**TICK-Tac-Toe**

**Directions**

This activity is intended for grades 3-5

Students play TICK-tac-toe with deer and dog tick images instead of Xs and Os. This can be done as a team with a large-scale tic-tac-toe board and the students as pawns holding their deer or dog tick picture or could be done on a smaller scale in pairs with individual boards.

With students in teams, have a team answer a review question correctly to get to play their pawn. If the answer is incorrect, the team skips a turn and the question goes to the other team.

As many rounds as possible can be played as time allows. Whichever team has the most points at the end, wins!

**Supplies**

🞎 Large-scale game: tape, string or chalk to mark out the board; 8.5” x 11” pictures of deer and dog ticks for pawns, Tick-Tac-Toe questions

🞎 Small-scale game: individual tic-tac-toe boards on 8.5” x 11” paper; small deer and dog tick images for pawns, Tick-Tac-Toe questions

**Learning Objectives**

* Knowledge of tick biology and ecology
* Knowledge of germs ticks can transmit to people and animals and symptoms of the diseases
* Maine Learning Results in Health Education: A1, A3, A4, and C2

**TICK -Tac-Toe Questions**

1. How many legs does an adult tick have?
   1. Eight
2. Which tick can carry the bacteria that can cause Lyme disease?
   1. Deer tick
3. What is the most common symptom of Lyme disease?
   1. Bulls-eye rash
4. Name one way to safely remove a tick when it is attached to your skin.
   1. With a tick spoon or tweezers
5. How many different species of ticks are found in Maine?
   1. 14

1. What is the difference in the appearance between a deer tick and a dog tick?
   1. A dog tick has white on its scutum and a deer tick has a dark scutum
2. Which stage of a tick is the most common to transmit the bacteria that can cause Lyme disease?
   1. Nymphs
3. How do ticks move?
   1. Walk
4. Name one disease in Maine caused by a tick other than Lyme disease.
   1. Anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Powassan, *Borrelia Miyamotoi*
5. Which tick is the most common in the spring and fall?
   1. Deer ticks
6. What part of the tick allows them to attach to skin?
   1. Barbed beak
7. What is another name for deer ticks?
   1. Black Legged Ticks
8. What kind of environment does a deer tick prefer to live in?
   1. Protected areas like forests or edges of forests where the leaves provide protection from the weather
9. What kind of habitat does a deer tick NOT like to live in?
   1. Open, dry habitats
10. During which months are dog ticks most active?
    1. April-July
11. Name a place on your body where a tick is more likely to settle and bite you.
    1. Head, hairline, nape of the neck, armpits, waist, between your legs, thighs, and behind the knees.
12. What are deer ticks scientifically classified as?
    1. They’re arachnids—along with mites, spiders, and scorpions
13. Where is the scutum located?
    1. On the back and near the head.
14. Which months are deer tick nymphs most active?
    1. June-August
15. What role do deer, mice, or birds play in the transmission cycle?
    1. A host
16. Where do ticks usually wait for a person or animal to brush up against them?
    1. On grass and shrubs.
17. How do ticks get germs that can infect humans with a disease?
    1. By biting and feeding on mice, birds, and other small animals that have the germ.
18. How long will a tick carry the germ?
    1. For the rest of its life.
19. True or False: Ticks have eyes.
    1. False
20. How does a person’s skin typically react to a tick bite?
    1. It will become red at the site of the bite and may be itchy.
21. Where will a bulls-eye rash show up on the body?
    1. Anywhere- it may not show up where the tick bit the skin.
22. What type of colored clothing should be worn to see ticks?
    1. Light
23. Where should you walk on a trail to avoid ticks?
    1. In the center
24. What method can be used to kill ticks on clothing?
    1. Placing clothes in the dryer on high heat.
25. How often should tick checks be performed?
    1. Daily
26. How should ticks be disposed once removed from the skin?
    1. They should be placed into a small container of rubbing alcohol.
27. What types of areas on the body do ticks prefer?
    1. Moist and dark places.
28. What is the term for a tick in the transmission cycle?
    1. Vector
29. What type of germ is Powassan?
    1. Virus
30. What do ticks secrete when they bite?
    1. Anticoagulant and anesthetic

**TICK -Tac-Toe**

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