

PATOLLI: An Ancient Aztec Board Game

Patolli was largely a gambling-based game. What does this say about Aztec culture? Consider the materials that were being used, who was playing, and what the stakes were?

They must have taken the game seriously, and it must have been a great honor to win. Also, they must have valued people equally as everyone got to play. The stakes were very high, as they traded even themselves as slaves for simply losing.

What other games can you think of that closely resemble Patolli? Where do these games come from? Are they simpler or more complex? What materials is this game made up of? What is its objective?

Gambling-based games like poker. It also reminds us of life and monopoly. The games are more complex than the Aztec games, Patolli must have been popular because it is so easy to play.

Other than Aztecs, can you think of any other cultures that play board games? What are these games called, how are they played, and where do they come from? If you can't think of a game that comes from another culture, can you think of a game that is uniquely Canadian?

For example; chess is a game that encompasses all cultures. Also Chinese culture created Chinese checkers. A Canadian game would be cranium. Other games that are unique to certain cultures are Monopoly; US, Knucklebones; Greece, Uncle; Scotland,