



TICK-Tac-Toe

Directions

This activity is intended for grades 3-5

This activity can be done as a team with a large-scale tic-tac-toe board and the students as pawns holding a deer or dog tick picture (found under the Tick Walk activity) 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
 - Tokens for pawns or pen/marker
 - 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?
 - a. Eight
2. Which tick can carry the germ that can cause Lyme disease?
 - a. Deer tick
3. What is the most common symptom of Lyme disease?
 - a. Bulls-eye rash
4. Name one way to safely remove a tick when it is attached to your skin.
 - a. With a tick spoon or tweezers
5. How many different species of ticks are found in Maine?
 - a. 14
6. How can you tell the difference between a deer tick and a dog tick?
 - a. A dog tick has white on its scutum and a deer tick has a dark scutum
7. Which stage of the deer tick most commonly spreads the germ that can cause Lyme disease to humans?
 - a. Nymphs
8. How do ticks move?
 - a. Walk/crawl
9. Name one disease in Maine caused by a tick other than Lyme disease.
 - a. Name one: Anaplasmosis, babesiosis, *Borrelia miyamotoi*, Powassan
10. Which tick is the most common in the spring and fall?
 - a. Deer ticks
11. What part of the tick allows them to attach to skin?
 - a. Barbed beak/hypostome
12. What is another name for deer ticks?
 - a. Black Legged Ticks
13. What kind of environment does a deer tick prefer to live in?
 - a. Protected areas like forests or edges of forests where the leaves provide protection from the weather, thick leaf litter

14. What kind of habitat does a deer tick NOT like to live in?
 - a. Open, dry habitats
15. During which months are dog ticks most active?
 - a. April-July
16. Name a place on your body where a tick is more likely to settle and bite you.
 - a. Name one: Head, hairline, nape of the neck, armpits, waist, between your legs, thighs, and behind the knees.
17. What are deer ticks scientifically classified as?
 - a. They're arachnids—along with mites, spiders, and scorpions
18. Where is the scutum located?
 - a. On the back behind the head.
19. Which months are deer tick nymphs most active?
 - a. June-August, summer
20. What role do deer, mice, or birds play in the transmission cycle?
 - a. A host
21. Where do ticks usually wait for a person or animal to brush up against them?
 - a. On grass and shrubs.
22. How do ticks get germs that can infect humans with a disease?
 - a. By biting and feeding on mice, birds, and other small animals that have the germ.
23. How long will a tick carry the germ?
 - a. For the rest of its life.
24. True or False: Ticks have antennae.
 - a. False
25. How does a person's skin typically react to a tick bite?
 - a. It will become red at the site of the bite and may be itchy.
26. Where will a bulls-eye rash show up on the body?
 - a. Anywhere- it may not show up where the tick bit the skin, but may appear anywhere on the body.

27. What type of colored clothing should be worn to see ticks?
 - a. Light – white, khaki, etc.
28. Where should you walk on a trail to avoid ticks?
 - a. In the center
29. What method can be used to kill ticks on clothing?
 - a. Placing clothes in the dryer on high heat.
30. How often should tick checks be performed?
 - a. Daily and whenever you come in from tick habitat
31. How should ticks be disposed once removed from the skin?
 - a. They should be placed into a small container of rubbing alcohol.
32. What types of areas on the body do ticks prefer?
 - a. Moist and dark places.
33. What type of germ is Powassan?
 - a. Virus
34. What do ticks secrete when they bite?
 - a. Anticoagulant and anesthetic (substances that keep blood flowing and keep you from feeling the bite)
35. What is it called when ticks hold their front legs out to find a host?
 - a. Questing

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