

# Birch Bark Triangle & Ball Game

Have you ever made a game with something found in nature? Children of the Penobscot Nation, and other northern Native American cultures, have used a piece of sturdy bark from birch trees and small ball to play a fun game! Create your own version below, following an activity created by our summer intern, Elena. See if you have what it takes to get the ball through the hole!

## HOW TO PLAY

Hold the triangle from a corner or side that is not connected to the string. Bounce your arm gently in order to move the ball, and aim to get the ball through the circle.



Birch tree bark is a very sturdy material. Check out the box above, made from birch bark. Does it look like it could break easily?



Birch bark was readily available to the Penobscot people living in the Northeastern Woodlands area of North America, where many birch trees grow. What type of trees grow near where you live?

## MATERIALS:

<p>Piece of cardboard</p> 	<p>Tape</p> 	<p>String</p> 	<p>Glue</p> 	<p>Scissors</p> 	<p>Scrap Paper</p> 
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**STEP ONE:** On your piece of cardboard, draw out a triangle with a circle in the center.



**STEP TWO:** With scissors, cut out the triangle and the circle in the center. You may need any adult's help with this part.

**STEP THREE:** Cut a piece of string and attach it to a corner of the triangle. You can use glue or tape to attach the string.



**STEP FOUR:** Crumble a small piece of paper into a ball shape. Make sure it's small enough to fit through the center of your triangle! With some pieces of tape, wrap and completely cover the paper ball.

**STEP FIVE:** Finally, glue the other end of the string to the paper ball and wait for it to dry.



Now you are ready to play! How many times can you get the ball through the hole?