

Name/Title: Irish Jig Tag

Purpose of Event: The purpose of the activity is to introduce students to Irish Dancing.

Prerequisites: Students will watch a video or have experienced watching dancers, such as a dance company, perform. Practice the Irish Jig as a class before the actual game.

Suggested Grade Level: 1-3

Materials Needed: Celtic music and a cd or tape player. Different accessories may be used such as green pinnies or wacky noodles with a paper shamrock at the end.

Description of Idea

Before the game begins, review the steps of the Irish Jig. Have all students practice this musical activity.

Two to three individuals will begin as the taggers. The Irish or Celtic music will signify the beginning of the game. If a student is tagged by the individual with the wacky noodle or Shamrock wand, (s)he has to do the Irish Jig. When performing this dance, the student has her/his hands at the side and mimics Irish dancing. The student dancing will return to the jogging activity or other assigned locomotor activity when another student (other than the tagger) tags them back into the game.

Students love to demonstrate their Irish Jig and they get a great work-out!

Variations:

Other dances may be used if your school or community celebrates other nationalities or heritages during the year. For example, you could use a Norwegian March for Syttende Mai (May 17th) or a Native American dance step for Native American Day, the fourth Friday in September.

Assessment Ideas:

You can assess student balance and coordination by observing the actions, and possibly proper form and technique, if enough observation time is allowed.

Adaptations for Students with Disabilities:

* The game can be modified to a running, walking, skipping, or any other such locomotor

movement to allow for skill development.

- * You may increase or decrease the number of taggers to allow for more or less dancing.

- * To accommodate the less ambulatory students, you may have the students move on lines only.

Submitted by **Michael Maguire** who teaches at Union Ridge in Harwood Heights, IL. Thanks for contributing to PE Central! **Posted on PEC: 9/5/2006.**

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