What Games Can We Play?

**Introduction:** When learning historical facts about our nation and ancestors, students can get bogged down with the memorization of facts. This activity has students researching games that the children of long ago played so that the students can teach other children how to play the same games. The students will feel it is a lesson worth learning!

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

**TEKS:** Social Studies 23B, 25A, 25C, 26B, 26D, 26E  
P.E. 1B, 1K, 1L, 2C, 3A, 7A

**Materials:** The students will be responsible for providing any type of materials deemed necessary to complete the activity that was researched by the students.

**Resources:**  
[http://www.nps.gov/fosc/child_info2.htm](http://www.nps.gov/fosc/child_info2.htm)  
[http://www.nps.gov/fosc/child_info1.htm](http://www.nps.gov/fosc/child_info1.htm)  
[http://www.missabigail.com/advice/q100.html](http://www.missabigail.com/advice/q100.html)  

**Activity:** The teacher will begin the activity by asking the students to brainstorm any ideas they might have of the games played by children in the late 1800s or early 1900s. After brainstorming and discussing what types of outdoor activities might have been popular back then, the students are to research the types of games played during that time period. The students may use the websites listed above and also any books or encyclopedias that might give them information.

Once the research is complete, the teacher will place the students in groups of two or three. Each group will be responsible for developing a poster with the rules of a certain researched game on it and be able to describe game play to the rest of the students.

At this point, the teacher will take the students to the playground or gym. Each group will get the chance to teach the “old-fashioned” game to all of the students. Any materials needed for the game will be provided by the group teaching the other students how to play the game.

The teacher might want to combine this activity/research plan with some other finished products the students might have completed while studying about customs and traditions of long ago. It would make a nice culminating activity for a unit of study about life in the past. The teacher might also want to invite parents to the school to play these games.

**Evaluation:** The teacher will monitor the game play, both for safety and to ensure that the game is being played correctly.