

30 - 45  
Minute  
Activity  
For  
Everyone

## Spillikins

Spillikins, also known by its modern name Pick-Up-Sticks, is a game of physical and mental skill. With its origin dating back to the 1800's, this game demands focus, a steady hand and coordination skills to remove sticks from a scrambled pile without the pile shifting or moving in any way. The game is played around the globe, using a diverse resources including bones. Instead of buying the game, why not use natural materials found in your local green space or back yard to create your own Spillikins set? Here's how!



### Reflection Questions:

- Was this game challenging? Why?
- How did you feel making a game using only natural resources around you? What other materials could you use?
- Was it hard to find an outdoor space with lots of sticks? Why?
- Were you surprised by how connected the pile of sticks was?
- What can we take away from this game when reflecting about how simple actions can make such big shifts?

### Game Play, Rules and Set-Up:

- Start by heading out to your back yard or local green space.
- Collect a minimum of 50 sticks that are diverse in length and size.

*Ensure to use sticks collected from the ground, not from a live tree.*

- Once your pile of sticks is complete, pick up the entire pile and drop it, scrambling the sticks all together.

*You may need to repeat this step 2-3 times to ensure the sticks are scrambled well.*

- Decide who will go first. Using one hand only, the first player will attempt to remove a stick from the pile. If at any time another stick or the pile moves or shifts as a player is attempting to remove a stick, their turn is over. If the player whose turn it is successfully removes a stick from the pile, they continue to remove sticks one at a time until the pile shifts or moves, ending their turn.
- If the pile shifts during the removal, that player should let go of the stick or drop it on the top of the pile.
- Continue to play, turn after turn, until all the sticks from the pile have been removed.
- Have each player count the number of sticks they successfully removed from the pile. Each stick removed equals one point. The player with the most amount of points at the end of the game wins.

### Materials Needed:

- Outdoor Space, 50 Sticks of Various Sizes