

# Manuel Road

<https://riverofsong.uk/>

A work song and children's 'pass the pebble' game from Jamaica. Like most work songs it has a steady beat which is kept by passing a stone or beanbag round a circle.

I found this traditional song in 'Bright Ideas, Children's handbook' published in 1987. Here it is adapted by Dany Rosevear.

**Sit in a circle with a bean bag.**

**Chorus 'Go down a Manuel Road': children mark time with their beanbags on the beat of each bar. Verse 'Break them one by one': each child passes it on to the child to their left, picking up on 'Break' and down on 'one'.**

**Continue until someone drops a beanbag. That child and subsequent ones stand outside the circle clapping to the beat. The child on the left now has two beanbags as everyone sings 'Break them two by two'.**

**The game continues with 'Break them three by three'.**

A less tricky version for younger children: Focus on passing to the beat. Play as before but when a child drops the beanbag return to the chorus then mark time before singing the verse while passing just one beanbag each time.



**Chorus**

D G A7 D

Go down - a Man - uel Road, girl and boy — We go break rock stone.

**Verse**

D G A7 D G A7 D

Break them one by one, girl and boy, Break them one by one, girl and boy,  
two two, two, two,

*Chorus:*

Go down a Manuel Road, girl and boy  
We go break rock stone.

Go down a Manuel Road, girl and boy  
We go break rock stone.

*Verse:*

Break them one by one, girl and boy,  
Break them one by one, girl and boy.  
Break them one by one, girl and boy,  
Break them one by one, girl and boy.

