

The Games People Played . . .



This is an oral history project undertaken by the GSFS Class of 2018 to gather information about the kinds of games people played as children in different eras. Through it, students have learned about childhood in the past, understood how oral histories are constructed, and analyzed patterns in historical data.

Each student interviewed somebody they knew, transcribed the interview, and edited it for publication. In editing, they have not changed the meaning of the interview, but have put the words into a more readable format. Students asked background questions about where and when their subjects grew up, then asked about favorite outdoor and indoor games they played.

Thank you for reading - we hope you learn something!



Katharina Mach

My name is Katharina Mach and I grew up in a small village in Germany named Dietersdorf. I was a child mainly in the 70's.

We played outdoors mostly and in the summertime we usually went to the woods which were right next to our house. Mostly other kids from the village came too and we were building forts and houses and collecting leaves and grass. We would have bicycles and build ramps. I remember one of my favorite games was to play hide and seek in the village, which I don't quite remember how it worked, but it was a lot of fun.

Indoors, I tried to play with either my brother or my sister, I never played together with (both) my siblings. With my sister I had to compromise, because I liked to play with the dolls and the doll house. I had a whole family of dollhouse people with two parents, two grandparents, and eight children. My sister did not like the dolls very much when we played dollhouse, so what we ended up doing was designing rooms for the dollhouse. We didn't have very many pieces (of) furniture, so we used blocks, napkins, and fabric to design new rooms for the dollhouse. That was one of my favorite things to do and in the wintertime, we would play board games as a family. We'd play games like Memory and some German games and board games or card games, so, it used to be lots of fun.

Madeleine Agudelo



Judy Newman Baisch

I'm Judy Newman Baisch, I grew up in New York, (a) suburb of Buffalo, New York (in the) 40's and 50's.

(We played) lots of games outside, I guess a favorite would be hide-and-seek after dark, and we played with flashlights.

I don't know how long ago, how early I started, but my mother loved to play solitaire right until the time she died when she was ninety five years old. She taught lots of people to play solitaire. We played solitaire, single solitaire, doubles solitaire, triple solitaire. That was it.

Chloe Cohen



Ken Curry

My name is Ken Curry and I was born in Pennsylvania. I was (a child) two decades, in the 60's and 70's.

(Outdoors) it probably was football and we played man hunt and hide and go seek. Those were the main games we played. (Indoors) it probably was Monopoly. We played that a lot indoors.

Von Curry



Candy Florence

My name is Candy Florence, and I grew up in Connecticut and Rhode Island, but I also grew up in several other states including Colorado and California and I really love those states too. I was a child in the 1970's and the 1980's, a long time ago.

When I was a child one of my favorite games to play was leap frog, but also a game called red rover. In red rover there would be two lines of kids facing each other, and you would say red rover, red rover send Sophia right over, (then) you would try to run, (and) we would (be) holding hands in our line, and you would run over and try to break through our hands.

My sister and I loved to play a lot of indoor games, (but) we loved board games and our favorites were Monopoly, and also Battleship. Battleship is where I would have my little board and you would have your little board, and we put little battleships in and we would try to guess where they are.

Sophia Florence



Earl Patterson

Earl Patterson, from Philadelphia. (I was a child during) the 90's and 2000's.

We played basketball, we played on the monkey set or the playground gym or whatever it's called. Indoors we played with legos, we played with playdough, and this game called Scene It? It was like guess that movie scene.

Marina Patterson



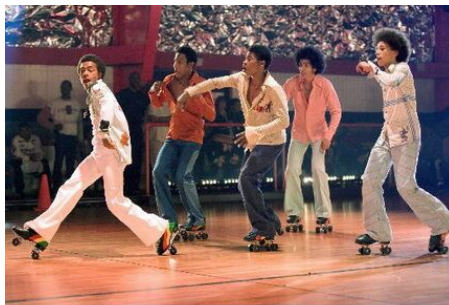
Keir Bradford Grey

(I am) Keir Bradford Grey and I grew up in Boston. I was a child half way through the 1970's but I really grew up with the 1980's.

(Outdoors), dodgeball . . . me and my friends used to play dodgeball in the middle of the street a lot. We used to just get together and play a game of dodgeball.

My favorite indoors game, . . . I used to play court with my friends. We would play like people were lawyers, and someone was defended, and we would play court. We would just pretend that we were lawyers and then a friend would do something, you know terrible, and we would defend him or represent him and go back and forth and see who won. We (would) forgive the friend, so anything that someone did, we would like play court with if we didn't like it.

Daine Grey



Saida Heywood

(I am) Saida Heywood from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I was born in 1974.

