

Slahal (4-12)

Lesson Plan (60 minutes)

The Name of the Game:

This guessing game dates back many, many generations and is played in Nations across North America. Slahal, as it is commonly called by Stó:lō people, is a guessing game played for many purposes. Sometimes it was okayed for fun, sometimes it was played to settle an argument, and sometimes it was played to prevent a conflict between two Nations.

Materials Needed:

- 2 sets of 5 sticks
- 1 kick stick
- 4 bones (2 sets)

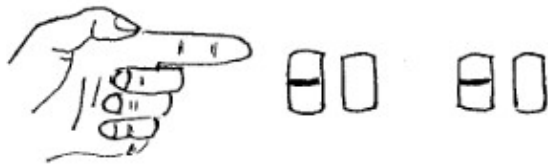
Hiding the Bones:

- A player hides a set of bones behind his/her back. One bone is put in each hand.
- The player brings both hands out in front of themselves with the bones hidden in a tight fist. The thumbs are facing the floor.

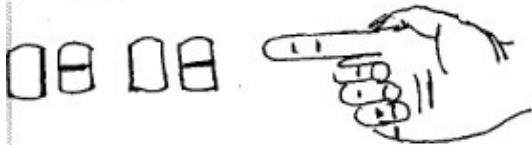
Guessing the Bones:

- The person guessing has four different hand signals to use in order to guess which hand is hiding the unmarked bone.

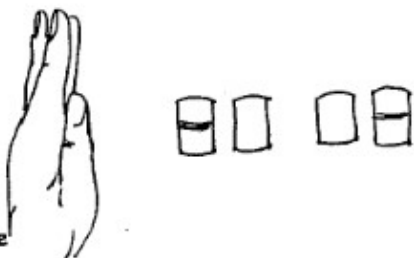
To the right



To the left



In the middle



On the outside



Beginning the Game:

- The captain of each team chooses one player to hide one set of bones.
- The captain circles his/her hands over the head of a second person that will be the guesser.
- One team begins by guessing which hand has the unmarked bone. When the team guesses correctly, they win the bones.
- If the guesser is not correct, the team gets to keep the bone and the guesser tries again.
- When one team has both sets of bones, they win the kick stick and the game begins.
- The team captain with both bones chooses two players to hide the bones.
- The other team captain chooses one guesser by circling his/her hands over the head of a team member.

Winning the Sticks:

- If the person guessing is correct on both counts, then the guessing team receives the bones.
- If the person guessing is only right on one count, then the guessing team receives the one set of bones and then must give the other team one stick for making a wrong guess.
- If the person guessing is wrong on both counts, then the guessing team must pay two sticks.
- You only pay sticks if you guess *incorrectly*.

To Win the Game:

- Once the other team has no more of their own sticks to play with, then they must use the sticks they have won from the other team.
- To win the game, you must win as many times as there are sticks. There are five sticks on each side plus the kick stick.
- A team must win eleven times (eleven sticks) to win the game.
- The kick stick is the last stick used in the game.

Respect:

- Treat the sticks and bones with respect.
 - Place them on the ground gently and carefully
 - Hand them to the captain
 - Hold them tightly so they do not fall
- Treat the players with respect.
 - Signal the guesser so everyone can see
 - Be polite
 - Sit still and watch the game carefully