

Games

Agalmata - "Statues" (Greece)

How to Play: Choose one player to be "It" and have her stand, eyes covered, in the center of a large, open playing field. She starts to count, at least to 10, but she can go higher. The point is that there's no set ending number; only "It" knows when she'll stop and open her eyes. While "It" is counting, the others scatter around, never sure when she'll yell "Agalmata!" On this cue, players freeze, taking on poses that mimic famous statues. Kids are allowed to use found items, such as sticks, a ball, or a Frisbee, to add a touch of realism. "It" tags any statues that are moving -- they're out -- then tries to make the steady ones laugh or move. The last player remaining composed is the winner and becomes the new "It." This game is great for practicing balance.

Semut, Orang, Gajah - "Ant, Man, Elephant" (Sumatra)

How to Play: Similar to the American "Rock, Paper, Scissors", players pump their fist up and down to the count of three. On four, they straighten their arm and give one of three signs: Pinky out is "ant" (semut), pointer finger out is "man" (orang), and thumb out is "elephant" (gajah). The elephant beats man because it is stronger; man defeats the ant because he can step on it and squash it. And the ant? It can crawl into the elephant's ear, bite him, and drive him crazy, so the ant beats the elephant. If players make the same signs, they go again.

Skippyroo Kangaroo (Australia)

How to Play: This is a popular game played by Australian children to help teach their classmates' names as well as good listening skills. Sit in a circle and an adult asks one girl to go into the middle - she is the first Skippyroo, the kangaroo. Skippyroo crouches forward on the floor with her eyes closed while the circle chants: "Skippyroo, kangaroo, dozing in the midday sun, comes a hunter, run, run, run." At this stage an adult points to a child sitting in the circle, who then touches Skippyroo's shoulder and says, "Guess who's caught you just for fun?" and waits. Skippyroo tries to name the owner of the voice and if she guesses correctly, swaps places. The game begins again and continues until everyone has had a chance to be Skippyroo.

Sisters Around the World

A Collection of Songs & Games

This songbook includes:

A Canoa Virou (Brazil)
Shay Shay Koolay (South Africa)
Bog Down in the Valley-O (Ireland)
Hine e Hine (New Zealand)

Games Include:

Agalmata (Greece)
Semut, Orang, Gajah (Sumatra)
Skippyroo Kangaroo (Australia)

A Canoa Virou - "The Canoe Turned Over" (Brazil)

Portuguese

A canoa virou,
 Quem deixou ela virar
 Foi por causa da (name)
 Que não soube remar
 Siriri prá cá, siriri prá lá
 Ele gosta dela e quer casar.
 English

The canoe turned over,
 Who let it turn?
 It was because of (name)
 Who did not know how to row
 Siriri* this way, siriri that way
 He likes her and wants to get married!

A ca - no - a vi - rou Quem des - sou - e - la vi - rar Foi por
 cau - sa da Pa - tri - cia* que não sou - be re - mar si ri ri prá
 ca si ri ri prá lá E - le gos - ta de - la, e quer ca - sar.

*pr nome de menina - girl's name - prénom de fille - nombre de chica

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Shay Shay Coolay (South Africa)

Afrikaans

Shay shay coolay,
 Shay shay coolay,
 Shay shay cofisa,
 Shay shay cofisa,
 Cofisa la la,
 Cofisa la la,
 La la kee la la
 La la kee la la
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

*The movements are head, shoulders, hips, thighs, lower legs, then hands in the air.

Bog Down in the Valley-O (Ireland)

O-ro the rattlin' bog,
 The bog down in the valley-o
 O-ro the rattlin' bog,
 The bog down in the valley-o
 And in that bog there was a tree,
 A rare tree, a rattlin' tree
 With the tree in the bog
 And the bog down in the valley-o.

*Next verses:

1. Limb
2. Branch
3. Twig
4. Nest
5. Egg
6. Bird
7. Feather
8. Flea

O - ro the rat - tlin' bog, the bog down in the val - ley - o. O - ro the
 rat - tlin' bog, the bog down in the val - ley - o. And in that bog there was a tree, a
 rare tree, a rare - tlin' tree, with the tree in the bog, with the bog down in the val - ley - o.

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Hine e Hine - "Little Girl" (New Zealand)

Maori

E tangi ana koe
 Hine e hine
 E ngenge ana koe
 Hine e hine

Kati tōpourī rā
 Noho i te aroha
 Te ngākau o te Matua
 Hine e hine.

English

You are weeping
 (Little) girl, (little) girl
 You are weary
 (Little) girl, (little) girl

Be sad no longer
 There is love for you
 In the heart of the Father
 (Little) girl, (little) girl.

E ta - ngi ana koe Hi - ne e hi - ne
 E n - ge - nge ana koe Hi - ne e hi - ne
 Ka - ti tō - pou - ri rā No - ho i te a - ro - ha Te
 nga - kau o te ma - tu - a Hi - ne e hi - ne.

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