Pick Up Sticks

History: Pick up stick was a common children’s game in the 1800s based around picking up sticks\(^1\). The game was played by children in the 1800s. Most children would collect sticks from nearby trees to play the game.

Materials:

A pile of sticks, can be real sticks, pencils, chopsticks, or any stick shaped objects

Instructions:

1. Scatter the sticks into a random order in a pile. There should be some sticks that are sticking out and some on top and bottom
2. The first player grabs one stick from the pile without moving any other sticks
3. If any other sticks are moved, the player’s turn is over, and they put the stick they grabbed back into the pile
4. If no other sticks were moved, the player keeps that stick and their turn is over
5. The next player repeats steps 2-4
6. The game is over when all the sticks in the pile are removed. The player with the most sticks at the end wins

\(^1\) https://healthy.uwaterloo.ca/museum/VirtualExhibits/Tablegames/Jackstraws/index.html