

# Activity: Games and toys

History  
Years (3/4)

## ABOUT THE ACTIVITY

*As with all of our activities, this is designed to complement the work done in school – it is not meant to be a complete history unit.*

The group learns some traditional playground games outdoors and some board & card games indoors, including:

- “Here We Go Looby Loo”, “Dollies”, “The Farmer’s In His Den” and “In And Out The Dusty Bluebells”.
- Shut The Box, Dominoes, Nine Men’s Morris, Snakes and Ladders, Happy Families and Shove ha’penny.
- Skipping, Hopscotch and Marbles.

## WHERE THE ACTIVITY FITS IN

### to a visit to Beaumanor

games and toys have been incorporated into the WW2 theme because of its particular relevance to the experiences of a wartime child. The visit also includes a wartime schoolroom, an air raid practice, rationing activities, ethical discussions and, where appropriate, research of primary historical sources (newspapers, oral testimony, etc.).

### to the QCA scheme

History unit 9      What was it like for children in the Second World War?

## ADAPTING THE ACTIVITY FOR A DIFFERENT AGE GROUP

Year 5 and 6 children could:

- learn some less well known, or harder, games such as, “Fives and Threes”, Cribbage and Chess.
- research local outdoor games or playground chants and songs by interviewing older members of their community.
- invent their own games, or adapt existing games, which could be played in an air raid shelter.

## PRIOR LEARNING

It is helpful if the children have learned:

- some simple games (if they don’t know them already) such as Draughts, Snap and Happy Families.

## VOCABULARY

In this activity, children will have opportunities to use:

- words associated with games, *eg. counters, cards, pieces, boards die and dice, rules*
- words associated with feelings, *eg. enjoyment, co-operate, sociable, fair,*

## RESOURCES

- Games and toys, courtyard, base room .

## EXPECTATIONS

### At the end of this activity, due to age or ability

*most children will:*

learned how to play several simple playground games and at least one simple indoor game.

*some children will not have made so much progress and will:*

learned how to play at least one simple playground game and one simple indoor game.

*some children will have progressed further and will:*

learned how to play several outdoor and indoor games and understood the sociability and simplicity of the games.

## ICT POSSIBILITIES

### In our computer suite at Beaumanor during a residential visit, or back at school after the visit

- We have an 'Internet Treasure Hunt'. Children need to search the web to find answers to various questions about the home front.
- We also have a CD available to visiting groups (see 'Work Back in School'). It contains suggestions and data for use with spreadsheets and databases.
- As with all visits to Beaumanor, we have several digital cameras available for use by groups. These could be used by staff and children during a residential visit and the pictures produced could be incorporated into multi media presentation packages such as 'Illuminatus', 'MS Publisher' and 'MS Powerpoint', initially at Beaumanor, then back at school after the visit.

## WORK BACK IN SCHOOL

As the theme has developed over the past 10 years, we have amassed so much background information that we cannot possibly pass it all on during the visit. Therefore, we have produced a CD based web site, available to visiting groups, which includes large amounts of information taken from primary sources. It contains local newspaper reports, Government manuals and leaflets, biographical information about world leaders, a time line, a dictionary and recipes, as well as activities and ideas for teachers. Original information and simplified versions of the newspaper articles are connected so that children can study things at a level appropriate to them.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

In addition to the 'Group Visits - General Risk Assessment', the following specific risks have been identified

Hazard	Risk control
Excitement during the playground games	The safety rules are explained fully and the session is controlled tightly so that children enjoy the games without becoming too excited. Potentially hazardous games are not included.
Playing in the courtyard area	Children are given boundaries to their playing area so that they do not get near to moving traffic. Teachers and parents are always in the area while children are playing.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITY	LEARNING OUTCOMES	POINTS TO NOTE
CHILDREN LEARN		CHILDREN	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to play some traditional playground games.</li> </ul>	<p>As one group, we play traditional games, inc., Looby Loo, In and Out The Dusty Bluebells, Dollies, The Farmer's In His Den, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to play the games.</li> <li>Learn that games used to be far simpler and more sociable.</li> <li>About other games that they could play back in school.</li> <li>The history of the games.</li> </ul>	<p>Children are shown the original air raid sign and asked why it is white lettering on a black background.</p> <p>They are told that while it is normal for gentlemen to allow ladies through the door first, excessive politeness would be unnecessary and dangerous. This idea could be expanded later to explore notions of courtesy and good manners.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to use some traditional toys.</li> </ul>	<p>As individuals or small groups, children play with cup and ball, whizzers, marbles, skipping ropes, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above.</li> <li>Where to get hold of the toys locally.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to play some traditional indoor games.</li> </ul>	<p>In teams of up to 4, children play shut the box, happy families, draughts, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above.</li> </ul>	<p>We have chosen games with an added dimension: maths, language, social training, etc.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to play Nine Men's Morris and Dominoes.</li> </ul>	<p>Teams of two or three children learn to play Nine Men's Morris and Dominoes in some detail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above.</li> </ul>	<p>Nine Men's Morris and Dominoes are very interesting, very traditional games. They have lots of potential for maths and are easy to get hold of and cheap for children to buy.</p>