

Invasive Species Games – CSISS

Go Fish

Length of time: 5-10 minutes

Number of players: 2-6

Materials: Paper clips, large bucket, laminated photos of native and invasive species in your region, a long dowel or stick, string, strong magnet, glue, glue gun, scissors, felt

Steps to create game:

Cut out the laminated photos and glue a paper clip to the back of each one. Attach one end of a piece of string to your dowel, on the other end tie the magnet. This is your fishing pole. The magnet from the pole will pull up the photos from the bucket via the paperclips. You can jazz up the bucket by making it look like an underwater scene. For larger groups, use two buckets with two fishing rods and enough photos for each bucket

How to play, instructions:

To begin the game you can tell the kids that they are going fishing in the local lake and to see if they can identify what they catch on their line (native, non-native, invasive, non-invasive). Each of the kids will take turns. Once an item is fished out the bucket and discussed, lay it on the floor beside the bucket and see what else is fished out of the lake. At the end, you can vary this game by: having the kids throw back the native species that belong in the lake; throw all the fish back and start again if there is more time; or simply end the game with a ‘who has a pet’ discussion if you are almost out of time and want to put the game away before they move to the next station.

Clean, Drain, Dry

Length of time: 15 - 20 min per group of 10 kids

Number of players:10

Materials: 3 tubs of water, 2-3 small boats, some dried dill weed, a cloth, brush and towel, sieve

How to play:

Fill all tubs of water to about 5cm depth to represent “lakes”. Add small amount of dill weed to one lake. This is your infested lake. Add some small toy boats to the infested lake. Have children move one of the boats from the infested lake to a clean lake. This is the lake that gets infested. Talk about how some of the dill weed came with the boat. Next have one child clean drain and dry another boat from the infested lake. Once thoroughly cleaned, put it into the final lake (which should still be clean). See if you can get the boat into the lake without and weeds. If some small amount of weeds do get into the clean lake, go into EDRR mode! Have several of the kids try the clean drain dry technique. Use sieve to remove weeds from lake between groups.

Plant tag

Length of time:

10 min

Number of players: whole class

Materials:

Marker tape (preferably with “invasive species” marked on it)

How to play

Have the kids stand around just out of touching distance. Ask each kid to become a plant of their own choice, give them names, or have them make up their own names. When you say go, kids have to keep their feet one place and reach out to try to touch their neighbours. If they touch someone, that person turns into the same as whoever touched them. Try to make it so that they really can't easily touch each other.

Now give one kid a piece of tape. Tie a loop around their wrist. This is an invasive. Play again. The invasive can use the tape to flick their neighbours. They will touch more neighbours than the other kids. Any kid that gets touched with the tape turns into an invasive and gets tape too. See how fast the invasive spreads!

Frog tag

Length of time:

15-20 min

Number of players: whole class

Materials:

anything that could be used as food, I use small pieces of paper, could be pop sticks, poker chips etc. About 5 hula hoops. 4 road cones.

How to play:

Define an area inside 4 road cones, dig enough to run around in but not so big that the kids get out of earshot. Scatter the hula hoops around inside the area. Explain that the goal is to gather enough food to live. Start the game with one predator, eg a fish or bird of prey who can run but cannot enter the hula hoops, all other kids are native frogs. **Frogs have to hop** and cannot run but can take refuge in hula hoops.. Frog food is the scarred paper, predator food is frogs. If the predator catches a frog the frog has to sit and wait for another frog to tag them to get back into the game. Play for a few minutes then call the kids back in.

Explain that 2 bullfrogs have arrived in their pond. Pick two bold kids to be the bullfrogs. **Bull frogs can run**, can go in the hula hoops, and can eat native frogs. The predator cannot eat bullfrogs. If bullfrogs catch native frogs they turn into bullfrogs and can run rather than hop. Play for a few minutes and see how many native frogs are left and how many native frogs are left.

Here and away game - good icebreaker

Length of time:

10-20 min

Number of players:

10-25

Materials:

photos of here and away species, and invasive vs non invasive species, tape, paper labels "from here", " from away", "invasive", "non-invasive"

How to play:

Give each child 1 photo and ask them to think about whether they think the species is from here r away, invasive or non invasive. Give clues like, is it a monoculture? do you know this one from your backyard? does that mean it is from here?

Place the tape in a grid giving 9 squares on a large table or the floor. Put the labels in columns and rows as below.

	From Here	From Away
Invasive		
Non Invasive		

Ask the students to gather round and put their photo where they think it fits. Talk about why each photo goes in the appropriate square. Explain some of the concepts by way of putting the photos in the correct squares.