

TRADITIONAL GAMES FROM THE NORTH OF SPAIN

As a Spanish volunteer temporarily living in Hungary, it is my main goal to learn as many things as possible about the culture of this beautiful country. However, I would like to thank the hospitality that I am receiving by sharing some of my own culture and traditions.

Personally, I have found that traditional games put together the perfect combination of culture and physical activity. Therefore in this article, I will humbly try to expose some interesting games that used to be played in my region of Spain {Asturias}, not only by children but by adults and elderly people too.



My personal experience as a physical education teacher has taught me that traditional games can be applied to physical activity lessons in order to teach the pupils about traditional culture at the same time that they improve their body learning and skills. But they can also be played in festivities, or in any other occasion with the simple objective of having fun and doing some exercise to keep a healthy lifestyle.

In this article I am going to show three different popular games called: La llave {the key}, Tiru al palu {pull the stick} and La Rana {the frog}.

La llave

- History and origins:

The game emerged in the age of Industrial Revolution in 18th century, in the city of Gijón. The workers of the railroad, in their breaks, used to improve their aiming by throwing different working tools. This Hobby finally evolved until become this traditional game.

- Nº of players: Two teams. Could be individual, couples, threesomes..

- Equipment:

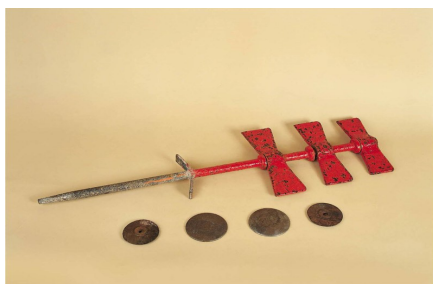
- *La llave*, it is the object that gives the name to the game. It is usually made of iron and it is a spike with three blades of different sizes.

- *El cajón*. It is something that covers *La Llave*. Usually made of wood, and it is a security element.

- *The tokens*. They are the items to throw to "*La Llave*". Round shaped, and usually made of iron.

- Rules:

The game is played on a plain place of about 15 m. large and at least 2 m. wide. The game consists on throwing 6 different tokens and try to hit "*la llave*". Each hit on "*la llave*" is one point. After 10 runs, the team with more points wins the game.



Tiru al palu

- History and origins:
Traditionally in the festivities of the villages, men used to play this game as a way of show their manhood and their strength.
- Nº of players: Two people, one against the other.
- Equipment: a stick or pole. And a wooden table to hold the feet.
- Rules: The two participants sit face to face with feet held on a table. After that, they both grab a stick and try to lift the opponent o make him drop the stick. The best of three is the winner.



La rana

- History and origins:
Played in Asturias since 19th century, it comes from an old French game from XVIII century called *Tonnueau* (the barrel). It is a game of aim and precision mostly played in the traditional taverns called "chigres".
- Nº of players: Two teams. Can be played individually also.
- Equipment: It consists on a metal frog with an open mouth mounted on the center of a wooden or iron box. And ten iron tokens to throw and score the points.
- Rules:
The box has 8 different holes where you can score points. Four uncovered holes rounding the central frog rated in 1 point. The mill in front of the frog rated in 5 points. Two "bridges" rated in 2 points. And the central frog 10 points. After have thrown the ten tokens, the team/player with more points wins the game.

