UNIT ONE

Traditional Games

Gebet'a

Gebet'a was once a popular game in Ethiopia, among both adults and children, largely because it does not require any complicated equipment. Until recently, many children were seen outdoors in public areas playing this type of game, although now it is unfortunately phasing out and being replaced with electronic devices.

Equipment is typically a board made from a variety of materials, such as wood, stone, or just simply digging holes in the earth. Typically, the holes are set in rows of 2 or 4 with the large holes on the ends of the board, as these are the places used for holding

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the pieces. Playing pieces used are usually seeds, beans, stones, or any other small objects that are put in and moved about the holes during play.

With a two-row board, the players control their sides of the board, with moves made into the opponent's side. With a four-row board, the players control an inner row and an outer row, and a player's seeds will remain in these closest two rows unless the opponent captures them.

Although there might be some variance, the main objective is usually to capture more seeds than the opponent. At times, one seeks to leave the opponent with no legal move left or to have their side empty first in order to win.

In a process known as sowing, all the seeds from a hole are dropped one at a time into successive holes, in a motion covering the board. Sowing is a suitable name for this move, since not only are many games traditionally played with seeds, but placing seeds one at a time in different holes reflects the physical act of sowing, showing its link to its agricultural past.

At the beginning of a player's turn, they choose a hole with seeds that will be sown around the board. This selection is often limited to holes on the current player's side of the board, as well as holes with a certain minimum number of seeds.

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I. Based on the reading above, answer the following questions

1. Who play Gebet'a in Ethiopia?

a) Children b) adults c) kids d) a and b

2. Which of the following is not the materials to make Gebet'a?

a) Wood b) stone c) iron d) digging holes

3. Which of the following are the playing pieces used in Gebet'a?

a) Seeds b) beans c) stones d) all

4. At the beginning, players choose _____.

a) playing pieces b) a hole with seeds

c). only seeds d). only holes

5. According to the passage, many children were seen outdoors in public areas playing _____.

a) football b) Genna c) Gebe'ta d) Volleyball

6. The main objective is usually to capture_____.

a) more seeds than the opponent b) more opponents than seeds

c) more stones d) more seeds

7. The holes are set in rows of _____with the large holes on the ends of the board.

a) 2 or 3 b) 2 or 4 c) 3 to 4 d) 4 to 4

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II. Match the words in column "A" with suitable meaning in column "B" (put the correct number in the space provided.

1. famous	…… show
2. tool	……. opposer
3. check	……. well-known
4. difference	…… difficult
5. indicate	……. inspect
6. opponent	…… catch
7. Capture	……. follower
8. Complicated	……. variance
9. Successive	…….. device

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