

## 3.8 Water games

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### Short description on the theme

Water games are especially fun during the hot summer period. They can be used to: create a positive atmosphere; help in team building; and to round off the day.

Water games express the connections between human life and water. Children, youths and adults alike can all enjoy the games.

### Goal of the unit

- to create a positive atmosphere and a closer connection to water

### Objectives

- to learn about: the importance of water for our everyday life; for life on planet earth; and about measures for saving water
- to have fun team building
- to use innovative approaches: using the internet as a resource for data collection relating to water and water issues; and drawing from other sources to get knowledge and information related to water

### Basic conditions

Target group ..... Children and youths aged 10 – 14 and their parents

Place ..... Outside

Materials..... Paper, water colours, pens and different materials for different games

Discuss for 15 minutes about the importance of water for our every-day lives.

Ask the question: do the participants appreciate water?

Discuss the importance of water for life on planet earth.

Tell the participants to walk around for thirty minutes, discovering connections with water.

Give the participants another thirty minutes to draw / paint/ illustrate their findings with colour, or to write poetry.

Organize a small art exhibition and poetry reading.

Then have fun with the water games!

1

Education partner and target group, content and goal

2

Abstract of the examined themes and target group

3

Eight Concepts on water issues

3.1

Experience of water by working at learning stations

3.2

Water in our everyday life

3.3

Research on waterbodies, organisms and water quality

3.4

Water Art on paper

3.5

Water and climate change

3.6

Water and history

3.7

Water and energy

3.8

Water games

4

Attachment

## WATER GAMES: Cold Potato Game

This simple game revolves around a different kind of sprinkler. Players must have quick reflexes and be able to throw well.

WHAT YOU NEED: Balloons, safety pin, water

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Using a pin, poke a hole in a balloon. Then fill it with water, so that it becomes a time bomb with a slow leak.
2. Players stand in a circle and toss the balloon around. The idea is not to be the one holding the balloon when it runs out of water.
3. The focus really isn't on winning or losing – it's on how cool you become – and how cool you can stay – while playing the game.

**1**

Education partner and target group, content and goal

**2**

Abstract of the examined themes and target group

**3**

Eight Concepts on water issues

**3.1**

Experience of water by working at learning stations

**3.2**

Water in our everyday life

**3.3**

Research on waterbodies, organisms and water quality

**3.4**

Water Art on paper

**3.5**

Water and climate change

**3.6**

Water and history

**3.7**

Water and energy

**3.8**

Water games

**4**

Attachment

## WATER GAMES: Got You Back

The name of this wild game of water tag says it all: players aim at their opponents' backs, trying to squirt off their paper tails.

WHAT YOU NEED: Tape, white crepe paper, one water spray bottle per player

HOW TO PLAY:

1. To prepare, use tape to attach three 6-inch strips of white crepe paper to the back of each player's shirt.
2. Give each kid a spray bottle, and then let the squirting begin.
3. Whoever has the most remaining paper once the water runs out is the winner.

## WATER GAMES: Water Balloon Catch

This wet and wacky game is as refreshing as a dip in the pool. On a hot day, even if you drop the ball, you can still stay cool.

WHAT YOU NEED: 4 litre milk cartons (one for each player), tape, ribbons, water balloons

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Create the catchers by cutting the bottom off the milk carton (one for each player), taping the cut edges, and decorating with ribbon.
2. Fill a number of water balloons to the size of a grapefruit.
3. See how many times you can toss the balloons without breaking them, and how far you can throw them – while still being able to catch them!

1

Education partner and target group, content and goal

2

Abstract of the examined themes and target group

3

Eight Concepts on water issues

3.1

Experience of water by working at learning stations

3.2

Water in our everyday life

3.3

Research on waterbodies, organisms and water quality

3.4

Water Art on paper

3.5

Water and climate change

3.6

Water and history

3.7

Water and energy

3.8

Water games

4

Attachment

## WATER GAMES: Splash Tig

Sopping sponges hit the spot in this hot-weather variation of classic tig.

