

Title: THE FOX AND THE HUNTER

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Environmental Education Team

Grade Level: 3-6

Concepts:
2. Ecosystem
3. Carrying Capacity
9. Change

Disciplines:
1. Physical Education
2. Science

Objective:

While playing a game as part of physical education, students will consider the implications of prey-predator relationships in the natural world as demonstrated by responses to the questions posed.

Rationale:

Soft rubber ball kicking and throwing games are popular physical education activities. Adding another dimension to such an activity is an easy way to incorporate some useful environmental understandings at the same time.

Directions/Activity

Set up the area by placing eight "dens" in an area that is 40 x 60 feet. Mark the boundaries of the area. This can be made larger or smaller depending on the age of the students. The dens are red sheets of paper 11 x 14. One student is the hunter, the rest are foxes. Each fox is safe when in a den. On a whistle, the fox must move to a new den. When the fox moves, the hunter tries to hit the foxes with the dodge ball. When hit, either have the fox become another hunter or sit out. The foxes can use any natural material within the area as camouflage. Play the game several times so different children can be the hunter. Spend some time at the end having the students answer the question sheet and discussing their answers.

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THE FOX AND THE HUNTER

Name

Discuss these questions with the students. Then pass out this form and ask them to write their answers for each.

1. Was it easier to hit a fox at the beginning or end of the game? Why?

2. The fox is a predator just like a hunter.

a. What would happen to the fox's prey if there were too many foxes killed?

b. What would happen to the fox's prey if there were no hunting of foxes?

3. Carrying capacity means the ability of an area to keep a certain number of animals of one kind alive. How does hunting affect the carrying capacity of an area?