

Especially for young readers

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An old sport rolls on

Mighty Marble Tournament



Marbles were especially popular in the 1930s and '40s. This was right after the Depression, when people didn't have much money to spend for fun.

How to play



1. Place the back of your hand on the ground with the shooting marble resting inside the first finger between the tip and the first joint.



2. Carefully roll up your hand, keeping the marble steady with the tip of the nail of your thumb. By taking careful aim and flicking your thumb, you can force the marble out into the marble ring.



Dean Feinauer, co-winner of the 1978 tournament, gets ready to shoot. The contest uses specially built marble rings made of cement. Most kids play marbles in the dirt.

Kids have been playing marbles for thousands of years.

The ancient Egyptians used to shoot marbles.

George Washington played with marbles made of clay.

Marbles were very popular in this country in the 1930s and 1940s . . . before TV.

Back then, boys carried sacks of marbles tied to their trousers. Girls didn't play much.

Although the mighty marble has lost a lot of its punch, there are some kids still playing.

Many of them have been competing in local contests across the country.

They are trying to reach the national "Big Blue Marble" marbles tournament. It will be held at Wildwood, New Jersey, later on this month.

The tournament is sponsored by "Big Blue Marble," an award-winning TV series for kids.



1978 Champs Diane and Dean.

Thirteen-year-olds Diane Bertosh of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Dean Feinauer of Reading, Pa., were the 1978 marble-shooting champs. Each received a \$500 college scholarship and a trophy. They were among the 54 boys and girls to compete at the tournament held at Wildwood, N.J. Kids from 8 to 14 can enter. This year's contest will begin on June 28 at Wildwood.