

Did You Know?

Stone skipping is an activity or a game to see how many times a stone can be made to bounce across the surface of calm water before sinking.

According to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, the record for the highest number of skips was set by Russell "Rock Bottom" Byars in 2007 with an astonishing 51 skips. Before that, the record was an amazing 40 skips, set by Kurt Steiner in 2002.

Successfully skipping a stone depends on four things: shape, spin, speed and angle.

- **SHAPE.** Flat, round stones are best for skipping because the surface area creates a bounce on impact with the surface of water.
- **SPIN.** Spin stabilizes the stone and keeps it from simply falling into the water.
- **SPEED.** A minimum speed must be achieved or the stone will sink.
- **ANGLE.** To achieve the maximum number of skips the "magic angle" should be about 20 degrees between the spinning stone and the water.

According to the North American Stone Skipping Association, people have enjoyed skipping rocks for over 2,000 years, all over the world, and not just on water! For example, Eskimos skip rocks on ice and Bedouins on smooth sand in the desert. Every language has a unique word or term for this game. Here are a few translated examples:

NORTH AMERICAN. "stone skipping"

BRITISH. "dapping ducks and drakes"

FRENCH. "ricochet" (faire des ricochets)

IRISH. "stone skiffig"

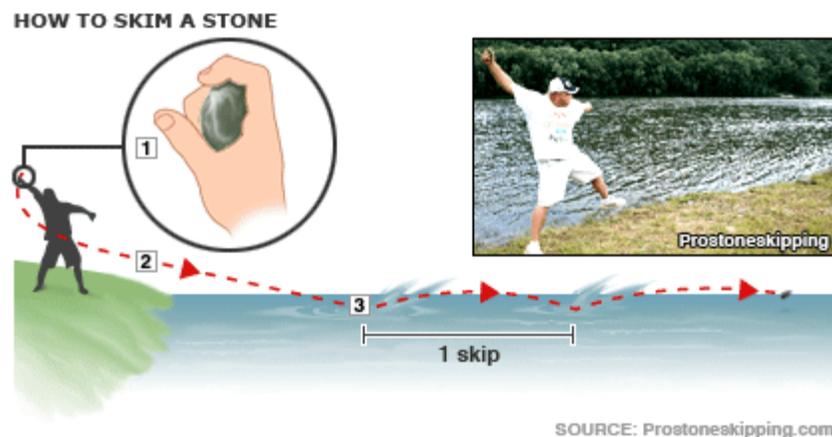
DANISH. "slipping" (smutte)

SWEDISH. "throwing a sandwich" (kasta en smörgås)

POLISH. "letting the ducks out" (puszczanie kaczek)

GREEK. "little frogs" (βατραχάκια)

RUSSIAN. "baking pancakes" (pech blini)



- 1: Pick flat, oval, palm-sized stones. Use forefinger and thumb to spin
- 2: Throw the stone fast and flat
- 3: Stone should strike water at an angle between 10-20 degrees