Site of Documentation

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

Description

Rod Yang is a game played by Akha children living in the Chiang Rai province of Northern Thailand. In the game children compete with each other to see how far and how fast they can roll a disused motorcycle tire.

Who Plays

This game requires a minimum of 2 players, although groups can be up to 15 participants in size. Often, the higher the number of players in the game, the more fun it is. Both boys and girls can play aged 7-12 years old. Players usually divide themselves into groups of similar age ranges, so their abilities are evenly matched.
Accessories/Equipment

Each player is required to have one old motorcycle tire. This can be found in the home, at local garages or from rubbish tips.

Time and Place

On average this game takes between 5 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. It requires a large, open space with a flat ground, free from obstructions so that the tire can be easily rolled. It is usually played in quiet streets or around the village square, but as it’s more fun to play it on a sloping road as the tire rolls faster, Akha children often play it on the road that leads into their village.

Skill, Strategies and Qualities of a Good Player

This game requires the children to be fit and agile. The best players are those that can run alongside the tires as the roll and control the direction and speed of the tire by hitting it. The game is usually learned from older siblings or peers and can take some time to master properly. Children can improve their game skills by playing often and practicing on their own before competing.

Popularity

This game is played by many ethnic communities in Thailand and most popular with young boys. A real favourite, many children consider this to be their third favourite game after Marbles and Rubber Band Blowing.

History of the game

*Rod Yang* 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. It is another good example of how children have created children new games, using modern materials. The game is similar to a traditional game played by Tai Yuan children, where they created a wheel made from bamboo and used it to race in a game called *Tee Wong Lor*. As times changed and old tires were easier to find, Tai Yuan children switched from the bamboo wheel to the rubber tire but still call the game *Tee Wong Lor* just like they used to.

Preparation

1. First, each player must bring a used motorcycle tire to the game area. They can also bring a stick to hit it with, or if they prefer just use their bare hands.

2. Next, the players have to agree on a race track by determining a starting point and finishing line. This can be down a road or pathway, or around a large school playing field.
How is the Game Played?

**Step 1.** All the players line up at the start line, ready to roll their tires.

![Step 1 Image]

**Step 2.** One player needs to shout, “Go!” at which each player has to hit and roll the tire forward and run alongside it all the way to the finish line. If the player’s tire falls, they must pick it up and start it rolling again to catch up with the other competitors.

![Step 2 Image]
Step 3. The first player to cross the finish line is the champion!

Rules

1. If the tire falls down, players can pick it up and continue to play from that spot.

2. The player who hits the tire through the finishing line first wins.