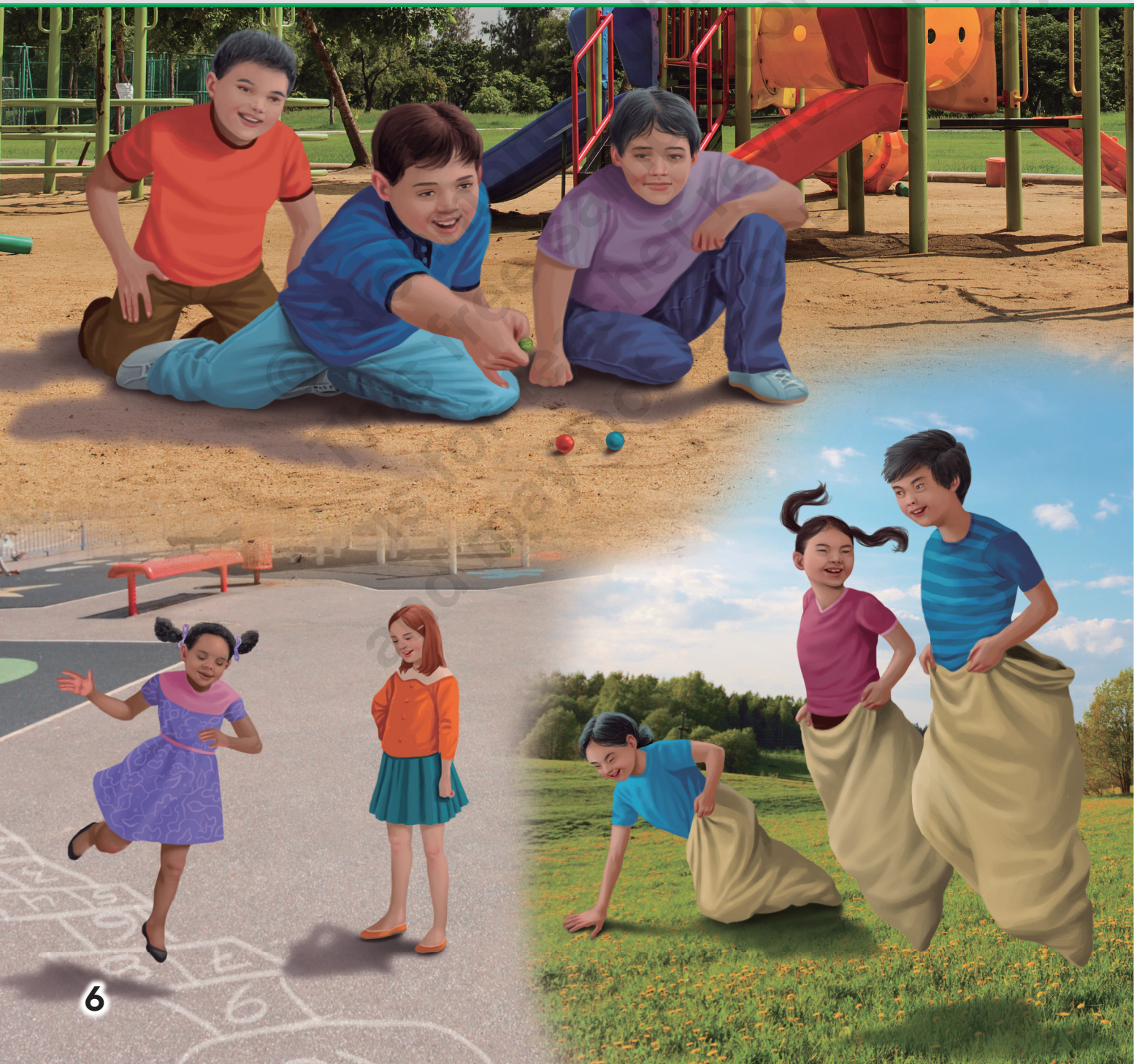


Traditional Games



People have always played games. In fact, some games have been popular for thousands of years. Most of these traditional games don't have written rules because we learn how to play them from other people.

Traditional games are easy to play and don't need special equipment. What you do need are physical skills, strategies, creativity—and luck! Let's look at some traditional games that are popular around the world.



Do you like running, chasing or catching? In *Red Rover*, a player has to run through another team's line.



There are two possible results:

1. Anna can't get through and joins the other team.
2. Anna gets through. Then the two players who let go join Anna's team.



When there are no more players left on one team, the other team wins!



Stickball is like baseball, except that a stick is your bat and the street is your field! There have been many stick and ball games since the 1750s, but *Stickball* was the most played and loved in the twentieth century.



In *Double Dutch*, two long jump ropes turn in opposite directions for players to jump over. It is so popular that in 2009, it became an official sport in New York high schools.



If you want to develop your mental skills, why not try *Pick-Up Sticks*? Many people think this ancient game originated in China. You drop some wooden sticks onto a table, then pick them up without moving the others. Easy, right?



Yo-Yos became popular in the 1920s. But did you know the earliest yo-yo is from 500 BCE? It was made of clay. People found it in an ancient Greek vase that showed an image of a boy playing with a yo-yo!



Different inventions have also changed how children play games. Rubber balls replaced rocks and stones, and bats and rackets replaced sticks. In many countries, people also started to trade and formed cultural links with each other. As a result, toys started traveling around the world. For example, kites arrived in Europe from India and China in the seventeenth century.



Also in the seventeenth century, people created the first manufactured games, which were mostly educational. For example, do you know how jigsaw puzzles started? People cut out countries from maps for children to put back together! Today, we still develop skills through games. These include computer games, which have become more and more technically advanced.



As you can see, games have always been an important part of our lives. What types of games do you enjoy?

