

Lesson: Fun and Games

DISCOVERY

OVERVIEW

This lesson is designed to teach about the universality of fun and games, to identify the similarities and differences between games in Afghanistan and the United States, and to offer students the opportunity to learn new games.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

- Social Studies
- Language Arts

CONNECTIONS TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARDS

9. The Characteristics, Distribution, and Complexity of Earth's Cultural Mosaics

MATERIALS

- Student Handouts:
 - Fun and Games in Afghanistan
 - A Word Puzzle to check reading comprehension
 - Venn Diagram worksheet
 - Afghan Hopscotch (Juz Bashee)

OBJECTIVES

- To introduce the idea of the universality of play and sports
- To appreciate cultural diversity
- To introduce the vocabulary of unique sports

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE

OPENING

Students read the Fun and Games Student Handouts with the teacher. Words and ideas are clarified in informal dialogue.

DEVELOPMENT

- Students fill in a fun and games puzzle in pairs for vocabulary reinforcement (see Word Puzzle and Clues).
- Students fill out a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting fun and games in Afghanistan and the USA. American students can include unique American games and sports from their own experience (Venn Diagram).
- Students go outside with chalk and markers and try Afghan hopscotch (*juz bazee*) (see Afghanistan Hopscotch).

SUGGESTED STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Students share their Venn diagrams with the class. The teacher draws a large Venn diagram on the board or the overhead. The teacher debriefs with a class discussion underscoring the fact that there are universal fun and games that we all enjoy and that even when games are different from ours we can make comparisons and find similarities.

CONNECTING

Students write to their city government asking for new playground equipment for a local park.

STUDENT HANDOUT: FUN AND GAMES IN AFGHANISTAN

We all like fun and games. This is something that connects ancient peoples like the Egyptians and the Romans to modern-day peoples like the Americans and the Afghans. Everyone enjoys the spirit of competition, whether individual or team, whether within us or with others. Afghans have fun and games that are unique to their culture, but they also have many games that have worldwide appeal. Read through the following examples of fun and games popular in Afghanistan and see how many you recognize.

GIRLS

- Solo jump rope
- Rock game Similar to jacks, a girl tosses a stone into the air, scoops up another stone from the ground and then catches the one in the air.
- Hopscotch (see Afghan Hopscotch)
- Dolls
- Hide and seek
- Wishbone Two girls take hold of a chicken wishbone and break it in half. Each girl tries to get the other one to look at her piece, using little tricks such as hiding it under something that the other girl is likely to pick up, and when she does, the first girl cries out in triumph, I remembered, you forgot!

YOUNG BOYS

- Ball games
- Sling shots This is fun to play, but it becomes a practical skill when older boys have to guard the fields from birds and wild animals.
- Knucklebones Boys roll sheep knucklebones like dice and whoever has the most standing upright, scores the most points.
- Marbles

OLDER BOYS

- Egg fighting Hardboiled eggs are hit against each other to see which one wins and which gets broken. Sometimes secret tricks are used to make the eggshell stronger.
- Kite fighting is Afghanistan s favorite pastime. The object is to cut the string of your opponent s kite with your own kite string, which has been coated with glass and glue.
- Soccer

SPECTATOR SPORTS

- Soccer in local, provincial, national and international competition
- Wrestling
- Buzkashi literally means, grab the goat. A horseman captures the carcass of a calf (usually) or a goat and carries it to the goal. Competitors try to snatch the carcass away and make their own goal. It s a fast-moving, exciting sport that takes remarkable skill by the rider as well as the horse.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

- International Games News from Afghanistan:
<http://www.internationalgames.net/newsafghanistan.htm>
- Pan-Asian Games:
http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php@URL_ID=11816&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
- Olympic Games
- Cycling
- Boxing
- Shooting
- Tae kwon do
- Wrestling

STUDENT HANDOUT: WORD PUZZLE

DIRECTIONS

Fill in the answers to each clue. The special letters down the center of the puzzle will help you answer the final question.

