



Activity: X's and O's Teams

Objective:

In a classroom or group setting, this activity provides a fun, interactive way to apply and test knowledge of specific themes from lesson plans. The competitive structure encourages teamwork, problem solving, and group discussion while reinforcing learning objectives.

Competencies Covered:

- Demonstrate curiosity about the natural world
- Identify questions about familiar objects and events that can be investigated scientifically
- Make predictions based on prior knowledge
- Suggest ways to plan and conduct an inquiry to find answers to their questions
- Collect simple data
- Make observations about living and non-living things in the local environment
- Represent and communicate ideas and findings in a variety of ways, such as diagrams and simple reports, using digital technologies as appropriate

Materials:

- Pre-determined set of 20-30 questions related to the topic
- X's and O's board (created using ropes, sticks or rearranged desks.)
- Markers for Team X (coloured bean bags, cut-out X's, etc.)
- Markers for Team O (coloured bean bags, cut-out O's, etc.)

Set-up:

- Create a question set in advance, ensuring a range of difficulty from easy to challenging (This will allow flexibility in adjusting the difficulty during gameplay depending on the teams' abilities.)
- Arrange the area/ playing space to resemble a large tic-tac-toe grid
- Divide participants into two teams: X's and O's

Directions / Game-play:



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1. Flip a coin to determine which team goes first.
2. The first team is given a question to answer within **60 seconds**
 - If correct: The team places their marker on the board
 - If incorrect: The opposing team has 15 seconds to answer and, if correct, earn the right to place their marker
3. If the second team also answers incorrectly, the question is discarded and no marker is placed.
4. Each team takes turns, with a new question provided each turn.
5. The game continues until one team successfully places three markers in a row, or until the board is filled.
6. In case of a tie, a bonus question is asked. Both teams attempt to answer at the same time, the first to answer the question correctly wins.

Example Questions (using Endangered Species):

Q: Endangered animals are in danger of becoming _____?

A: Extinct (As their populations decline, they become more at risk.)

Q: True or False: Lions are considered an endangered animal.

A: False (They are not yet endangered, but considered vulnerable.)

Q: True or False: All endangered animals are herbivores.

A: False (Many predators, as well as prey, are endangered.)

Q: What is one of the biggest causes of the Siberian tiger becoming endangered?

A: Humans (Through expansion, poaching, and trophy hunting.)

Q: What is the largest species of cat in the world?

A: Tiger

Q: True or False: Climate change can affect the gender ratio of some species, making them more endangered.

A: True (Example: Warmer temperatures cause sea turtles to produce more female offspring.)

Q: True or False: Nearly 40% of the 11,000 bird species on Earth are experiencing population increases.

A: False (They are experiencing a dramatic decline.)

Q: What is not a reason for poaching?

- A) Stabilizing animal populations
- B) Gaining large amounts of money
- C) Selling exotic animals as pets
- D) Obtaining unique meats to sell or eat

A: A) Stabilizing animal populations (Poaching is profit-driven, often through illegal trade and black markets.)

- Q:** What is the major leading cause pushing polar bears closer to extinction?
A: Climate change (Melting ice reduces their access to food and survival resources.)
- Q:** What is the leading cause of addax endangerment?
A: Poaching and human expansion (Oil companies are taking over their desert habitat.)
- Q:** True or False: Some zoos and aquariums are beneficial for endangered species.
A: True (They contribute through breeding programs and conservation funding.)
- Q:** What invasive species of turtle has caused the decline of the western painted turtle?
A: Red-eared slider
- Q:** What invasive species has been outcompeting the Oregon-spotted frog?
A: American bullfrog
- Q:** True or False: Habitat destruction is one of the leading causes of animal endangerment.
A: True (Deforestation, urban development, and agriculture reduce habitats for many species.)
- Q:** Which of the following species is currently classified as critically endangered?
 A) Giant Panda
 B) Black Rhino
 C) Bald Eagle
 D) Red Fox
A: B) Black Rhino (While pandas are vulnerable and bald eagles have recovered, black rhinos remain critically endangered.)
- Q:** True or False: Coral reefs are only affected by overfishing, not climate change.
A: False (Coral reefs are severely affected by both overfishing and rising ocean temperatures due to climate change.)
- Q:** What adaptation has helped snow leopards survive in mountainous regions?
A: Their thick fur and long tails (which provide warmth and balance in cold, rocky environments.)
- Q:** True or False: The giant panda's diet is made up almost entirely of bamboo.
A: True (Over 99% of their diet is bamboo, making them highly dependent on this plant.)
- Q:** Which species is considered the largest living primate?
 A) Orangutan
 B) Gorilla
 C) Chimpanzee
 D) Lemur

A: B) Gorilla (Specifically the eastern gorilla, which includes the mountain gorilla subspecies.)

Q: What is the main threat to sea otters in the wild?

A: Oil spills (which damage their fur and reduce insulation, often leading to hypothermia.)

Q: True or False: Amphibians are among the fastest-declining groups of animals worldwide.

A: True (Due to habitat loss, climate change, and diseases such as chytrid fungus.)

Q: What important role do bees play that helps prevent other species from becoming endangered?

A: Pollination (Bees pollinate many plants, supporting ecosystems and food production worldwide.)