



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

koabangan

'ko-a-ban-gan'



SCHOOL
YEARS
K-3

SCHOOL
YEARS
4-6

Background

A game called *koabangan* was a finding-object game observed being played in the early 1900s by the Kokominni boys of north Queensland. The object commonly used was a goanna claw, but other objects were also used.

Short description

A player hides an object in a designated area and the other players attempt to find it.

Players

- A group of four or more players

Playing area

- A designated outdoor area suitable for the activity

Equipment

- An object such as a tennis ball or a paper clip for a goanna claw
- A number of short bushy trees are required. If this is not suitable then other areas can be used to hide the object

Game play and basic rules

- The players sit in a circle with their heads low and hands over their faces. One player hides the object somewhere in the playing area.
- On a signal being given by the 'hider' the players jump up and start looking for the hidden object. The idea is to be the first to find the object within a set time.
- The player finding the object has the next turn.

Variations

- Use a number of different objects.
- Restrict the size of the playing area.
- Players are blindfolded.
- Play in an indoor hall or similar using a tennis ball to hide.

Comment

This game is suggested for younger children.

Teaching points

- Close your eyes. Hide the marble.
- Keep looking.
- Find it. Are we 'hot' or 'cold'?
- Well done. Change over and we start again.