

The Four Elements

About: The Four Elements Game was a popular children's game played in the 1800's. This game will test your mental speed and knowledge of animals.

Number of Players: At least 4

Other materials: a ball (or item to toss)

How to Play:

1. A player is chosen to stand in the middle of the group who are seated about in a circle.
2. This player will take a ball (traditionally he/she would use a handkerchief) and toss it to a random player while shouting out one of the elements (earth, wind, water, or fire).
3. If the player shouts out "earth" the player catching the ball must name an animal that is bound to the land (cow, dog, sheep, rabbit etc.). If the player shouts "wind" the catcher must respond with an airborne animal (dove, swallow, bee, etc.). If the player shouts "water" the catcher must respond with a type of fish (octopus, trout, eel, etc.). Finally, if the player shouts "fire", the catcher must stay silent.
4. If you cannot think of an animal within 3 seconds of catching the ball, or if you speak when you are supposed to stay silent, you must be the one to stand in the center, toss the ball, and call out the elements.