



Cultural Connection: lou Naiong

An example of a traditional game in Papua New Guinea is lou Naiong, a hide-and-seek game that comes from the Madok people of Umboi Island in Madang Province of the Momase region.

lou Naiong is normally played by both boys and girls, who divide themselves into two equal teams (generally between five to eight players).

Both teams agree to the boundaries of the playing area and the duration of each round. These two factors are very important to the game otherwise it will not work very well.

Captains are chosen and decide on who will hide first (by flipping a coin for example).

In the game, those on the team to hide leave their opponents lying on the ground with their faces down and eyes closed.

At the shouting of the word *niongua* by the last player to hide, the seekers are then allowed to open their eyes and go out searching.

When a player who was hidden is found they must join the searcher but must remain quiet.

A team can win the game two ways:

1. If the seeking team find all of their opponents within the time allowed, then the seekers win.
2. If the hiding team is able to elude their opponents in the given time, then the hiding team wins.

After a win, the teams can be mixed up and a new round can start. This may go on for hours.