Jump rope, roller skating, those were the games we use to play. We would roller skate outside or spend most of the time outside playing double dutch jump rope. Indoors we'd probably be playing with Barbie dolls in the Barbie doll house.

Aminah Muhammad



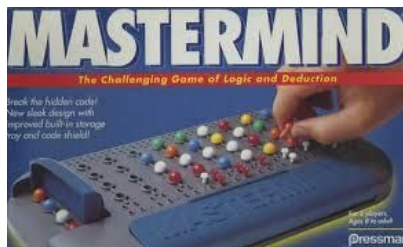
Joyce Silverman

My name is Joyce Silverman. I grew up in Brooklyn, New York (in the) 1940's to 50's.

There was a game called Russian 10, sometimes known now as Sevens. You threw a ball against the wall of the house and you did different things. First you just threw it and caught it and then you threw it and bounced it and then you threw it and clapped and you threw under your leg.

I probably played with dolls but we didn't spend a lot of time playing inside when I was a child.

Lucy Silverman



Amber

My name is Amber and I grew up in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. I was a child in the 80's and 90's.

My favorite game to play outdoors was red light green light. I loved to play board games indoors, a few of those would be Mastermind, Connect Four, and Jenga.

Xzayvier Brown



Chyke Doubeni

My name is Chyke Doubeni, I grew up in Nigeria. I was born in 1963 to be precise.

I guess my most favorite, favorite game was to put carbide in water and light it up and have it blow up as far as it could go. There are these tablets that your mom could tell you more about. Basically when you dissolve it in water it actually produces this flammable gas when you light it, you put a little hole in the bottom, you put a can over it, then you light it. The other was actually going to the farm but I guess that is not a game. if you want to talk about a real game, I loved to swim - I don't know if that's a game - or play soccer.

Indoors as a child, that's a little different. I might have to say it's not really a game, it was listening to stories.

Preye Doubeni



Susan K. Hart

My name is Susan K. Hart, I am 76 years old, and I grew up in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. I was a child during the 40's and 50's.

Outdoors my favorite game would have to be basketball. My favorite indoor game would have to be canasta, it's a card game, but I forget how to play it.

Charles Hart



Greta Haskell

My name is Greta Haskell and I grew up in Germantown, Philadelphia. I was a child in the 2000's.

No, I can't (tell about a favorite outdoor game) because, I can't think of one. My favorite game to play as a child indoors, was a computer game called Madeline and I would do math on it.

Ingrid Haskell



Julia Copeland

Julia Copeland, and I grew up kind of all over the place, Maryland, Minnesota, and Massachusetts during the 70's and 80's.

We played a game called Spud. Everyone had a number, someone who was it had the ball, and everyone stood around the person with the ball. And then the person with the ball would throw the ball up in the air and call out a number. And when the person threw the ball up in the air, everyone around them had to run as far as they could, because once the number was called, the person that was that number had to catch the ball. And people could keep running until that person whose number was called caught the ball. And once the person catches the ball everyone becomes frozen, so the person that catches the ball has to take four steps, and they can take as big steps as they want, and they say S.P.U.D. for the four steps and then they have to try to hit someone with the ball. So they throw the ball, and try to hit someone with the ball. And then if you get hit, then you become it and you throw the ball.

Indoors we played jacks and Chinese jacks, so there were two different kinds. There was the little metal jacks and a ball, and Chinese jacks were, actually, you put them together and they were little plastic rings, and you would hook the little rings together, and you played both games pretty much the same way.

Ella Copeland



Daniel Hoffman

I'm Daniel Hoffman and I grew up in Philadelphia in Fishtown during the 50's, 60's and 70's.

Freedom, we used to play the game freedom. It's a running game kind of based on tag. You have groups of kids in a defined boundary, usually four or five blocks, and the idea is when you tag someone you capture them and put them in your base. Other people had to come running to the base and tag the base to free everybody. That was the concept and the problem is when you ran to the base to free people it was easy to get caught.

(Indoors) my older brother Raymond and I used to play chess all the time.

Manny Hoffman



Naeemah Preston

(I am) Naeemah Preston and I grew up in West Philadelphia (in) the 80's, the 90's and the early 2000's.

We played hopscotch, usually sat around and watch my sisters play basketball or kind of athletic sport. Indoors I usually played my Super Nintendo, Super Mario Brothers, or Donkey Kong.

Amaya Preston

Toni Roberts Sharp



My name is Toni Roberts Sharp and I grew up in Glenside, PA in the 1940's and the 1950's.

It wasn't really a game, but I played in the creek near our house a lot. We sometimes played tag and hopscotch. We played jump rope if we had someone to spin the rope. I also played a lot of catch with my father.

