Native American Relay

**Introduction:** As everyone knows, Native Americans could be found all over North America at the time that the European settlers came to the continent. While participating in this activity, fourth graders will identify the Native American groups found in Texas and the Western Hemisphere right before the European settlers explored the area. It is a relay designed to help students recall their Native American knowledge.

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

**TEKS:**
- Social Studies 1A
- P.E. 1A, 3A, 4B, 7A

**Materials:** chalk, a foam or rubber ball for each group

**Activity:** This activity should be used as a culminating activity for the students once they have studied and learned which Native American groups were living in Texas and the Western Hemisphere before the European settlers began their exploration.

Before beginning the activity, the teacher should go to the playground or gym and mark a start line and a finish line approximately 30–60 feet apart from each other. The lines should be approximately 20 feet long so that each relay team will have a distance of 4–5 feet between them. At the line designated as the finish line, the teacher should place a foam or rubber ball for each relay team that will be participating in the activity.

The teacher should divide the students evenly into 4–5 different relay teams with 4 or 6 students on each team. On the playground or in the gym, the team members will begin by lining up (one behind the other) at the start line. Again, there should be approximately 4–5 feet between each relay team. Once the lines are completed, each team will have its starting member on the start line, with his or her other team members lined up behind him or her.

The teacher will begin the activity by calling out a name of a Native American group. If the group was not in Texas or the Western Hemisphere before the Europeans began settling in the area, the member of each team at the start line will stay in place. However, if the Native American group called out by the teacher did live in the designated areas, the first member of each team will run to the finish line and pick up the ball left there by the teacher before game play began. The member at the finish line will face the second member of the relay team and hold the ball.

The teacher will call out another Native American group. If that group was not in Texas or the Western Hemisphere at the designated time, no one will move. If the group was in the area, the students standing at the start line will run to the finish line. The students running to the finish line will catch the balls and hold them as they run. When they get to the finish line, they will turn around and wait to run back to the start line, following the procedures described above. The teacher will call out another Native American group, and the game will continue until all members have had a chance to run their relay and catch the balls at least two or three times.

**Evaluation:** The teacher will monitor the action closely for safety and discipline purposes.