



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

**bunbuja**  
'bun-bu-ja'



SCHOOL  
YEARS  
4-6

SCHOOL  
YEARS  
7-9

### Background

Spin-tops were made from the gourds of the *Benincasa vacua*, in an area of north Queensland. The people in the Cape Grafton area called them *bunbuja*. A spin-top was made by passing a stick through the gourd and then fixing the stick into position with twine and beeswax.

Spin-tops were used only by the men, and spun by twirling with the flats of the open hands or a flick of the thumb and first finger. A hole was made in the side, to make it hum.

### Game play and basic rules

- Make or use small tops that can be spun with the hands or with the thumb and finger.
- Some types of spin-tops can be purchased in toy shops.

### Teaching points

- Hold the ends of the top.
- Be ready to spin it.
- Pull and push your palms together. (Flick the thumb and first finger).
- Release the top.
- Look at it go.