

Ranger Rick's

Family Fun



EASY OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR HAPPY, HEALTHY FAMILIES

Marbles 101

Shiny, smooth, glass marbles—and groups of kids playing with them outside—were once seen all the time in neighborhoods across the country. It's time to revive this traditional outdoor game!

There are many variations, but this version, called "Ringer," is often considered the classic game of marbles.

How to Play Ringer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- 13 "mibs" (regular-sized target marbles)
- 1 "shooter" (slightly larger marble)
- A circle ten feet in diameter on the ground. Use sidewalk chalk on a driveway or a twig in the dirt to make the circle.

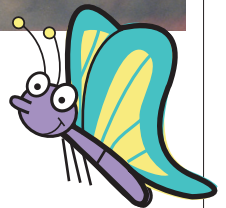
NOTE: For beginners, try making the circle smaller than 10 feet. The bigger the circle, the harder the game will be.

WHAT YOU DO:

1. To decide who goes first, the players try to shoot a marble from one end of the circle to the other. The marble that goes the farthest without leaving the circle goes first. This is called "lagging."
2. Arrange the thirteen mibs in a plus-sign shape inside the circle.



Let's get rolling! It's time to revive this traditional outdoor game.



3. First shooter: Kneel down anywhere outside the circle with the shooter in one hand and at least one knuckle of your shooting hand on the ground. (This is called "knuckling down.") With your thumb, flick the shooter toward the mibs. The aim is to knock a mib out of the circle while keeping the shooter inside. As long as you knock out a mib and the shooter stays in the ring, you keep the mib and you can keep shooting. If you miss or the shooter goes outside the ring, it's the other player's turn.

4. The first player to knock out seven mibs wins the game.



BE OUT THERE™

Health Tip

Kids who play outside literally see things differently! According to a recent study, kids who have two near-sighted parents can reduce their risk of myopia by two-thirds if they play outside 14 hours per week or more.

www.beoutthere.org

For diagrams and more info about marbles, visit www.streetplay.com.