

# Comanche/Otoe Hand Game Song

Informant/Performer:  
Louis Ballard

Source:  
Louis W. Ballard  
*Indian Music for the Classroom*  
Canyon Records 4143

♩ = 152

Drum: \* \* \* \* \*

1. Eh - kä moh - dä, eh - kä moh - dä

Hey\_ hi - yä eh - kä moh - dä, hey\_ hi - yä eh - kä moh - dä.

(Repeat with minor 3rd later.) (etc.)

Eh - kä moh - dä, eh kä moh - dä

2. Heh-pä goh-dä, heh-pä goh-dä.  
Ha-ha- heh-pä goh-dä ha-ha- heh-pä goh-dä.

## Game Directions

Divide the class into two sides, each side choosing a contestant to be the guessing leader for the game. Give a piece of chalk, bean or small object to one of the sides and have each successive individual hide this object in his hand behind his back. When the song begins bring both hands to the front, keeping time to the music, while the opposite side's contestant guesses which hand hides the object. If he guesses correctly, the object goes to his respective side of the class and the hiding game reverses. Keep motion to the time of the music. Basically this is the form of the Plains Indian hand game, with much music, drumming, shouting and fun. The goal is to outwit the contestants on the other side.

## Background Information

"This song uses only one word from the Comanche language, 'eh-kä moh-dä,' meaning Red Donkey. The translation of this word suggests the fun and levity involved in this gambling game."