Ree Ree Khao Sarn / To be Trapped Between the Arches

Site of Documentation

Bangkok, Thailand

Description

*Ree Ree Khao Sarn* is a simple game that has been played by generations of children from Bangkok, Thailand. The aim of the game is for players to pass under an archway that is formed by their opponent’s arms without being trapped.

Who Plays?

The game requires a minimum of 5 players, although groups can be unlimited in size. Both boys and girls aged 4 to 7 years old can play.

Time and Place

On average, this game takes around 10 minutes to play. The higher the number of participants the longer the game will last. It can be played either indoors or outdoors throughout the year, as long as the weather is cool and dry. It is best played on smooth, flat surfaces such as lawns or school yards.

Skills, Strategies and Qualities of a Good Player
Ree Ree Khao Sarn is a simple game that for the most part only requires listening skills and movement. The two players who form the archway have to trap the player who is passing between them as quickly as they can. The last player has the hardest challenge as they have to repeatedly run under the arch without holding onto any team mates and try to not be caught.

**Popularity**

*Ree Ree Khao Sarn* is a favourite game for Thai children (particularly for girls) and is played frequently for fun and to pass the time.

**History of the Game**

Although the origins of this game are not known, it has been played by generations of Thai children. Played throughout the country, the game was traditionally played during Songkran festivities, whereas nowadays it is played throughout the year both at home and at school.

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**How is the Game Played?**

**Step 1.** First, two players must volunteer to form the archway. They must stand facing each other, holding hands with their arms outstretched above their heads.
Step 2. All the remaining players must line up in front of the arch one behind the other with their hands resting on the player in front’s shoulders. Once they are ready, all the players start to walk in a long line, under the arch and sing,

![Step 2 image]

Step 3. The line of players will keep passing under the archway and as the song finishes, the two players that are forming the archway, lower their hands and ‘trap’ the player that is passing between them.

![Step 3 image]
Step 4. Once caught, the player must stand behind one of their opponents for the remainder of the game. The players then repeat the same process, walking under the arch and singing, until each of them have been caught.

![Image of children in an activity](image)

Step 5. The last player left in the game will have to run backwards and forwards under the arch to try to evade capture. Once they have been caught the game is over.

Rules

1. It is up to the first player in the line to help their fellow team mates. They must move as quickly as they can under the archway to protect the other players from being caught.