

Kalapuya People and the hunter-gatherer society game

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Objective: Students will simulate a hunter-gatherer society to gain an understanding of how a hunter-gatherer society functions and the important roles needed as well as how these roles relate and correspond with each other.

Method: Students will play different roles in a controlled environment and interact with each other in an appropriate manner that corresponds with the roles that they play. They will play this with a game of tag

Background: In the Willamette Valley, historically the Kalapuya people were a hunter-gatherer society that hunted wildcats, deer, salmon, and many other animals in the region. The Kalapuya used pyroculture, also known as fire management to control habitats. They used pitfalls, snare traps, bow and arrows, and spears made of obsidian. They gathered camas, acorns, hazelnuts, berries, and other plants. "Today, the Kalapuya continue to celebrate and preserve the rich traditions and ecological stewardship that reaches back thousands of years in their ancestry." (Washington County, 2019). The purpose of the game is for students to interact with each other in a respectful but playful manner while following the rules of the game.

Rules of the game:

1. Hunters can only tag prey and prey cannot tag hunters.
2. Gatherers can only tag plants and plants cannot tag gatherers.
3. Once a player is tagged or "burned" they must go outside of the boundaries and stay there until game ends
4. The cones indicate the boundaries and all players must stay within the boundaries or else they will be "burned".
5. The cones will be moved at the teacher's convenience and should be moved to speed the game up or make a larger play area.

Materials: 4 cones, tags with roles, example three hunters, three gatherers, three plants, three prey. This number can vary depending on the number of students participating.

Procedure:

1. Set up game with four cones by making a rectangle. The cones should be placed at an appropriate space which should depend on the number of students participating
2. Students will be lined up in the play area or environment and be assigned a role out of the four different roles.
3. Have the hunters and gatherers on one side of the play area and the prey and plants on the opposite side of the play area.
4. Explain roles and rules of the game.
5. Begin game and play until the hunters and gatherers capture all of their prey and plants or when no one remains