



Bowling

The earliest known forms of bowling date back to ancient Egypt, with wall drawings dated to 5200 B.C. and miniature pins and balls in an Egyptian child's grave c. 5200 B.C. Balls were made using the husks of grains, covered in a material such as leather, and bound with string. Other balls made of porcelain have also been found, indicating that these were rolled along the ground rather than thrown due to their size and weight. Bowling games of different forms are also noted by Herodotus as an invention of the Lydians in Asia Minor.

During the league era (late '50s - '60s), bowling was predominantly a blue-collar recreation. Today, however, bowling has shifted to mainly white-collar participants, with 47% participation by females and the highest participation by children.

The invention of the automatic pinsetter led to a rapid growth in bowling alleys in the late 1950s-early 1960s. The heyday of bowling was in the mid-1960s, when there were app. 12,000 bowling centers in the U.S. BY 2007, that number had shrunk to 5,498. Bowlers who bowled frequently also fell to 6.95 million by 2007.

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