

# Traditional Indigenous Games



The Traditional Indigenous Games that have been incorporated into the Energiser Card resource have been adapted from the *Yulunga Traditional Indigenous Games: suitable for school years K-3* resource put together by the Australian Sports Commission in 2008.

The games used in the Energiser Cards were selected due to being quick and easy to run, as well as being appropriate for a 3-6 year age group. These games can be identified by looking for the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Flag in the top right corner of the cards.

Below is some background information that may be used to compliment the selected games:



## Brajerack (bra-jer-ack)

Brakerack means "wild man" and is a variation of hide-and-seek played in Victoria in the 1800's. Players would use wombat holes as hiding places for this game.



## Thapumpan (tha-pum-pan)

In this tag-style game, the chasers pretend to be sharks (thapumpan), making fins on their back using their hands. The game was seen to be played by young children at Cape Bedford in north Queensland.



## Kangaroo (kang-a-roo)

This is a fun imitation game copying the actions of the kangaroo. The word kangaroo appears to have stemmed from the word gangarru used in the language of the the Gouguyimithirr people of north Queensland.



## Kai Wed (kai wed)

This game is from the Torres Strait Islands and means "ball song". The red fruit of the kai tree was often used as a ball and the players would sing the kai wed song whilst playing the game.



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## Koolchee Koolchee (kool-chee kool-chee)

This game was played near Lake Eyre in South Australia by the Diyari people. Koolchee means ball, and as this version of the game is designed for young children, it has been named twice to reflect that young children often like repeating names.



## Turi Turi (tur-i tur-i)

This skipping game was played by the Maidhargari children in northwest-central Queensland by making a skipping rope (turi turi) out of tree roots. A similar game was played by Wogadj children in the Northern Territory who made skipping ropes out of vines.



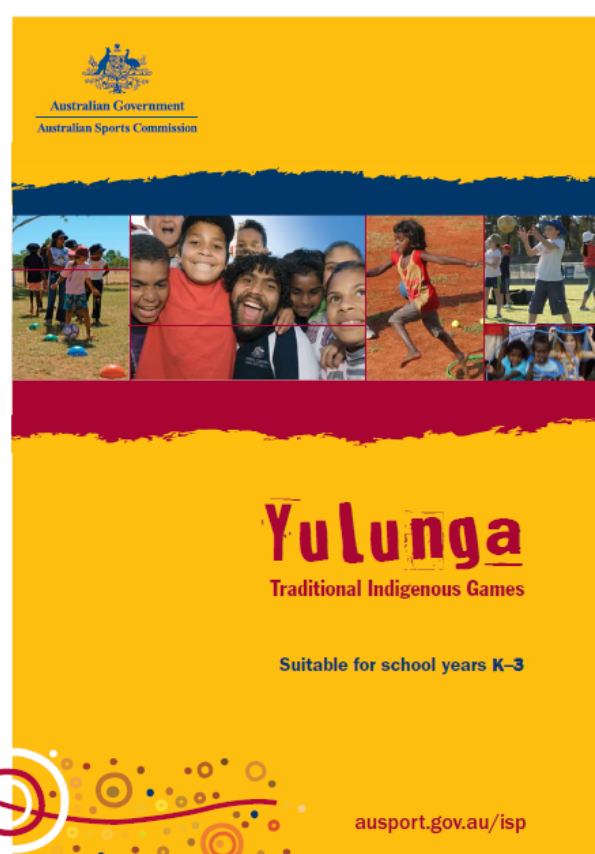
## Mer Kolap (mer ko-lap)

This throwing game using the beans of the Kolap tree was seen being played in the 19th Century in the Torres Strait on Mer Island.



## Gorri (gor-ri)

Gorri was a bowling game played in central Australia. Bowling or disk games such as gorri were used by boys and men to practice their aiming, using rounded pieces of bark as the target. A version of this is still played in the Northern Territory using flattened tin lids as targets.



For more information and games the *Yulunga Traditional Indigenous Games* resources can be found via the below link:

<https://www.sportingschools.gov.au/resources-and-pd/schools/yulunga>



Artwork by Worimi Artist  
Lara Went - 'The Heart of a Child'



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