

Try your hand at a prehistoric game



Painted pebbles also known as gaming pieces have been used by prehistoric people since rock art has been found in caves near France 15,000 years ago. Pebbles have been found in Prehistoric Texas with paint and etched designs. These pebbles had designs painted with soot, charcoal, and ochre.

Find a couple of flat rocks in your backyard! Ask your parents for help with painting some designs on one side.

Here are some ideas for your painted pebbles.

Design:

- Anthropomorphic: human figures similar to animals; a sphinx found in Egypt, or a man with eagle wings
- Natural: things from nature; flowers, plants, or trees
- Geometric: straight or curved lines

Function:

- Is this a ceremonial pebble?
- Is this decorative?
- Does it hold personal magic?

Now that you have a collection of pebbles let's play a game!

Before we start, make sure each pebble has a different design.

Game one:

How to play:

Each pebble should be flipped face down. Flip one pebble at a time to find a matching design of Anthropomorphic, natural, or geometric designs.

Game two:

How to play:

Place a circle of string several feet away. Carefully toss the pebbles into the circle. The one who gets the most stones with their designs in the circle wins!