

Energize Learning in Any Subject

Gareth Long Harvey Grout Stuart Taylor

101

CLASSROOM GAMES

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For Rylan and Ashton.
—Gareth Long
For Rachel and Florence.
—Harvey Grout
For Rach and family.
—Stuart Taylor

PREFACE

e'll try not to keep you reading this too long since the best part of this book is the games. However, before you try them out, we will briefly explain why we believe that interactive games can be a great strategy for enhancing motivation and learning within the classroom, and why this should be a book that you keep in your classroom, ready to use!

Although they have many benefits, the best is their use in the classroom to help your pupils review what they already know about a subject or topic; games can help them relate the topic to enjoyable learning experiences and important study skills; and finally, games can be used prior to formal and informal assessments. Traditionally, teachers have too often provided pupils with information, and then assessed whether it has been remembered through a show of hands or tests and exams. We feel that games offer an additional way of contributing to a stimulating learning environment and provide an additional method for assessing learning. In short, we feel that the use of games can make learning more memorable, fun, and successful.

Interactive games are those in which there may be interaction with the environment, interaction with other pupils, interaction with tasks and problems, and of course, interaction with the teacher. If there can also be movement, music, and friendly competition, it's even better!

The games in this book can be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used as an effective starter activity, for the middle part of a lesson to reignite learning at a time when pupils may potentially switch off, or as a final plenary activity to assess pupil learning. Furthermore, they may be recommended to pupils and parents for learning outside the school environment. The games are arranged alphabetically, but we've included the key benefits at the top of each game so that you can see them at a glance while flipping through the book.

We hope that you like the 101 interactive classroom games outlined in this book; we hope even more that you play them with your class; and most of all, we hope that you adapt and improve them! All we ask is that if you do make changes, please let us know by contacting us at info@sport-iq.com.

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Ace of Spades

Promote discussion about possible answers. Work in groups.

Equipment

- A pack of cards
- A set of questions

Description

A pack of cards (with numbers 2 to 10) is spread out face down on a table at the back of the class, and the pupils stand at the front of the class.

The teacher reads a question (or it is projected onto the white-board), and without any talking, the pupils move to the cards; each turns over one card. The pupils then move to the table that corresponds with their number card (for instance, all pupils who turn over a four meet at table four).

The pupils discuss the question with their teammates, and after a set period of time, provide an answer. If the answer is correct, all team members get 10 points. The class then returns the cards to the original table and returns to the front of the class for the next question. Pupils will form a new team for each question. Pupils keep their own scores to see how many points they get by the end of the lesson.

Variations

Easier: Put the ace of spades in the pack. If a pupil picks that card, she can join a table of her choice, and if that table gets the question right, each pupil scores double points.

Harder: Have an uneven number of cards on the table (for instance, only two 5s). Therefore, some teams will have fewer pupils than others to discuss the answer.

All Bases Covered

Learn key concepts and definitions. Practice multiple-choice questions and answers.

Equipment

- One ABCD card for each pupil (see page 4)
- 10 markers per pupil (counters or poker chips work well)
- Prepared multiple-choice questions

Description

This game is based on the TV game show Dual. Provide each pupil with a card that has an A, B, C and D on it. Each pupil will also need 10 markers.

Read or display a multiple-choice question, and have each pupil choose the correct answer by covering it with a marker. Reveal the right answer, and instruct the pupils that they may keep any marker covering a correct answer; any markers that are placed on incorrect answers are returned to the teacher. A pupil is out of the game if he fails to cover the correct answer with a marker (he may then join a classmate).

If the pupil is convinced he knows the answer, he will only use one marker (on the correct answer) and therefore will still have 10 markers at the end of the question. If he has no idea of the answer, he may use a marker on each answer (this way he will stay in the game but lose 3 markers).

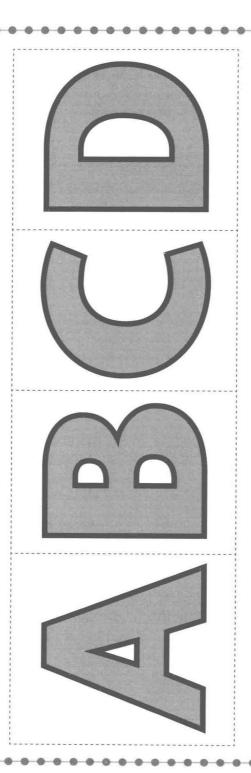
You might play until only one pupil is left or to a set period of time and see which pupil has the most markers remaining.

Variations

Easier: Allow the pupils one lifeline that allows them to get out of their seats and look at their classmates' answers.

Harder: Give pupils a different number of markers when starting the game.

Cards for All Bases Covered



From G. Long, H. Grout, and S. Taylor, 2011, 101 Classroom Games (Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics).

Amnesia

Learn how to ask questions. Practice recall and interpretation.

Equipment

- Post-it notes
- Pens

Description

Place your pupils in groups of five or six and have them sit in a circle facing each other. Give the pupils a category from the subject area being studied and ask them to write down a concept or keyword on a Post-it without anyone else seeing it. Pupils place the completed Post-it on the forehead of the person to their left.

Taking it in turns, each pupil is allowed to ask a question of each of the other players within the circle in order to find out what is written on their own note. The other players can only answer yes or no to the questions. Pupils should keep track of the number of questions they must ask before they can determine the content of the Post-it. The pupil who asks the fewest questions wins.

Variations

Easier: Make the subject areas simple to guess by limiting the number of keywords available.

Harder: Place a time limit on the question period for each pupil.



Baseball

Learn key concepts.

Practice answering questions under pressure.

Provide more than one answer.

Equipment

A set of questions

Description

Pupils play this game in teams of three. Half of the teams consist of a pitcher and two fielders. The other half each has three batters. The batting teams play against the pitching teams.

To play, the first pupil on the batting team steps up to the plate. The pitcher on the opposing team fires a question (which must have at least 4 possible answers) at the batsman who has 20 seconds to answer. If she gives one correct answer, she moves to first base; two correct answers get her to second base; three correct answers move her to third base; and four correct answers are a home run.

However, if the batsman doesn't provide all four answers, then the two fielders have the opportunity to answer. If they can provide one more correct answer to the question, then the batsman is out. Each incorrect answer (including no answer) is a strike. Three strikes and the batsman is out.

Once the batters' team is all out, the fielding team goes to bat. The team that scores the most runs wins.

Variations

Easier: Play in larger teams or allow the team of three to collabo-

rate on an answer.

Harder: Allow only 10-15 seconds for pupils to answer.

Basketball

Learn key concepts and definitions.
Use textbooks to locate answers.

Equipment

- Basketball board (see page 8)
- Die
- A set of questions

Description

The aim of the game is to score as many points as possible. Pupils play against each other in groups or pairs. The first player rolls the die and moves the number of squares shown on the die. What the pupil does next depends on the square he lands on.

Question He answers a q	uestion.	
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Pass He answers a question, but he is able to use his text-

book.

Dribble He rolls the dice again.

Foul His turn is over, and the next pupil rolls the die.

Shoot If he answers the question correctly, he scores a

3-point basket and starts back at the beginning.

Layup If he answers the question correctly, he scores a

2-point basket and starts back at the beginning.

If a pupil answers a question incorrectly, or if he lands on a foul square, his turn is over and it is the next pupil's turn. The aim is to score as many points as possible in the time the match is taking place.

Variations

Easier: Add more pass squares to the board or work in pairs.

Harder: Before the game begins, the pupils design their own

questions, with answers, to ask their partners.