Traditional First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Games

In this activity you and your group will become experts in a Traditional First Nations game. You will “Tell a story” to the class about your game by sharing the information you know about your game. You will then lead the class through playing your game.

**Game:** Blanket Toss

**Origin:** Plains First Nations, Inuit, and Métis

**How it’s played:**

* Played by men, women, and children.
* Players would hold edges of a large hide.
* A small boy from one team would be placed on the hide and tossed in the air until he cried out (ex. Yelled).
* The team holding the hide when the boy cried out was the winner.
* If the team tired out before the boy cried the team the boy on would win.

**Adaption for the class**

* Two teams will grab opposite sides of a tarp.
* An exercise ball will be placed in the middle.
* The two teams will compete to keep knock the ball off of the other teams side.

**Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mastered** | **Achieving** | **Approaching** | **Beginning** |
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| **Comments:** |
| **Note: If you are not involved in explaining or demonstrating the game you will not receive the same grade as the rest of your group.** |

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**Game:** Snowsnake

**Origin:** Plains Cree, Ojibway, and Sioux

**How it’s played:**

* Players would shove a ski like object called a “snowsnake” down a hill.
* It was played in the winter time in the snow.
* Each team would dig a course in the snow for the ski to follow down the hill.
* The “snowsnake” that goes the furthest without leaving the course wins.

**Adaption for the class**

* 4 teams will make a course using hockey sticks.
* They will be challenged to put birdies, bean bags, pylons, etc. all over the gym as obstacles that they have to move their courses around. (This works best if teams are given a narrow play area. Ex. The width of half a badminton court)
* Players must bowl a ball through their hockey stick track.
* The Team that bowls their ball the furthest without leaving the track wins.

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**Game:** Shinny (Ball Game)

**Origin:** Plains Cree

**How it’s played:**

* The game was played in the winter on ice (But not with skates).
* Two teams played with sticks with rounded ends (Like hockey sticks).
* Teams scored by getting the leather ball in the goal by hitting it with the stick.
* Players were only allowed to touch the ball with their sticks.
* If the ball touched a player it would be the other teams ball.

**Adaption for the class**

* Two teams will play with a large dodge ball.
* Players have to use their sticks upside down.
* Set the game up in a similar way to hockey.

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**Game:** Longball

**Origin:** Plains Cree

**How it’s played:**

* One team lines up behind a predetermined line. One player has a bat.
* The other team spreads out in the field. One player on this team pitches.
* The pitcher on the fielding team throws the ball in and the batter on the other team tries to hit the ball.
* When the ball is hit the entire team runs to a predetermined line.
* The fielders try to hit three players with the ball before they reach the line. If they do they switch batters and fielders.
* A point is scored for every player that makes it safely across the line.

**Adaption for the class**

* Teams will run from red line to red line.
* Fielders only have to hit one player on the batting team.
* Batters will hit a small dodge ball.
* Pitch like slow pitch.

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