1. The favorite sport of most young Afghans. Played on rooftops, in the streets and in parks.
2. The exciting and dangerous sport played on horseback. The carcass of a calf or a goat is captured and carried to the goal.
3. The part of a sheep used in a boys game of chance.
4. A game popular with young girls. A ball is tossed up, a little multi-pointed object is picked up and the ball caught again.
5. Glass and glue are added to this part of a kite to make the competition fiercer.
6. Girls all over the world love to play with these.
7. The competition involves luck and secret tricks to strengthen the shells of these objects.
8. It's what you kick in soccer.
9. Girls hop or skip over this object in a rhythmical pattern of movement.
10. This game is popular worldwide. The country with the best team wins the World Cup.
11. In this game a girl hops from square to square, avoiding squares with opponents' markers.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____

FINAL QUESTION:

What is it that we all like and enjoy? _____

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS: WORD PUZZLE KEY



1. K I T E F I G H T I N G

2. B U Z K A S H I

3. K N U C K L E B O N E S

4. J A C K S

5. S T R I N G

6. D O L L S

7. E G G S

8. B A L L

9. J U M P R O P E

10. S O C C E R

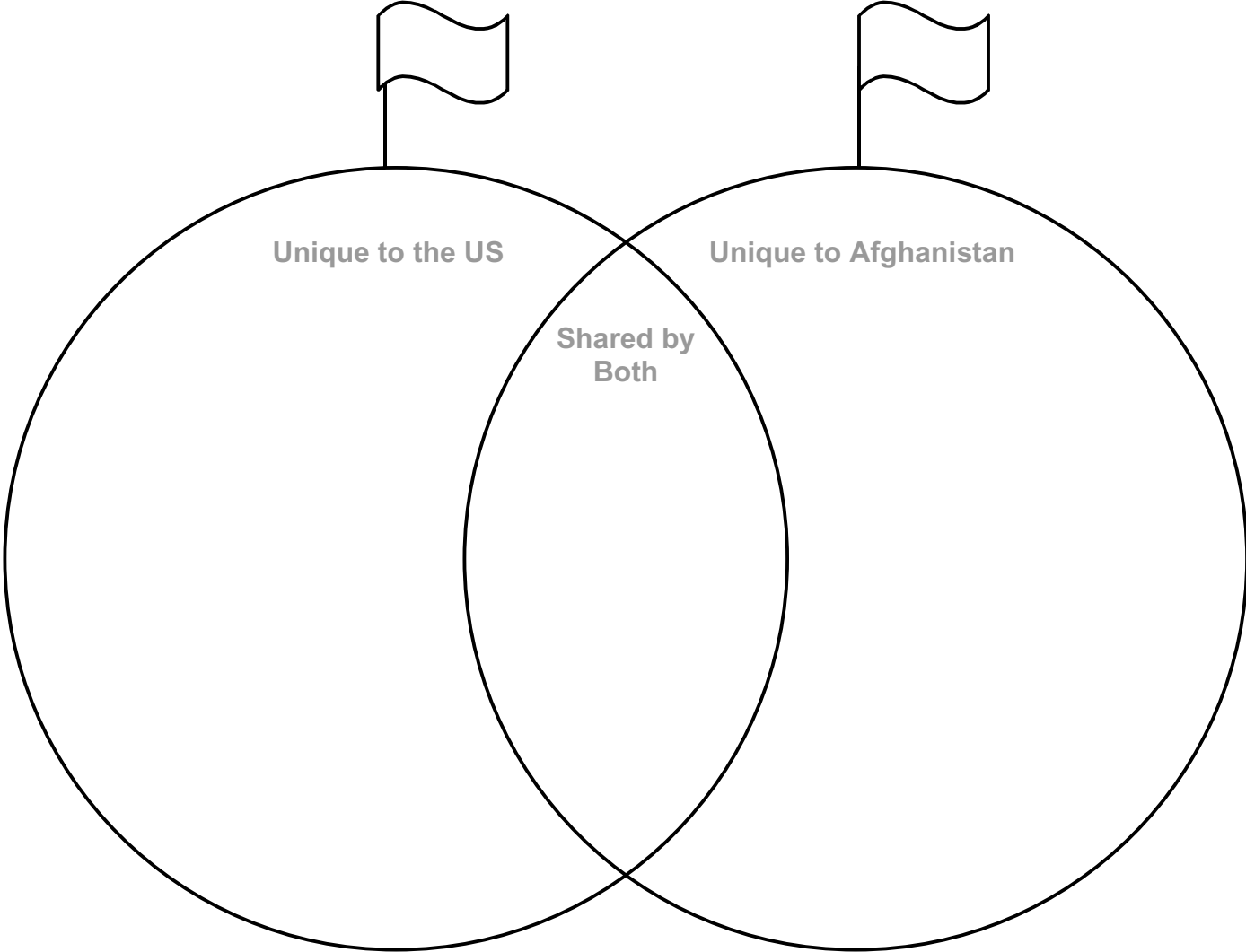
11. H O P S C O T C H

FINAL QUESTION:

What is it that we all like and enjoy? FUN AND GAMES

STUDENT HANDOUT: VENN DIAGRAM

Make a Venn diagram showing what games are common to both of our cultures and which are unique to Afghans. Fill in some unique examples of American fun and games to balance out your diagram. Color in the flags of Afghanistan and the USA above each circle.



