

# Traditional American Indian Game

Our new exhibit, **Wonders of the West**, includes artifacts made and used by American Indian peoples. Tired of isolating screen time? Unlike today's high-tech games, many traditional games played by Native Americans in the West and Southwest were not meant to be played alone. The games brought people together, stimulated social interaction and strengthened social bonds. Some of the games were games of chance involving dice made from decorated sticks, bone, or pottery discs. This activity is a simple to make-and-play game that can be enjoyed by the entire family!

## **MATERIALS:**

3 Craft Sticks, Preferably Jumbo Craft Sticks\*  
Markers, Crayons or Colored Pencils  
Paper & Pencil to Keep Score

## **DIRECTIONS:**

Using the markers, decorate only one side of each stick. Come up with your own design and pattern, and/or incorporate some of the symbols found in some American Indian art: simple geometric shapes (triangles, circles, etc.), sun symbols, wavy lines, spirals, lines and animals.

*\*Don't have craft sticks? Make your own "sticks" by cutting 6 strips from a cereal box. Decorate the plain side of 3 of the strips and staple, glue or tape one plain and one decorated strip together. Now you're ready to play!*

## **HOW TO PLAY:**

Hold all three sticks in both hands and toss them in the air or hold them vertically in one hand, about 6 inches above the table, and drop them. Scores are based on how the dice fall. Each player alternates taking a turn. The first one to reach 50 points wins!

## **SCORING "CHEAT SHEET":**

3 blank sticks = 10 points  
2 blank + 1 design = 2 points  
1 blank + 2 design = 3 points  
3 design = 5 points

*Points assigned to each stick combination and points needed to win are completely up to you!*

