



ratchet, double bass, xylophone, wood block  
movement, just for fun, culture

The rules may have changed a bit, but the game is basically the same as it was 700 years ago. Sing and play just for fun, or use as a springboard to exploring the world of games.

## Frog in The Middle

Game Song

Middle Ages c. 1300

Europe

# Frog in the Middle

Key C, first note do'(C)  
a cappella count-in:  
1 2 3 4 Frog ...

game song  
England  
arr: LJ Clare

do' do' do' la so do' do' do' la

Frog in the mid-dle can't get him out,

do'do' do' la so so la la so do'

Take a big stick and stir him all a - bout!

### Frog Songs

Frog in the Middle

El Coqui

In The Summer

five Green and Speckled Frogs

No Green and Speckled Frogs

Key C, first note C (high do)  
a cappella count-in: 1 2 3 4 Frog...

# Frog in the Middle

England  
game song  
arr: LJ Clare



Frog in the mid-dle, can't get him out, take a big stick and stir him all a -bout!

In writing, and in art, there is evidence of "Frog in the Middle" being played by children and adults as long ago as the middle ages. Today we wouldn't take a stick to poke at the person in the middle, but the other action remains the same. The "frog" sits in the middle of a circle and is not allowed to move from that spot. Others poke (we hope gently touch) the frog. The frog attempts to catch the toucher with both hands (or one hand if this is too much of a challenge). The toucher then becomes the next frog.



## Music & Movement/Dance Frog In The Middle – England

**1** "A long time ago, before you were born, before your mother or father was born, before there were computers or tv, before cars, children played a game that we can still play today. The game is called "Frog in the Middle." So, to play, we need a frog. Who will offer to be the frog?" (Continue demonstrating the game. One class came up with the idea of using their moving scarves to touch with to prevent injuries. Adapt the game in a class-friendly style.)

**2** Instead of saying "Go" at the beginning of the game, children would sing ...

Sing: "Frog in the middle, can't get him out, take a big stick and stir him all about."

Teach using sentence completion.

Frog in the \_\_\_\_\_ can't get \_\_\_\_\_ take a big \_\_\_\_\_ and stir him all \_\_\_\_\_  
Frog \_\_\_\_\_ can't \_\_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Frog \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Now sing the song several times to cement it in minds and voices. Vary the dynamics or tempo to keep it interesting AND TO use musical knowledge.

The recorded music that goes with this song/game is timed to keep the action moving. And to avoid having the frog in the middle keep the limelight by staying in the middle too long.

**Introduction** (The first frog is sitting in the middle.)

**Song is sung.** (During the singing, teacher points to 3 students.)

**Interlude** (Only the music for the song is played.)

During the interlude, chosen students may "touch" the frog in the middle.)

**Song is sung.** (If the frog has caught a toucher, then the game restarts here.)

If the frog did not catch a toucher, all sing the song and the teacher chooses 3 new "touchers.")

**Interlude**

**Song is sung.**

**Music ends.** (A new frog is chosen, and the game begins again.)

# Frog in the Middle

Key C, first note C(high do)  
a cappella count-in: 1 2 3 4 Frog...

game song  
arr: LJ Clare



Frog in the mid - dle, can't get him out,



Take a big stick and stir him all a - bout!

# Frog in the Middle

Key C, first note C(high do)  
a cappella count-in: 1 2 3 4 Froa...

game song  
arr: LJ Clare



Frog in the mid-dle, can't get him out, take a big stick and stir him all a-bout!