

Ohlone Staves Game

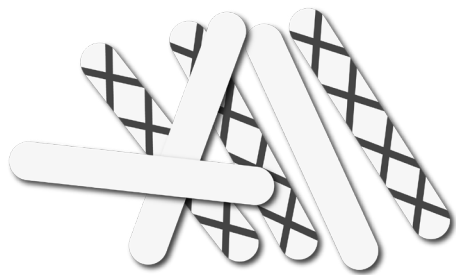
The Ohlone people are the indigenous inhabitants of the San Francisco Bay Area through Monterey Bay and the lower Salinas Valley. As part of their rich cultural tradition, Ohlone people of all ages play games. The game of Staves is a game of chance, played with six sticks from the elderberry or willow tree and decorated on the rounded side in geometric patterns, in red, white or black.

OBJECTIVE: person that reaches **5 points** first wins the game.

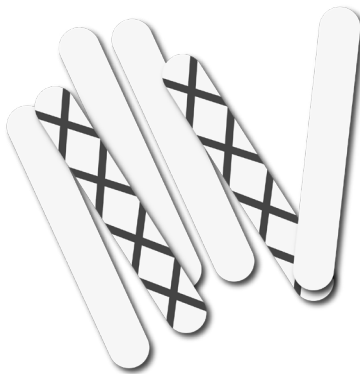
The staves may be tossed any way as long as they are thrown all together. Six staves are used and they could be made out of Willow or Elderberry.

Points are determined by the staves fall. If when they fall 3 white and 3 black sides turn up, **1 point** is scored.

If all the designs "rounded" or "black" sides turn up, or all the undecorated "flat" or "white" sides turn up **2 points** are scored.



If any other combination shows, **0 points** are scored.



Fun Facts

Some native people would have specific designs representing a variety of animals or things. Some designs included deer tracks, butterfly wings, ant trail, bird tracks, and arrowheads.

This game is like a Bingo game in that it brings communities together, however it has been used as a gambling game as well. But, most importantly, it has been used to settle disputes between families and clans.



San Francisco Public Library

