

## Great Games



Games are a great way to get to know one another. From introduction games to co-operative, once you get going, even the most shy kids are shouting and playing with the rest. Some games need physical strength and coordination. Some need strategy. Some use both! Whether chess, cards or a simple game of TAG, games use both mind and body in ways you may never have imagined. While you earn this badge, think about the different parts of the body being used. Decide if each is simply physical, cerebral (brain power), or a combination of both.

You must do at least six of these activities.

1. Learn about games that are “ice breakers”; games that make it easier for groups just coming together for the first time to get to know one another. Play an ice breaker game you have learned without others outside your troop.
2. Card games use strategy, energy, luck or sometimes a combination of all three! Learn at least one new card game. You use a simple deck of cards or a boxed game such as “Pit” or “Old Maid.” It must be a game you have never played before! Teach it to the rest of your troop or another group and PLAY!
3. Learn at least five singing games (such as “London Bridge”), jump rope games (such as double-dutch or the alphabet jump), or hand-clap games (such as “Miss Mary Mac”.) Be able to teach them to others.
4. Try out a variety of educational computer or electronic games. Chose one and spend at least one hour playing it. What do you think was the inspiration for this game? How does it compare with school or an outdoor activity? Can you make a comparison between the game you chose and something you do everyday? Think hard before you answer. Most games use elements of everyday life as the basis.
5. Make a list of at least six computer/video games that you like to play. Rate the games based on degree of difficulty, age appropriateness, educational value, fun, artwork/graphics and, if applicable, music. Share your findings with others.
6. Examine a career that involves games such as youth leader, referee, computer programmer, computer animation, video game designer, coach, physical education instructor, professional athlete, etc. Find out what training is needed, what experience is helpful and what ways the career has changed in the last decade. If possible, interview someone who holds the career you chose to examine. If not, read an article or book about someone working within your chosen career.
7. Create a file box of games that involve no playing pieces, tools or supplies that may be used while traveling in a car, bus, train, plane, etc. Include a clear set of instructions for each game. An example of such a game would be “20 Questions.” Make up some games if you like! Be inventive!
8. Plan and execute a Great Games Day! It can be indoor or outdoor, board games, physical games or whatever kinds of games you wish. Include games for larger groups with differing abilities and age ranges (such as kickball or a board game like “Sorry!”) as well as games for smaller groups with like age ranges and abilities (such as Duck-Duck-Goose or a board game like “Candyland.”) This can be done with your troop and a guest troop or within your own family.
9. Learn to play three new games from different countries. They must be games you have never played. While you are researching such games, take note on how many similarities you find while looking for new games. Share your observations and the games you have learned with others.
10. Learn how to play a strategy game such as chess. There are also board games (such as “Risk”) that can be played in a group. Spend some time playing it with a friend, your troop or your family.