

Name/Title: Stealing from the Pumpkin Patch

Purpose of Event: Students will practice dodging, chasing, and fleeing skills in a dynamic setting.

Prerequisites: Students should understand the strategy for dodging, chasing and fleeing and how to perform those skills safely in general space. They need to know how to use flag belts properly.

Suggested Grade Level: 3-5

Materials Needed: 8 hula hoops, 8 gator skin balls (preferably orange in color), cones to mark off the field, flag belts for each student

Description of Idea

This activity is a lot like Capture the Flag and is best suited for a large gym or outside, but it can be played with smaller classes in a small gym.

Set up: Split the playing area in half and split the class into two teams, assigning one team to each side. Set up four hula hoops at the back of each side with each hoop containing a gator skin ball (pumpkin). Make another line across the playing area about 10-15 feet in front of the hoops to designate the safety zone.

Directions: Players must try to steal a pumpkin from the other side's patch without getting their flag pulled. Players cannot get their flag pulled if they are on their side of the center line or in the other teams "safety area." If a player steals a pumpkin without losing a flag, that player will place the pumpkin in one of its team's hoops. If a player's flag is pulled off on the other side, they must return to their side and perform 10 Jack-O-Lantern Jumping Jacks and try again. The goal of each team is to obtain all 8 pumpkins and place them in their team's pumpkin patch.

Variations:

Adjust this activity to accommodate larger classes by setting up two fields with the necessary equipment.

Assessment Ideas:

Assessment of the student's ability to dodge, chase, and flee can be done by observation.

Adaptations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with mobility problems can be assigned to play defense and pull flags. Students in wheelchairs can be pushed by other players and carry the pumpkin.

Submitted by **Eric Cyone** who teaches at Benner and Pleasant Gap Elementary in Bellefonte and Pleasant Gap, PA. Thanks for contributing to PE Central! **Posted on PEC: 1/3/2010.**

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