

WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshops

November 2023: Horseshoe Game

Ages 5-12

CONNECT.

What's your favorite game to play outside—whether it's at recess, at the park, or at home?

The game of Horseshoes is a lawn game that was brought to the United States from England when America was just beginning. Today it is played in backyards, parks, and even tournaments across the U.S. and Canada!

INVESTIGATE.

The goal of the game is to toss the horseshoes so they get as close as possible to the stake. (The best possible shot will wrap around it!) The distance that players stand from the stake can determine how hard the game will be.

Let's see how far away the players should stand when they play your Horseshoe Game to make it challenging but *not* impossible!

Distance	Success Rate: ___ / 4 throws
4 feet	/ 4
	/ 4
	/ 4
	/ 4
	/ 4
	/ 4
	/ 4
	/ 4
	/ 4
	/ 4
	/ 4

1. Recreate this chart in your notepad so you can keep track of each trial.
2. Select a place to play your Horseshoe Game where there is room for you to stand up to 25 feet away from the stake!
3. Place your Horseshoe Game on the ground. Then use your measuring tape to measure four feet away from the game and mark the spot with your painter's tape.
4. Throw each of your four horseshoes toward the game's stake. Make a tally on your chart each time a throw touches the stake.
5. Your goal is to find the throwing distance that gives you a one out of four success rate—meaning that you touch the stake once out of your four throws. This success rate shows that it is *possible* to hit the stake, but that it will take some practice and some skill to consistently succeed!
6. Each time you touch the stake more than one out of four times, back up a couple of feet. Then mark your position, measure the distance, perform your trial, and record your results. If you ever feel like you had unusually bad or good luck, feel free to perform the trial a second time.

INNOVATE.

Once you've found the perfect distance for a challenging game, remove all the other pieces of painter's tape. Then grab your notebook and pencil to keep score and invite a friend or family member to play.

Take turns standing at the tape and throwing two horseshoes toward the game. A throw that touches the stake receives one point, and a throw that encircles the stake gets three points. Collect the horseshoes after all four have been thrown and then start again. The first person to get to 21 points wins.

Once you have a winner, brainstorm how you could change the rules to make them your own. Then play again and give your rules a try!

You'll need:

- Your Horseshoe Game
- Painter's tape
- Notepad
- Pencil
- Ruler or measuring tape



Real horseshoes are made from metals such as steel or aluminum. A **Welder's** job is to create or repair metal products or goods by using heat to join multiple metals together.

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