

Enviromental awareness and street games

Name of activity: Treasure hunt

Country: Italy

AIM: Enviromental awareness

OBJECTIVES: enjoyment , teamwork and awareness of the environment

EXPLAIN HOW TO PLAY THE GAME:

One of the most debated issues in our days is pollution;there are still too many people who do not realize how important it is to take care not only of themselves but also of the world around them.

One of the most worrisome causes of the degradation of the atmosphere is the reckless cutting of the Amazon rainforest, done to obtain timber and new space for monocultures; the failure to absorb carbon dioxide from what is called "The Lung of the World" contributes to worsening air conditions and turning the natural greenhouse effect into a serious danger to human survival.

Time and again, plastic pollution has been mentioned as one of the worst contributors to water pollution, a material that takes centuries to completely degrade; tons of plastic and microplastics end up in the oceans every year: bottles, bags and any other object made of plastic endanger our ecosystem. Yet the remedies would be there: surely we need to use biodegradable materials, limit the use of this material, use natural cleaners, such as those based on lemon or white vinegar.

In addition to reducing the use of polluting materials, however, it is certainly useful to try to put back into circulation those products that can be reused, or to recover those materials (containers, packaging) that worked can be transformed into new products, thus acquiring a new life (with only 37 aluminum cans for example, one can build a coffee maker).

To make this virtuous process possible, it is essential that consumers learn to distribute their waste in the appropriate containers, so as to allow the recovery of material that would otherwise end up in landfills or incinerators, a cause of air pollution.

It has become imperative to raise people's awareness of these issues: play can help them acquire good habits in a natural and fun way from an early age.

The "treasure hunt" is a very fun game that children and adults enjoy: proposing it in an ecological key could provide an opportunity for people to learn through play the basic rules of proper waste disposal.

The game : Treasure Hunt

1. the game organizer should hide the selected objects in hidden spots in the garden or inside premises, if the treasure hunt will take place indoors
2. He/she will have to associate with each object a riddle or information that will help to find the next object, step by step, until the "treasure" is found

3. He will collect the names of the participants, transcribe each one into a slip of paper; mix the slips into a container and then draw one at a time to form two teams.
4. Each team will be identified by a number (1 and 2)
5. and will each be led by a leader, chosen by their group
6. The organizer, after explaining how the game works, will give each leader a copy of the first riddle
7. Each leader will consult with teammates to guess the first object and then run with them to find it
8. the hiding place should recall the object: for example, an ashtray will make people think of cigarette butts, a notebook will recall the ballpoint pen, a glass cup a bottle...
9. When a team has found the hiding place , the leader, will place his or her team number on the object and take it with him or her; he or she will also take a copy of the new riddle to search for the next object;in the hiding place will remain the other copy available to the opposing team, which can then set out to find the next object
10. Each object found is worth one point
11. Upon reaching the finish line (a chest containing lots of candy), the two teams will face a final test: the participants will have to place the collected objects in the correct waste containers (small boxes each marked with a type of waste).
12. The organizer will check that the objects have been placed in the correct containers: each correct placement will be worth one point;for each wrong placement he will take away one point
13. The sum of the points of the objects and those due to their correct placement will designate the winning team.
14. At this point the organizer will open the "treasure chest": the prize may be as many chocolate eggs (Kinder with surprise inside): each team will receive as many eggs, as many points accumulated
15. OF COURSE THE ORGANIZER WILL HAVE SPARE COCOLATO EGGS SO THAT NO ONE IS LEFT EMPTY-HANDED AT ALL.
16. duration one hour to one and a half hours

EQUIPMENT NEEDED :

Materials needed: items can be substituted with others, depending on their availability

1. Beverages in glass bottles, plastic bottles and cans
2. cigarette butts
3. chewing gum
4. paper, cardboard
5. banana or orange peels
6. blister packs of tablets
7. CDS,
8. toys.
9. twigs
10. Ballpoint pen
11. cuddly eggs or the candies
12. treasure box
13. papers and pens to fill in the slips the waste containers
14. the tetrapak milk container

TIME/DURATION: An hour or an hour and a half

COVERAGE AREA : either national, regional and local

WHERE CAN YOU PLAY THIS GAME? : either open air, park, woods and mountains

WHEN CAN YOU PLAY THIS GAME: both summer and winter

TYPE OF GAME AND PARTICIPANTS: it is a teamwork, both girls and boys can play the game

AGE RANGE: people of any age can play

OBSERVATIONS: there is no need for OBSERVATIONS