



## Cultural Connection: Sakem Ol Roks

Many young people in Vanuatu love to play a throwing game called sakem ol roks. This Bislama name means 'throw the rocks' when translated into English.

Anyone, young or old, can play the game of sakem ol roks and it only takes a few minutes in order to complete one round.

There is no maximum number of players, however to avoid chaos it works best with a small group of about four competitors.

The aim of the game is to throw objects towards a target and to attempt to be the closest to the target by the end of the round. There are many similarities with the game of petanque where players lob balls towards a jack.

Before the game begins the players decide on a jack to be used as the target.

Then each player has a couple of minutes to find four objects (no bigger than their fist) to use as their balls to throw at the target.

The youngest player gets to throw the jack forward for the first round.

Players stand side by side in line with the thrower of the jack and take turns at throwing their objects underarm towards the target. After all objects have been thrown the closest player to the jack wins the round and the right to throw the jack in the next round.

The winner is the player with the most points at the end of a certain round (e.g. ten) or after a given duration (e.g. twenty minutes).

Possible variations to try:

- Players alternate the arms they use to throw the balls.
- Multiple points are given for the closest balls each round: four points for the closest, three points for the second closest, two points for the third closest and one point for the fourth closest.
- If an object hits another player's object, then both are eliminated.
- All players throw at the same time on the count of three.