I remember playing lots of board games. I played Parcheesi and checkers. We also played card games like Old Maid and Go Fish. That's about it.

Miller Gentry-Sharp

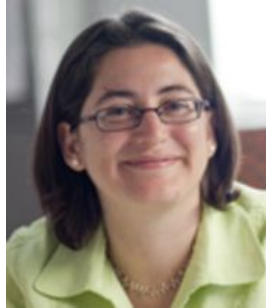


Raheem McQueen

(I am) Raheem McQueen. I grew up (in) Philadelphia (during) the middle of the 1970's.

Outdoors, football, basketball, soccer, and baseball. I would say one of my favorite games as a child would be checkers.

Nyla Scott



Tabatha Abu El-Haj

(I am) Tabatha Abu El-Haj, and I grew up in Lebanon and Iraq. I was a child in the 1970s and 1980s.

I did different things at different ages but I remember biking around our balcony, I was probably 5 or 10. I also remember biking when I was older in Iraq, on the streets and around our neighborhood. As outdoor games, it was biking.

I remember as a young child I played with my sister's Barbie dolls. They were all dented because my sisters had crashed them together before I got them. I remember playing fantasy games like make believe off TV shows, mostly Charlie's Angels, when I was slightly older, like your age, and playing cards. I played canasta when we were in the basement worrying about bombs.

Luca Abu El-Haj



Ellen Applegate Landis

My name is Ellen Applegate Landis and I grew up in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. I was born in nineteen thirty nine and I was a child in the 40's and 50's.

I remember on the street where I lived, there wasn't much traffic so we played a game in the street called Kick The Can. We had a tin can and someone would kick it then everybody would run and hide. It was sort of like hide and seek.

(Indoors) I remember playing a board game called Parcheesi, and I played a lot of card games with my mother and father. I didn't have any sisters and brothers so I played many card games with my parents.

Claire Camp-Landis



Cherie Crisden

My name is Cherie Crisden. I grew up in Mount Airy of Philadelphia (during the) 1980's-1990's.

One of the games I played as was jump rope. We played outside very often. We played all day until evening. We had two people at the end and I jump in. My favorite game I played indoors was cards. We weren't allowed to play cards but we would play war. We played War when we didn't have earrings to do. We had the original Nintendo and we played Mario Brothers.

Chris Crisden



Meena Davi Chandrasekaran

My name is Meena Davi Chandrasekaran and I grew up in India, Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu state and also Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (I was a child in the) 70's and 80's.

Outdoors as a child one of my favorite games was tag. When I went to school in India we would have a huge Banyan tree and that would be home base. So we would play tag and one person would be it so if we touched home base we would be safe. That was a very fun game to play cause the tree was so big so we could wrap ourselves around it.

Indoors as a child one of my favorite games to play was Scrabble. I used to love mixing up all the letters and coming up with as many words as possible and I also liked coming up with Indian words in English. So I would try to spell out a Tamil word for something but put it in English and we would make those words count and other fun variations on that game. Another game that I absolutely loved to play was spit, which is a card game where you had to go super fast to get rid of all your cards in chronological order. We would play marathons marathon rounds of spit.

Santhi Chandrasekaran



Delories Coppola

My first name is Delories and I grew up in England, in West Bromwich in Birmingham. I was born in 1966. And I was a child in the 60's, 70's and early 80's.

I used to play rounders, it's like softball over here. I used to play netball but it's the same as basketball, and I used to play it indoors. The gym where we played was at school. And four houses consist of the school. Churchill, Nightingale, Chichester, I'm not sure about the other house. And houses used to play against each other. We used to play netball against the people in our class.

Angela Coppola



Miasha Pinckney

My name is Maisha Pinckney and I grew up here in Germantown in the Northwest part of the city Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I was a child during the 80's and the 90's.

I liked Mother May I and Hopscotch. I liked to play hide and seek and I liked to play with dolls. I had a doll named Tolly. I played cards with my brother and Uno and Monopoly and with my doll Tolly and I played jacks with my cousin Shena.

Julian Pinckney



Marty Foley

My name is Marty Foley and I grew up in Brooklyn, New York. I was a child in the '60s and '70s.

An outdoors game that we used to play in my neighborhood, we moved when I was ten, so before I moved, we used to play manhunt a lot. The way we played it was that we often had one person hide, and the rest of the people had to try to find him. But there was a lot of places to hide. We had an apartment building on the corner and we used to sneak into the basement of it and hide in there. And sometimes we would play teams, it wasn't like capture the flag, but one team had to capture the members of the other team. And summer nights we played a lot of manhunt.