STUDENT HANDOUT: AFGHAN HOPSCOTCH (*JUZ BAZEE*)

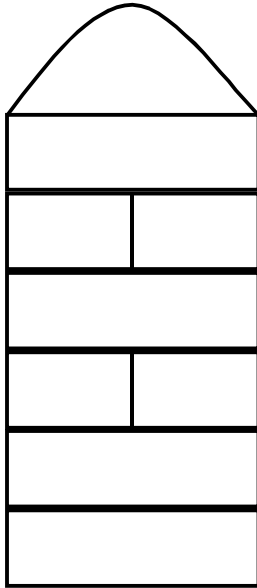
RULES OF THE GAME

Players: A minimum of two people

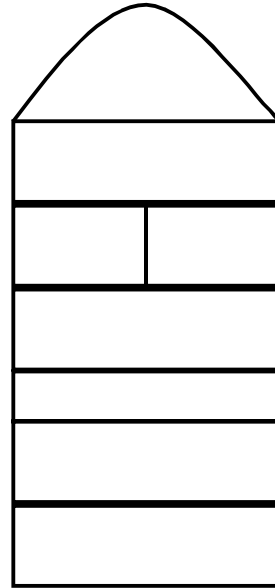
Like children in the United States, Afghan children the hopscotch on the ground using chalk or coal.

Two versions of this game are played in Afghanistan. The shapes of Afghan hopscotches are diagrammed below:

A)



B)



In version A, the first player tosses a flat smooth rock into the first square, then hops over that square on one foot. She continues hopping the whole hopscotch on one foot (or two feet where there are two squares side by side), but she does not enter the half circle at the end. Instead, she turns around and hops back. When she gets to the square with her rock, she jumps into the square and pushes the rock out with the foot she hopped on. The rock must exit the entire hopscotch and not land on any lines or she loses her turn. Then she takes the rock and tosses it into the next square, repeating the process until she has finished the round up to the last square. Once she gets there, she steps into the half circle and tosses her rock over behind her onto the hopscotch. Whichever square it lands on becomes her square and she marks it with an X or an O. The other player is no longer allowed to hop or land on that square. Whoever has the most marks wins. Usually only two players play this game, but sometimes three or four play together.

Girls usually play this game.

Version B is similar, except that the player starts by hopping into the square with the rock and pushes it out with her foot, avoiding the lines, and then continues the hopscotch.