

This is a game played by Rose from Rwanda; she often plays it in her back yard with friends and neighbours. You can meet Rose, visit her house and see what she does on a typical Saturday on our educational website [Cowforce.com](http://Cowforce.com) in the 'About Africa' section.

The players in the game need to be quick but sneaky and not likely to cheat! Games like these can be taught to highlight the less complicated forms of play found in many parts of Africa, compared to the often more modern, electronic forms of western play.

*To play this, you will need at least six people, a handkerchief and good acting skills!*

#### How to play:

- Several children sit in a circle facing inwards.
- One child stands and holds a handkerchief, circling the children with the hanky behind their back, saying, *'I have the hanky, I have the hanky.'*
- The circler has to try and drop the hanky behind someone without them realising. Then go the whole way around the circle to the hanky without the person getting up, so that they can get that person out – they have to be pretty sneaky to do this!
- The circler can drop and pick up the hanky at any time.
- The sitting children say, *'it has passed'*, if they think that the hanky has gone past them and are not allowed to look behind them.
- But, if they think that the hanky has been dropped behind them, they get up, check the hanky is there, and then chase the circler, trying to tag them (if they get up when the hanky is not there twice, then they are out of the game).
- If the circler gets to the hanky first then they are safe, if they are tagged then they are out and the other child becomes the circler.
- If someone turns around and gets up when the hanky isn't behind them, the circler can tag them to get them out of the game.

**The winner is the circler that remains when there is only one sitter.**

*You can also play this game without anyone going out – just by swapping circlers if they are tagged.*

# The Circle Game



*11 year old Rose from Rwanda plays this game with her friends.*