

Script and pictures by Alaia Al-Numani

ABLAH

Traditional Game



Al Tufah

This game is played on two 6-metere circles separated by a distance ranging from 25-40 meters.

Number of players: Each team consists of 10-15 players.

Duration: 10-15 minutes.

Tools used: a small ball made of sponge and a 60 -cm bat made of wood.

The team to kick off the game will be decided by casting lots. Thus, the players of this team will enter the first circle while one of them will be holding a bat ready to hit the ball thrown by the selected players from the other team. The player who hits the ball will attempt to run while the players of the other team will try to stop him by hitting him with the ball. However, if he manages to reach the second circle he will remain there until one of his fellow players tries to do the same thing. Each player has three chances, after which he will be removed from the game. The game is repeated in the same manner by all players of the first team until the turn of the other team. The players have the right to use their heads to intercept the ball. The team whose players manage to reach the second circle within the given time will be the winner.





Script and pictures by: Sergeant Major Salim Al-Shahi

Omani Craft

AL SA

Omani Traditional Knife (Al Majaz)

It is used to cut fodder for the cattle. Traditionally, it is known as 'Al Das'. In the beginning, the craftsman brings a piece of hard steel and puts it inside a special furnace. Once it becomes red he hammers it and moulds it into any shape he likes. Then, he sharpens the edge of the knife. After that, he makes the handle out of 'Al Ghaf tree'. Finally, he attaches the knife to the handle.

The 'Al Das' is sold on the market for an amount ranging from three to seven Omani riyals.





The fisherman woke up early as usual. He carried all his tools and went fishing. Unaware, his little son followed him. While the fisherman was getting his boat ready, he spotted his neighbour's son. He urged him to return home but the boy insisted on accompanying them. Soon after, the father himself was there. The father asked the fisherman to allow his son to go fishing with them. He also reminded him to look after him.



In the middle of the sea, as a heavy storm hit their boat, it turned upside down and the two boys started to drown. The fisherman immediately rushed to rescue his neighbour's son. He carried him until he arrived with him safely on the shore. When he looked behind him he was glad to see his son safe, floating on a piece of wood by the grace of God.



Source: «Folktales in Dhofar» by
Mohammed bin Musallam Al Mahri





CUTE NORAH

Script and Illustrations by Constable Rawya Al Khalili