Indoors we played a lot of board games, but we also played a lot of imaginative games. I'm one of five, I had four brothers, and so we used to play these games where my two older brothers made model airplanes and we we actually set up an air force in our in our living room. And we made buildings out of shoeboxes, and we had, little characters who were the pilots, little wooden figures and things like that. And we would roll out this this air force, and have this whole set, it was like a movie that that we just created on the spot. That's a game that stands out to me.

Erin Malloy



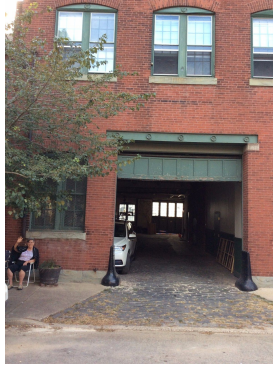
Diane

My name is Diane and I grew up in New York, Queens, the town of Flushing. I was a child in the 60's.

(Outdoors) Ooh so many, one or more than one? I don't think that I really did have have a favorite game. I think it all depended on who was around to play with, what the weather was like, what toys or things we had around to play with, and how old we were, it all changed over time. But if i had to pick it would be tag. We played tag and what we called as kids was hit the lamp post. So we had street lights and basically we figured out some game where we had rules and we would just count to something and whoever got to the post before being tagged didn't get tagged, so I think that was my most favorite.

(Indoors) Different things at different times. If I had other kids around sometimes we would play card games. Sometimes when I was much younger we would play games like Candyland, the surgery one where you can't touch the edge of the thing, and Chutes and Ladders or something with like a marble that drops down or something, not like Chutes and Ladders the board game but like some mechanical thing. But then indoors we also did make believe stuff, like you would make up things (like) somebody's the teacher and everybody else is the student.

Maya Ann Diaz



Sally Lou Buell

My name is Sally Lou Buell and I grew up in Rye, New York. It's a suburb of New York City and actually I grew up in Mamaroneck, New York. My childhood was from '29 to '39.

We played kick the can or we played hide and seek or sardines. I played a lot of games indoors. My father liked playing games and so he would teach us how to play different games and we would play chess, but we played a game called double bezique. I played it with him and he was good. It was fun to play games with him.

Alex Emig



Mike

(I am) Mike from West Oak Lane. (I was a child during) the 80's and 90's.

Hide n Go Seek. Pong.

Anthony Noakes



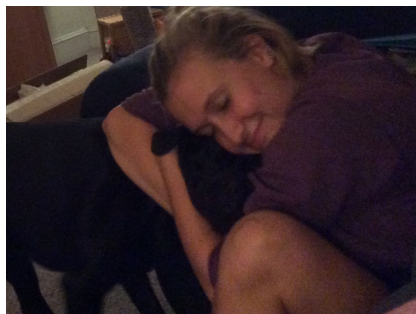
Anne Bayless

My name is Anne Bayless and I grew up in Evanston, Illinois which is a little city, just north of Chicago, Illinois on Lake Michigan. I was born in 1964 and I was a child during the 70's and late 60's.

I played a lot of games outdoors. In my neighborhood, we used to have big games of capture the flag, with like all the kids on our block and that was with all the big kids. We would play it between two yards and it was really fun. My best friend growing up, Barbeck and I would go to the elementary school and we would play on all the equipment and do obstacle courses. We also liked to organize softball games in my neighborhood and in our backyard and we would always play kickball in my backyard. Then my friend and I always liked to play basketball while we were on the pogo stick. And used to play ice hockey because my backyard was concrete and would get frozen over in the winter.

Indoors, one of my favorite games we played was jacks. Barbeck and I used to make up radio stations on a tape recorder, which you don't really know what a tape recorder is. But back in the day Barbeck and I would make up characters, and we would pretend we were interviewing people, we would do like radio stations. I also liked to play pool at my friend Matt Gardener's house, because he had a pool table.

Maggie McDevitt



Rachel Sidener

I am Rachel Sidener, I grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, I guess very late, very very late 90s, like the last 9 months of the 90s or so and like, early 2000s. Legally I still am a child, I guess.

(Outdoors)

There was a modified version of tag that I played that was called banana tag. So it's like everyone's it and if you tag someone, I forget how it goes, they have to sit down and then, if you tag, five people say, and then they're all sitting down and someone tags you then all the other people are back in, so it's wild and there's all sorts of power dynamics and it's thrilling.

