Biography Bounce

**Introduction:** Students can have a hard time remembering the accomplishments of notable individuals in our country’s history. By participating in this activity, they will practice remembering which important person contributed what to our country’s history.

**Grade Level and Subject:** Fifth Grade Social Studies and P.E.

**TEKS:**
- Social Studies 2A, 5B
- P.E. 1B, 1K, 2C, 3A, 5A, 7A

**Materials:** One soccer or rubber ball per student, student-developed name cards of important persons in history, folders for cards

**Resource:** *201 Games for the Elementary Physical Education Program* by Jerry D. Poppen. ISBN: 0-13-042061

**Activity:** This activity should be used as a culminating activity at the end of a unit in which students became knowledgeable about certain notable people in our country’s history.

Before beginning the activity, the students should make cards (on note cards or any sturdy material) to be used during the activity. Students should write the names of any persons that they studied during the unit on note cards, one person per card. They should place their cards in a folder or safe place.

For the activity, the students should take the rubber (or soccer) balls and folders with the cards in them to the play area. The teacher should already have designated the play area and marked off the base line and the safe line (about 15 feet apart). The students are to line up on the safe line with all equipment.

The teacher will begin the activity by calling out a notable characteristic of one of the persons written on the card. The students will look through their cards and choose the person they believe the teacher is describing. Each child will hold the card up with that person’s name on it. If the child is correct, he or she will play during this round. If the child has answered incorrectly, he or she will wait until the next round to play.

For students answering the question correctly, they are to place all cards back in the folder and lay it down in a safe place. At the starting signal, those children will dribble their ball to the safe line and back to the starting line. The first three students to cross the starting line will get a point.

The teacher will then ask another question about a person who was studied. All students will once again hold up their cards with an answer on them. Game play will continue as described above until a student reaches 10 points. At that time, the activity will end (the teacher can change the total number of points needed to win the game).

**Evaluation:** The teacher will determine which students are still unclear about certain facts about the people who were studied. The teacher can then teach the subject matter again to those who need additional instruction.

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