

Quick and Easy Outdoor Activities

2011 Outdoor Learning Symposium

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Agenda:

Clap when I clap

~ my favorite timefiller

I learned this activity at some point during my time as a camp director. It comes in handy when you have a couple of spare minutes. The activity is as simple as it sounds. Tell the group to clap when you clap and don't clap when you don't clap. Clap several times and then fake clap...stop right before your hands actually come together. I usually present this to a group as a challenge. I do it a few times and see if they can improve their observation skills each time.

Sleeping Miser (aka Coyote Stalking aka Smog's Jewels)

~ from Sharing Nature with Children

Stick dance

~ I don't think I can give away the secret.

Sound Map

~ from Sharing Nature with Children

Portraits

Have the students sit in a circle. Tell them you are a sculptor who can make portraits with various objects. Arrange items (can be natural objects - sticks etc - or things from your bag) in front of you in a random way then, with your body, mirror someone else's position. Ask the kids whose portrait they think you just created. It makes no difference what you do with the sculpture objects. The person you created is the person that you are imitating with your body. For example, if Susie is sitting with her legs out in front of her, create the portrait and afterwards sit the same exact way as Susie.

Look Down, Look Up

~ my other favorite timefiller

http://leadership.uoregon.edu/resources/exercises_tips/energizers/look_up_look_down

Activities not included in my session:

Kim's Game

From: Scouting Games by Sir Robert S. S. Baden-Powell, 1921. Chapter IV.

Online version at US Scouting Service accessed July, 2008.

<http://www.macscouter.com/Games/BPGames.asp>

HOW TO PLAY IT:

The Scoutmaster should collect on a tray a number of articles-knives, spoons, pencil, pen, stones, book and so on-not more than about fifteen for the first few games, and cover the whole over with a cloth. He then makes the others sit round, where they can see the tray, and uncovers it for one minute. Then each of them must make a list on a piece of paper of all the articles lie can remember-or the Scoutmaster can make a list of the things, with a column of names opposite the list, and let the boys come in turn and whisper to him, and he must mark off each of the things they remember. The one who remembers most wins the game.

Interesting fact: The name is derived from Rudyard Kipling's 1901 novel Kim, in which the hero, Kim, plays the game during his training as a spy.

Camouflage

<http://www.ultimatecampresource.com/site/camp-activities/quick-and-easy-games.page-1.html>

This website includes Camouflage and many other camp games!

HOW TO PLAY IT:

This game is very simple, you need no supplies, just bodies. One person has the "Camouflage", this is kind of like being "it". The person with Camouflage calls out "CAMOUFLAGE!!!!" so everyone can hear it. Once it is called, they close their eyes and count to ten. From this point on they cannot move their feet.

Everyone scatters and has 10 seconds to find a suitable hiding place, the ideal hiding place is one where they can see the person with the Camouflage but is hiding from the one who is "it".

Once the one who is "it" has finished counting, they still are unable to move their feet, and they have to (using their hands) hold up a sign (ex. pinky up, ring finger down, middle finger up, index finger up, thumb down) they must hold up the sign for 15-30 seconds, during this time they may twist at the waist, but not moving their feet, and call out people who they see and their hiding spots.

Once the 30 seconds are up, the one who is "it" calls out "Show yourselves" those who are left undiscovered come out and the first to show the correct sign then gains the camouflage, which can be used at anytime!

This is a great way to liven up meetings, meals and other games.

Resources:

Cornell, Joseph. *Sharing Nature with Children*. Nevada City: Dawn Publications.

Cornell, Joseph. *Sharing Nature with Children II*. Nevada City: Dawn Publications

Timefiller activities: <http://talkcamp.com/showthread.php?t=1030>

Many games and activities: <http://www.ultimatecampresource.com/site/camp-activities/quick-and-easy-games.page-1.html>