(Indoors)

I've always really liked Clue, I'm really good at it. I can take notes of things other than just the cards that I see, then I get extra information, so I'm kind of a pro. There's a board and there are different rooms and you have a little character and you are trying to figure out who did the murder, where they did it and with what weapon, and you do that by making suggestions. If someone has a card that can disprove it, basically if they have one of the cards that you suggest, then they have to show it to you, going in order of which player would have to show it to you first. You have to be in a certain room to make an accusation for that room and there's a deck of cards. There's a special modified Clue deck of cards, obviously and there's three cards, one person, one place and one murder weapon that are in a little envelope so you're trying to figure out what they are with process of elimination and it's not very Quakerly.

Joshua Sidener



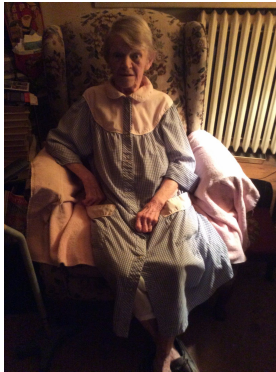
Diane Butler

(I am) Diane Butler and I grew up in both all over America and England in the 70's and 80's.

In both America and England I enjoyed playing outside, just sports, and I would ice skate in the winter in Michigan and play by the streams and in the woods. Then in England, same thing - outdoor games and building forts under a huge tree under in our yard.

I loved checkers and really just listening to records and sometimes board games with my parents. I also really loved to color in coloring books.

Logan Butler



Bettie Paul

When I was a kid, life was a lot different than today, we walked to school. It was a long walk. We would go home to eat lunch and come back at 10:00. School was in the city, we had a big high school, we had a big classes. (It was in) Chicago. I graduated from grade school 1943.

(In) summer we played hopscotch. Two boys and two girls. We played hopscotch all summer. I did other things too. We spent a lot of time outside. (Inside) I don't know, I was an only child. I didn't have anyone to play with.

Sam Cadbury



Nadja Peter

My name is Nadja Peter and I grew up in Demarest and Norwood, New Jersey in the 1970's and the early 1980's.

My favorite outdoor game was tag, for sure. We played all sorts of different types of tag. Freeze tag, tag with a base, celebrity tag, and singing tag where you had to sing a song. And we also played manhunt, which was like a glorified tag all over the neighborhood.

(Indoors) I am not sure I can pick one. When I was a very little kid my very favorite game was Candyland. And then Uncle Wiggily. Uncle Wiggily is a game based off of a book and Uncle Wiggily is some sort of animal, I don't remember. But I remember there was a brer rabbit who was a rabbit in a briar patch and he was also a Uncle Wiggily and you could fall into the briar patch.

And then when I got older we played Careers. And as a family, you know that game we still play it, and with my family we played a lot of Trivial Pursuit and Monopoly and Risk. That is it.

Michaela Jaeger



James Gibson

(I am) James Gibson and I grew up in South Philadelphia. I was a toddler in the late 50's but I was pretty much a child in the 60's.

(Outdoors)

Dead block. Dead block is when you have boxes probably from one to twenty and you have a top of a container, a lid top. The objective is to hit other people's top that's on the box that's drawn on the ground and that's how you got points. Some people had tiny lids, like a hot sauce bottle lid and some people had (a) big lid. So if you had a little one it was harder for someone to hit it. Another game we played outside, oh, all of our games were played outside. Another game was halfball, you took a small ball like a tennis ball and you cut it in half then you get a broomstick or a mop stick and someone will pitch it to you. And you have to hit the ball and where it lands on the wall determines if it's a single, double or home run.

(Indoors)

Monopoly, yes it was a favorite game. Monopoly was a board game where you try to buy property. The properties were named after different states and there was also a railroad. But most games were played outside. We didn't have have a whole lot of indoor games. Unlike a lot of families we didn't play board games together, most of your games were outside.

Jamie Gibson



Dahlia Wigfall

My name is Dahlia Wigfall and I grew up in two places. My early childhood into middle school I grew up in Mount Airy, Philly. Then in high school, my family moved to West Chester, PA so I went to school in West Chester. I was born in 1977, which means that most of my young childhood into adult life was in the 80's and early 90'.

When I was a child I really enjoyed the outdoors. I spent a lot of time with my friends riding bikes, but i think my favorite game was double-dutch. That was my favorite game, I wasn't really good turning the rope but I definitely could jump. I also enjoyed (games) like hide and go seek and clapping games. I was really into clapping games, hopscotch, things like that.

I really was into imagination games, so I did a lot of dress ups and making up dances and choreography of dances and then putting them together and presenting them to our family members. But I also liked boards games a lot so I was into Monopoly, Life was really fun, and Clue. I love the game Clue, that was a really fun game.

Sanai Miller