

Japan - Jan-Ken-Pon Game (otherwise known as rock, paper, scissors)

Objective: to introduce the students to Japanese culture through a game

Grade Level: Kindergarten and Elementary

Procedure:

1. Two players needed, sitting opposite one another.
2. Both players shout (say) Jen-Ken-Pon.
3. On Pon, they thrust one hand each out that is either flat (paper), a closed fist (rock), or with 2 extended fingers (scissors).
4. The students determine the winner in the following way: stone wins by breaking scissors; scissors win by cutting paper; and paper wins by covering stone.
5. Repeat the game ten times, counting how many times each player wins.

Japan - Mukade Kyoso Game

Objective: to introduce the students to Japanese culture through a game

Grade Level: Kindergarten and Elementary

Procedure:

1. Divide the class into 2-3 teams of 5-10 students on the playground or in a gym.
2. Mark a start and a finish line about 25-30 yards apart.
3. Organize each team into a line and tie their RIGHT legs together, front to back so that they form a long line like a many-legged centipede.
4. Explain to the students that the objective is to walk, in unison, from the start line to the finish line before the other teams do.
5. Teacher starts the race and the first complete team/centipede to cross the finish line wins.