

BOOK REVIEW

By Gretchen Solting

More Math Games and Activities From Around the World by Claudia Zaslavsky (Chicago Review Press, 2003).

Mathematics is a challenging subject for students all over the world. More Math Games and Activities From Around the World uses games and common objects like the five-pointed star to teach mathematical skills, including geometry, measurement, and counting.

Chapters on board games, numbers, puzzles, and patterns allow students to focus on mathematics while providing background information on a wide variety

of cultures. All of these activities can be performed either in a classroom or at home with parents and friends. In most cases, the activities require only common objects.

Mathematics can be taught in unexpected ways. For example, embroidery, beadwork, quilting, and weaving are art forms that can be used to teach mathe-

matics through symmetry and patterns. These cultural artifacts are popular in many countries, including Hungary, Japan, and the U.S. Tic-tac-toe and other "three-in-a-row" games that teach strategy and statistics are common in England, China, Spain, South Africa, and Italy.

Although the book does not cover games of the Pacific region, Zaslavsky's earlier book, *Math Games and Activities From Around the World* (Chicago Review Press, 1998), does include games from Hawai'i, the Philippines, and New Zealand. Activities in both books teach mathematical concepts, problem solving strategies, spatial relations, and critical thinking, as well as providing cultural information. In addition to satisfying students' natural curiosity about the world around them, these activities offer the beauty of art and the fun of games. A chart at the end of the book relates activities to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics 2000 Standards.

Zaslavsky has written more than 10 books on multicultural mathematics games and more than 50 articles on mathematics and mathematics education. A few of the games from this book will be available through the Ethnomathematics Digital Library (EDL) at www.ethnomath.org. To find these games and others like them in the EDL, browse by subject and click on the heading "Games and toys."

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