

NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION FOR ALL RESOURCES

Partnership of IllumiNative and the National Indian Education Association



ILLUMINATIVE



Grade Level

PK-2

Subject

**Social Studies
P.E.
Art**

Lesson Title

**Native American Games: The
Guessing Game**

Activity Description: Guessing games were very popular and important to many Native American children. In one version of the game, Native American children would make up riddles about their dreams, and other children would try to guess what the dream meant. In another version, children would try to guess which ball was passed from one person to another. In this activity, your child will have fun engaging in both of these games with you and others in your family or the community.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- WiFi access (optional)
- [Native American Games Activity Guide](#) (printable PDF)
- Balls of clay of various colors
- Paper
- Pencil or pen
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers

STEPS

This activity is for children to do with other children, or with a person from the family or community.

Pass the Stone Game

1. Invite your child to sit next to you.
2. Hold out two clay balls, showing your child the color of each ball. Close your hands and put your hands behind your back, making sure to mix up the balls that are in each hand.
3. Pass one to your child without letting them see which ball you passed, and ask them to close the ball in their hand behind their back.
4. Ask the child to guess which color ball you have passed. If the child guesses correctly, give them both balls and have them try the activity out on you.

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HELPFUL TIPS

Parents and caregivers: Share with your child the significance of guessing games to Native children, in that is what a popular game for children to play with each other, either when they were looking for something fun to do, or sometimes at festivals.

- This activity may encourage your child to try other guessing games, similar to the "Pass the Stone Game".
 - Ask your child what sort of games, like guessing games they might play with their friends for fun.
- Consider asking other children or family members to join in on the "Pass the Stone Game". In this version, you can sit in a circle and each time a person guesses incorrectly the color of the ball that was handed to them, they will move out of the circle until their is only one person is left.

Other Native American Guessing Games

- Encourage your child to try playing the "Guessing Dreams and Wishes Game", a game that Iroquois children used to play at festivals, where they would make up riddles of their dreams, and others would try to guess what the dream means.
 - In this game, your child will think of a dream or a wish that they have had (without telling you).
 - Your child will then draw a picture of the dream.
 - You will then try to guess what is happening in the dream or what the dream may have been about.
- Consider drawing a dream of your own for your child to guess as well.
- Perhaps your child may want to act out the dream instead of drawing it, similar to charades).

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Families and Educators: This type of activity may open up other talking points around different types of Native American Games.

- [Visit this website](#), to learn how to play other games from different Native American tribes.
- Purchase this "[Handbook of American Indian Games](#)" that features over 150 different activities.
- Check out our NIEA & IllumiNative Activity on "[The Game of Lacrosse](#)".

Activity Resource Links:

Adapted from: Native American Games Activity Guide (printable PDF): <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/native-american-games/>

Native American Games: <https://nativeamericans.mrdonn.org/games.html>

Handbook of American Indian Games: <https://www.amazon.com/Handbook-American-Indian-Games-Native/dp/0486248372>

NIEA & IllumiNative Activity "The Game of Lacrosse": https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5cfff319973d7000185377f/t/5eb18d81a0fa9607573f4573/1588694401358/NIEA-Illuminative_The+Game+of+Lacrosse.pdf