



This is a story about one of the oldest toys in history.



## Wiggle and Roll

When is a circle a toy? When it's a hoop! Toy hoops are old. There were hoops 3,000 years ago in Greece. People rolled big hoops on the ground. The hoops were made of vines. People used sticks to make the hoops roll. Later, people put hoops around their waists. The hoops were made of wood, grasses, and metal. The people wiggled their bodies to make the hoops move. Sailors saw hula dancing in Hawaii. It looked a lot like hooping. So hula hooping was born. The Wham-O toy company gave the Hula Hoop its real name in 1958.

Today Hula Hoops are made of plastic tubes. The hoops are 28 inches wide for children. They are 40 inches wide for adults. Some hoops make noise when they spin. Some hoops even have lights inside of them. Some people spin many hoops at one time. They spin them around their necks. They spin them around their legs.

Some people make up Hula Hoop games. Some people spin their Hula Hoops to music. There are contests to see who can spin the longest and who can spin the most hoops at one time. One person could spin 105 hoops at one time. Three 11-year-olds were able to spin Hula Hoops for more than 11 hours.

There is even an International World Hoop Day each year. On that day, people spin their hoops and give the toys to poor children all over the world. The Hula Hoop is a toy you can wiggle. It is a toy you can roll. So keep on hooping!





# Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the story that you just read. Read each one. Then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you are not sure, go back and look at the story again.

1. What did people use to make early hoop toys?

- (A) wood
- (B) rope
- (C) vines
- (D) steel

**Factual**

2. How do Hula Hoops help you exercise?

- (A) You work hard to lift them.
- (B) You move many body parts to spin them.
- (C) You need a strong arm to throw them.
- (D) You can run fast trying to catch them.

**Critical Reasoning**

3. What was the longest time that three 11-year-old children could spin their Hula Hoops?

- (A) 10 minutes
- (B) 28 minutes
- (C) 4 hours
- (D) 11 hours

**Factual**

4. What is most unusual about the way some people use Hula Hoops?

- (A) They use them to spin to music.
- (B) They spin them on different body parts.
- (C) They use them to hula dance.
- (D) They spin them for a long time.

**Inference**

5. What happens on International World Hoop Day?

- (A) People all over the world spin their hoops.
- (B) People in Hawaii hula dance with hoops.
- (C) People in Greece roll big hoops on the ground.
- (D) The Wham-O company gives away Hula Hoops.

**Factual**

6. Why do you think hoops have been popular for so many years?

- (A) People like to wiggle.
- (B) They come in different colors.
- (C) There is a special holiday for hoops.
- (D) You can play with them in many different ways.

**Critical Reasoning**



# Summing It Up



This story tells you a lot about Hula Hoops. What surprised you? What made you say “Wow!”?



What else would you like to know about Hula Hoops?

Put your ideas in the boxes below. Write some “Wow!” ideas in the first box. What questions do you still have about Hula Hoops? Write them in the second box. There are some ideas in the boxes to help you get started.

Wow!	?
<p>One person could spin 105 hoops!</p>	<p>How many different sizes of Hula Hoops are there?</p>



# Write About It

When you learn something new, you may like to talk to friends about it. You may like to surprise them with interesting facts.

What did you like about the Hula Hoop story? What new questions do you have about Hula Hoops? Write an e-mail to a friend telling about what you have learned. Use your answers in the chart on page 50 to help you.

TO	
SUBJECT	
<p>I just learned some great things about Hula Hoops. Did you know that _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	
<p>I still have some questions about Hula Hoops. I wonder _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	