Cow Herder

This game brings the Global Dimension to an Art activity through an authentic Sudanese past time. Games often mimic everyday life in a country and here the Sudanese practice of bull herding is played out in game form. Its proper name is 'Dala' and Sudanese people play it scratched out on the ground using pebbles or seeds.

You will need:

- A square piece of card
- Paper mache making items
- Paints
- Sand (if available)
- Plastic cows/pebbles/large seeds

Making the game:

- Put paper mache on the card to make your plot of land
- Allow to dry and then paint with a mixture of yellow and red
- When paint is dry, put some glue on the surface and sprinkle on the sand
- Paint 24 pebbles with PVA mixed paint (two different designs)
- Mark out a 6 x 6 square grid on the board

How to play:

- Players (or herders) place their pieces on the board one at a time, filling the four central squares first
- Then players can put their piece in any empty square on the board
- Any time a player has three pieces in a row (not diagonal) makes a 'bull' — this means that they can remove one of the other player's pieces that is directly next to the bull
- When a player has a bull, they can use their turn to move one piece of it back and forth — creating a bull every other turn (but they can only remove the other players piece that is immediately next to the bull)
- The other player can try to block this move or make their own bull on the board
- A player wins when all but two of their opponent's pieces have been taken
- To make it more fun, make animal and herders noises when the bull is created and herded

A cow herder and his son in Sudan.