Reach and Grab

Introduction: Kindergarteners love fascinating and unusual things. During the kindergarten year, the teacher might study marine life, which definitely has some fascinating and unusual types of animals. If he or she chooses to teach this concept, this activity will help the children realize that an octopus has several arms with which to snatch items.

Grade Level and Subject: Kindergarten Science and P.E.

TEKS: Science 5A, 6C
       P.E. 1A, 1B, 7A, 7B, 7C

Materials: none

Resource: 201 Games for the Elementary Physical Education Program by Jerry D. Poppen.
ISBN: 0-13-042061-1

Activity: After teaching the children about marine life, and the octopus in particular, the teacher should take the children outside to perform this activity.

The teacher should establish two lines at least 35–40 feet long at opposite sides of the playground. All of the players, once play has commenced, will line up on one line and attempt to get to the other line without being tagged.

One student is asked to be the “head” of the octopus. His or her job is to tag students as they run past him or her. The “head’s” starting position is in the middle of the playing field.

Once the teacher has said, “Everyone must swim through the ocean,” all of the students should run and attempt to get to the other line without being tagged. If they are tagged, they become tentacles of the octopus. They are not allowed to move from the place where they were tagged; however, they can reach out and tag others as the students try to get safely from one line to another. Each player who gets tagged becomes a tentacle and has to tag the other students.

The child picked to be the head of the octopus is the only player who may move about freely. The other players should stay in place while tagging the remaining students.

The game is over when there is only one student left who has not been tagged. He or she then becomes the head of the octopus for the next game.

Evaluation: The teacher should monitor the students’ play to ensure that the tagging does not become too rough.

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