

# 19th Century Toys & Games

## Hoops

For many children, especially in rural regions, toys came in the form of whatever supplies they could find. One popular toy was the hoop, which could be easily found as they were used to hold a barrel together. When a barrel wore out or a village cooper made a new barrel, children could take the old, unused hoops and turn them into a game. These hoops were typically made of wood or metal.

In order to keep the hoops upright, children guided them with a stick. Contests were held to test hoop-rolling skills and to see how long he or she could keep their hoop rolling without it falling over.



## Graces

The game of Graces is a two person game. These hoops are usually taken from mom's sewing kit as the hoop in this game is typically embroidery hoops decorated with ribbon. Players each have two long dowels and stand opposite one another as they toss the embroidery hoop between one another. The object of the game is to catch the flying hoop with your wands and toss it to the other player from your wands.

\*These old fashioned toys are available online.

### Materials Needed

- Hoops and sticks – hoops for rolling are generally 24-27 inches in diameter while hoops for graces are approximately 10 inches in diameter.

Details adapted from the *Historic Communities: Old-Time Toys*  
Bobbie Kalman and David Schimpky