Nigeria: Ta Galagala

Source: Hopscotch Around the World by Mary D. Lankford

If you ask kids in Nigeria if they know a hopping game played in a pattern drawn on the ground, they will answer “Ta Galagala.” The pattern consists of eight circular depressions traced in the sandy soil. Nothing is written inside the circles. Each depression is called a kurtu. For a puck, kids use a stick or stone called a kwalo. If you toss your kwalo and it doesn’t land inside a kurtu, someone will put it in for you and you can take your turn anyway.

Instructions:
1. Throw the kwalo into circle 1.
2. Hop over circle 1 into circle 2 and then into circle 3. Jump into circles 4 and 5, with one foot in each. Hop into circle 6 and then jump into circles 7 and 8.
3. After you have jumped into circles 7 and 8, clap your hands and jump around to face the other way.
4. Hop back the same way, hopping over circle 1 and turning around to pick up the puck.
5. Throw the puck into each succeeding circle in the same way. Never hop into the circle where the puck lands. Hop over the puck before picking it up on the way back to circle 1.
6. After you have thrown the puck into circle 8 and hopped back to the beginning, throw your puck to a spot just above the pattern. Proceed to the end of the pattern in the usual way. When you reach 7 and 8, clap your hands and leap around. Bend down and pick up the puck through your legs. Hop back to circle 1 and out of the pattern.
7. If you hop outside a circle or step on a line, or if your puck misses the right circle, then you lose your turn.