



Oh Deer! Game Directions

1. Mark two parallel lines on the ground 10 to 20 yards apart. Then decide which students will be in the “deer” group and which students will be in the “habitat” group. There should be fewer deer than habitat when starting. Habitats include all the necessary components that the deer need to survive; water, shelter, and food. Explain that the deer need to find food, water, and shelter in order to survive in their environment. If they do not then they will die.
2. In this activity when the “deer” is looking for food, it should clamp its hands over its stomach. When a “deer” is looking for water, it should put its hand over its mouth. When a “deer” is looking for shelter, it holds its hands together over its head.
3. A “deer” can choose to look for any one of its needs during each round of the activity. Emphasize that the “deer” cannot change what it is looking for during a round. “Habitat” can choose to be either the food, water, or shelter. They show their choice in the same way as the “deer” have. In the same way, emphasize to these students that they cannot change what component (food, water, or shelter) they are during a round.
4. The teacher should begin the first round by asking all students turn their backs to each other and make their signs—hand over stomach, mouth, or head. Emphasize that students should choose their sign before turning around to face the other group.
5. Explain that when “deer” see “habitat” that matches what they need, they are to run to it. Each “deer” must hold the sign of what it is looking for until getting to the matching “habitat.” When the students are ready tell them to “GO!”. At this time each “deer” and each “habitat” turns to face the opposite group continuing to hold their sign clearly.
6. Once the “deer” find their correct component they should take it back to their line, and the “habitat component” becomes a “deer”. Any “deer” who fails to find its “habitat” dies then becomes a “habitat component” on the other side and becomes available as food, water, or shelter to the “deer” who are still alive.
7. “Habitat components” not taken by a “deer” continue to be “habitat components”.
8. This should be continued for several rounds to demonstrate how nature maintains balance.