

THE CALLY KIDS PLAY WORLD GAMES



by the team at islington play association 2010
with thanks to all the children and
families involved

GRIS OR GRILLE (SOMALIA)

Type of Game

Street game, competitive, individual and precise. Similar to Jacks.

Number of Players

From 1 to about 6

Best location

Outdoors and on the ground

Resources

2 shallow holes in the ground and 13 stones each

Setting up

The children can seek out their own pebbles, or use wooden beads, marbles or similar.

Gris exists in slightly different forms all over the world, and can be seen as an 'advanced' version of what is also called 'Jacks' - one of humanity's oldest games.

Each player starts with 13 small pebbles – ideally collected first from around the site – 12 of which are dropped into one of the shallow holes. They then toss the 'throw' stone up into the air, picking up one of the 'grab' stones before catching the 'throw'. The first 'grab' stone is then dropped into the second hole. On the next 'throw', the first 'grab'

is collected and dropped back into the first hole.

On the next 'throw', two stones are collected and moved to the second hole, then back again on each throw until all 12 stones are being moved before the 'throw' stone is caught.

Did you know?

Jacks were played in Ancient Rome, Greece and Egypt. In the UK and US they have many names, including: jacks, jackstones, jackrocks, fivestones, onesies, knucklebones, gobs, gobstoppers, cobs and bonsters, dabstones and snobs. The same game is played with pebbles in Turkey and called "best tas" (five stones). In Israel it is called chamesh avanim (five rocks) and in Korea it is known as *kongki noli* or *gonggi*.

"We get Muslims, Jamaicans, Irish, Scottish, Muslims, Africans, just English, all people like that here. I'm not really English. I'm part Muslim, part Greek, part English. And it doesn't really matter what you are... you're still part of the world, you're still visible, you're still something." (Jade, 8)