CATTLE STOCKADE

Here's a game played by children in Botswana, a country in Africa. The name of the game comes from the 2.5 million cattle farmed in the country, which are a very important source of food. Cattle Stockade is a rowdy game for six or more players that can be played indoors or out.

1. Players choose one person to be the bull, who stands in the center of the circle. The remaining players link hands and form the stockade.

How to play

A group of four or more people link hands to form a fence, or stockade, and try to prevent the bull from escaping.

Linking hands

To form a strong stockade, players should link hands tightly, as shown.

Bend down to prevent the bull from crawling under the stockade.

2. The bull then tries to escape from the stockade by crawling under or leaping over the arms of the other players. The stockade should stop the bull from escaping. Players can't let go of each other's hands!

3. Once the bull has escaped, he or she can join the stockade and choose another player to be the bull.

Another way for the bull to escape is to step over the linked arms of the stockade.

Cattle stampede!

A large group of players can make the game more challenging by adding escaping bulls.

Game origins

Farmers in Botswana allow their herds of cattle to roam and graze the grasslands. The cattle are rounded up into stockades when they need to be branded or sold.