

Bruk Rock Stone WebQuest

Slave History

This Jamaican children's ring game has its origins in a dark time of country's history— slavery.

In the 1700s, there were many English people settled in Jamaica. Harvesting sugarcane became one of their major ways to make money. Sugar harvesting was hard work, so the English brought hundreds of thousands of African slaves to Jamaica.

Ring Games

Ring games are a part of Jamaica's history that have been handed down through generations. Ring games have both African and European influences (because of the English and Africans both living in Jamaica) and are well known for the wealth of information they provide.

On a slave plantation, Ring Games were usually performed outdoors by both adults and children alike, most often on nights when the moon was full. Each game has a purpose and a theme. They usually represent something from the lives of the slaves. "Bull-in-a-pen" is a ring game that deals with captivity (being a slave) and freedom and shows why working together is important.

Bruk Rock Stone

Bruk Rock Stone is a ring game that is meant to represent a "work song" in which all slaves are sharing in the same activity. The song has a rhythm that represents cooperative labor and coordination.

Others think the stone in the game symbolizes the pain and suffering that slaves did not want to think about. That is why each player passes the stone away once he/she gets it.