Games of the Past

**White Whitsun Bird**

 **Material List:** Stiff paper 8 x 53/4 inches (1 per student)

 Hole puncher

 Crepe paper 5” x 4” (1per student)

 Soft white paper 5” x 4” (1 per student)

 String 12” long (1 per student)

 Bird Pattern

**Student Time:** 1 classroom period

**Objectives:**

Appreciate the timelessness of cultural celebrations by enjoying an activity children did over a 100 years ago.

**Teacher’s introduction to the activity:**

In Britian, Whitsun was one of the favorite celebrations on the traditional calendar. It took the form of fêtes, fairs, pageants, and parades. It was a custom for children to make White Whitsun Birds, a tradition which continued well into the 20th century.

In 1972 Whitsun become a British bank holiday on the final Monday in May.

**Instruction:** First cut out a bird pattern of stiff white paper. For the tail we glue on the crepe paper lengths, and for wings we will fold the soft white paper like an accordion. Then cut a slit ½ inch from the middle of the bird, and slide the wings through. Our final step is to punch a hole directly above the wings, put a string through this hole, and watch your dove fly in the breeze.

**Variation:** Make birds with different colors, styles of wings, etc.

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