



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

weet weet

'weet weet'



All school-age groups (K–12)

Post-school age

Background

The throwing of the play-stick, commonly called the *weet weet* ('wit-wit') was a popular activity among Aboriginal people in some parts of Australia, and various contests were held.

The *weet weet* was often referred to as the 'kangaroo rat', because when thrown correctly its flight resembled the leaping action of this small marsupial. A *weet weet* was like a giant tadpole. The tail was a flexible stick and in some types when it was thrown it was swung backward and forward and bent almost double.

After being thrown onto (or through) a small mound or pile of bushes, a *weet weet* could:

- leap along in a succession of bounds
- travel along the ground
- spin in a 'bouncing' action as it turned end over end

- travel in a parabola and strike the ground before travelling further
- be thrown to slide along the ground (such as along a sandy beach).

Language

In the language recorded from some people in the western district of Victoria:

**Malnangyer, wida umeit warreete,
umuk perperdunk**

*Now let us see who throw out the farthest.
Throw it out.*

Short description

This is a throwing competition for distance and accuracy, using a club or pin to represent a throwing stick or *weet weet*.

Game play and basic rules

- Although a popular sport with Aboriginal people in parts of Australia it is very difficult to recreate the weet weet. To give some idea of the throwing for accuracy and distance associated with this activity, rhythmic gymnastic clubs or juggling clubs are worth using.
- Players use different coloured clubs and conduct contests of distance and accuracy. Players may have three turns each as part of an athletic event.

Scoring

The player who throws the weet-weet the longest distance or who hit — or was closest — to the target was considered the winner of the game.

Variation

- For younger players use a 'foxtail' ball (or a tennis ball in a stocking). These are twirled around and either thrown directly into the air or bounced from an inclined board or mat. Players aim to throw the longest distance or for accuracy at a target.

Safety

Strict observance of safety measures is necessary to conduct any activities associated with throwing of the weet weet.

Comment

Use a number of clubs (three to five) as the weet-weet. These can be made by copying designs and experimenting, or using a rhythmic gymnastic club or similar as the weet-weet.

Teaching points

- Ready. Throw and follow through.
- Watch the target. Watch where you are throwing.

