



Activity for Yemen

Zaragaf

Zaragaf, or marbles, is a well-known game in Yemen. There are many different ways to play, either between two competitors or as a group.

This game creates competition between children to earn more marbles, as they start with only a few, usually about seven. Marbles are different colors and of two sizes. The shooter marble is called “magza’a” and is used to hit the smaller ones.

Children draw a circle and then place all of their marbles inside it. They designate a marble as the goal or center. The one who shoots the center marble without moving or touching the others wins all of the marbles. Alternatively, players compete for marbles by knocking the others out of the circle.

A player is chosen to go first. His goal is to roll his marble and knock other marbles out of the circle. The winner is the player who takes all of the marbles from the other players. The game continues until all marbles are gone. Some boys skilled at playing Zaragaf use the game as a business in order to sell marbles and earn money. For example, a boy with lots of marbles will sell them to other children at less cost than they might pay at shops.