exhibition on called Wampum: Stories from the Shells of Native America. Hubbub – or ‘the bowl game’ – is a traditional game played by the Wampanoag people and other Native American groups across America.

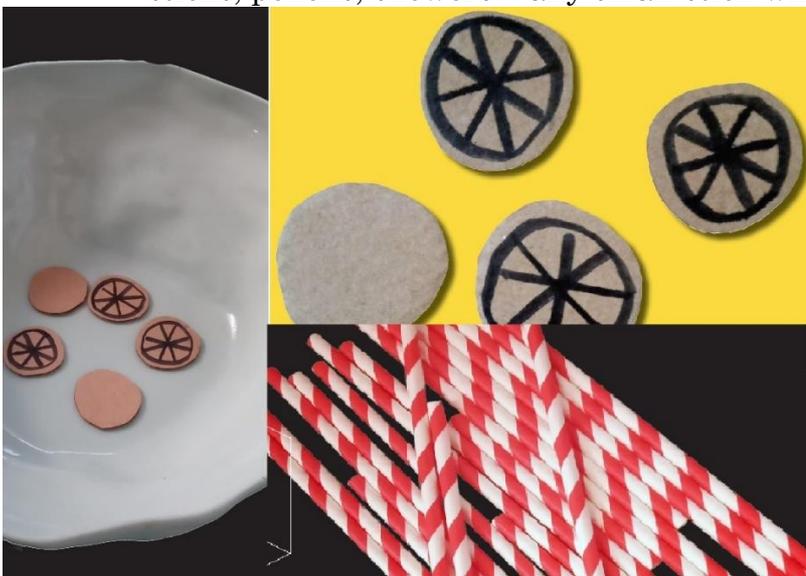
The game originally didn’t have a name. It gained the name Hubbub because European settlers in the 1700s who witnessed the game heard players say “hub, hub, hub” while they were playing it.

Hubbub was a game for fun and entertainment. There is rich symbolism in it too, which European audiences can only partially understand. For example, the pieces decorated on only one side to represent a balance between the positive and negative in life. In addition, learning the lessons of how to win and lose are important parts of the game.

Hubbub was sometimes used to settle disagreements, or between different groups of Native American people.

What you will need

- 2 players
- 1 large bowl
- 5 pieces made from flat circles of card that are decorated so that one side looks different from the other. Your decoration could be a solid colour, a shape, a letter, whatever you like! Just make sure you leave one side undecorated on each piece.
- 21 counting sticks. You can use sticks that you find, straws, wooden dowels, lolly sticks, pencils, skewers – any small stick will do.



Play Hubbub

How to play

1. Place the bowl in between the two players, with the counting sticks beside the bowl.
2. One team goes first.
3. Put five dice into the bowl.
4. Shake the bowl three times (shouting “hub, hub, hub”)
5. Count how many dice have landed with the decorated side up.
6. The player who has thrown the dice gets one stick every point they score.
7. If they have scored, they continue with another turn. If they haven’t scored, it’s now the other player’s turn.
8. The winner is the player who has the most sticks once they’ve all been taken from the pile.

DON'T FORGET!

The most important part of this game is distraction. Make loud noises to distract the team that is throwing the dice! You could try shouting “hub hub hub”, squawk like an Eagle, or blow and shake like the wind to throw the other team off their game. Good luck!

How to keep score

- Five decorated or five undecorated dice – you win three sticks
- Four of one side and one of another – you win one stick.
- Two of one side and three of another – you score no points.
- If a dice falls out of the bowl, you also score no points, and when you score no points, it’s the other players’s turn.

This resource has been adapted from one devised by The Box, Plymouth.

