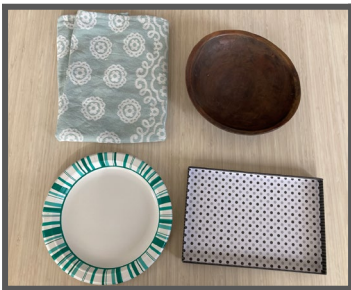


Waltes: a Mi'kmaw Game of Chance and Luck

Adapted by Kelly Legere and Cailen Langille

Grade Range	Content Area	Materials
Grades 3 to 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number• Data and Probability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper• Pencil• Flattish non-breakable dish (paper plate, box top, etc.)• Scissors and cardboard OR• 6 buttons• Dish cloth or towel



Activity

Waltes (WALT'-iss): Background and History

- Traditional Mi'kmaw game
- Played by 2 people
- Game of chance
- Pieces made of caribou or moose bone
- Sticks used as scoring system
- Sometimes played with 8 pieces
- Winter evening game
- 4th day of wedding celebration
- Rules passed down by elders

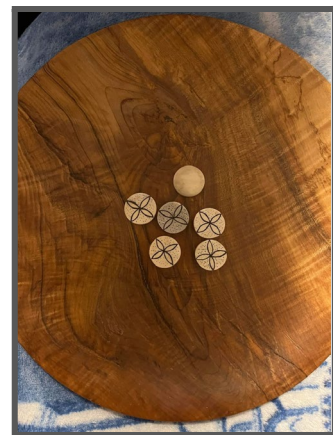


Photo by: Terri Pennell

If you are Making your own Game Pieces:

- Use corrugated cardboard rather than thin cardboard
- Make 6, they do not have to be perfectly round or the same size
- Mark one side with an 'X'



Abbreviated Rules of Waltes:

1. Start with all pieces face down
2. Raise dish 1 to 2 inches above the cloth/towel and slam the dish to toss pieces
3. If pieces come out of the dish, you lose your turn
4. Your turn continues as long as you have scored at least one point

How to Keep Score:

If ALL pieces are the same - Score 5 points



If 5 pieces are the same - Score 1 point



All other arrangements - Score zero and play moves to the next player

Winner will be the first to reach 8 points!

Questions to Think About While Playing Waltes:

- Since our game pieces only have two sides, how likely is it to get the 'X' side up?
- What could happen to make a game go very quickly? How likely is that to happen?
- How could we change the rules so scoring points would be easier?
- How would using six-sided dice change the game?

Extensions, Modifications & Additional Resources

1. If you'd like more background on the game and the rules for scoring.
<https://www.cbu.ca/indigenous-affairs/mikmaq-resource-centre/miscellany/the-game-of-waltes/>
2. A CBC article about Nova Scotia students learning to play the game.
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/waltes-mi-kmaw-children-elementary-1.4977810>
3. A Mi'kmaw story about the game with pictures and Mi'kmaw language with audible pronunciations.
https://firstnationhelp.com/ali/waltesey_atukwaqn/page1.html