Site of Documentation

Akha group, Tambon Mae Yao, Mueang District, Chiang Rai Province

Description

*Dod Yang Rod* is a game played by Akha children living in the Chiang Rai province of Northern Thailand. In the game children compete to see how long they can jump on a pile of old motorcycle tires, before they fall off.

Who Plays?

This game requires four to six players. Both boys and girls can play aged between 4-6 years old.

Accessories/Equipment

To play the game, participants need to locate between three and five discarded motorcycle tires. These can be found in the home, at local garages or from rubbish tips.
Time and Place

On average this game takes between 5-10 minutes to play. This game can be played all year round, as long as the weather is cool and dry. It is usually played in the evenings, on weekends or during holidays in quiet streets or around the village square. It requires a large, open space with a flat ground, free from obstructions. Often children play it when they see piles of tires discarded after older children have played games such as Rod Yang or Yon Yang Rod.

Skill, Strategies and Qualities of a Good Player

This game is a test of a player’s strength and balance. The best players are those with strong legs who can keep their footing while jumping up and down on an unsteady pile of tires. Children often learn this game by watching their friends play and perfect their skill through frequent practice.

Popularity

This game is most popular with young girls and is usually played after older children have discarded their tires after a game of Rod Yang.

History of the game

Dod Yang Rod was not played by members of the older generations, probably because when they were young the use of motorcycles was not widespread in small villages. The game has no formal name (Dod Yang Rod was a name created by the team of Children’s Games researchers) and is a good example of how children have created new games, using modern materials.

Preparation

1. First, players must gather together four or five motorcycle tires and stack them in a large pile on the ground.
How is the Game Played?

Step 1. All of the players climb onto the top of the pile and while holding hands, begin to jump up and down.
Step 2. Players that fall off the pile while jumping are allowed to climb back up and rejoin the game. The players can continue jumping until they are too tired to play on and agree to end the game.