



Even or Odd

Pares o Nones

From the Mexican-United States Border

Equipment: an equal number (12 to 16) of small stones, acorns, or buttons for each player.

Origin: No one knows by this time where the games played on the Mexican-United States border originally came from. Even or Odd is played on both sides of the border.

To Play: One player distributes the playing pieces, which the players conceal behind a card or one hand. To begin, a player puts one, two, or three playing pieces in one hand and makes a fist. He or she holds out the hand to another player and asks, “Odd or even?” The guesser answers. If the guess is correct, the guesser wins all the pieces. If the answer is wrong, the guesser gives the asking player the same number of pieces as are in the hand. The game ends when a player is out of playing pieces or when the group decides to do something else. As players lose pieces it is important that other players not know how many pieces are left, making guessing and winning too easy.

From A World of Children's Games by Mary Duckert, Friendship Press