WHAT YOU NEED: Big, soft sponges buckets of water

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Choose one player to be »It«. Players run away from the player who is »It«, who tries to tig them by throwing a wet sponge at them.
2. Once tiggged, that person becomes the new »It«. The great thing about this game is that there's no bickering about whether or not someone got tiggged. The splatter on his or her back says it all.

## WATER GAMES: Water Volley Balloon

The biggest problem with beach volleyball is that you get so terribly hot playing it. To the rescue comes this cool twist on the game. And unlike regular volleyball, which requires no small degree of skill, this game lets even the athletically impaired succeed.

COOL-OFF QUOTIENT: 2 ice cubes (hey, it still beats the usual version)

WHAT YOU NEED: A volleyball or badminton net, two old sheets and water balloons

HOW TO PLAY: Divide your guests into two teams of four and have them stand on opposite sides of the net. Each team holds one sheet – with one person standing at each corner. Place a water balloon in the center of one team's sheet. The idea is to toss the balloon over the net, into the other team's sheet. It helps to do a countdown to the toss: »One, two, three...Up!« Depending on how much you want to cool off, winners can be the first team to make 10 catches or to make 10 misses.

NOTE TO PARENTS: This game is a hit with older kids, who run with the sheet, trying to guess where the balloon will land, but little kids may just get yanked around by each other. Broken balloons should be removed immediately so that toddlers aren't tempted to see how they taste.

### Source

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8b62SiirXY&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8b62SiirXY&feature=related)

1

Education partner and target group, content and goal

2

Abstract of the examined themes and target group

3

Eight Concepts on water issues

3.1

Experience of water by working at learning stations

3.2

Water in our everyday life

3.3

Research on waterbodies, organisms and water quality

3.4

Water Art on paper

3.5

Water and climate change

3.6

Water and history

3.7

Water and energy

3.8

Water games

4

Attachment

## WATER GAMES: Sponge Toss Contest

WHAT YOU NEED: Large car sponges, large containers of water, buckets, warm weather

PLAYERS: small to large groups

HOW TO PLAY: Divide up into teams. You can have as many teams as you have equipment. Each team forms a line, with team-mates a little more than an arms length away from each other. At one end of the line is a large container of water with large sponges in it. The other end has a small bucket, which you could mark with a fill line where you want the finish point of the game to be. Or, alternatively, just fill to the top. When signaled to start, teams are to race. The person standing at the large container throws a sponge to the next team-mate, and that person to the next, until it reaches the end of the line. The last person squeezes the sponge out, and then runs to the start of the line, dips the sponge in the large container and passes to the next person. If the sponge is dropped while being passed, it has to be thrown back to the start of the line, and you have to start again.

After everyone has had a turn at taking the sponge out of the large container and passing, the team which has collected the most water is the winner.

1

Education partner and target group, content and goal

2

Abstract of the examined themes and target group

3

Eight Concepts on water issues

3.1

Experience of water by working at learning stations

3.2

Water in our everyday life

3.3

Research on waterbodies, organisms and water quality

3.4

Water Art on paper

3.5

Water and climate change

3.6

Water and history

3.7

Water and energy

3.8

Water games

4

Attachment

## WATER GAMES: Pass the Water Balloon

This is sort of like the game, »Pass the Orange«: but with water balloons.

It's also best suited to a hot day.

Style: Competitive

Type: Water Balloon Games

### WHAT YOU NEED:

Water balloons (small thin balloons, not regular balloons) and a place to fill them up, something to mark the beginning and end of the course (e.g.: rope, soda bottles, etc.)

### HOW TO PLAY:

1. Divide the kids into teams of two.
2. Mark the beginning and the end of the course.
3. On the word, »Go!«, the first player in each team puts a water balloon under his chin, and races to the end of the course and back.
4. When he gets back to his team, he has to pass the water balloon to the next player without using his hands.
5. If the balloon breaks, the player has to get a new balloon and start again.
6. If the balloon falls but doesn't break, the player has to pick it up and put it back under his chin without using his hands – and then keep going.

The first team to finish wins.

### Source

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKHICMNbo1g&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKHICMNbo1g&feature=related)

1

Education partner and target group, content and goal

2

Abstract of the examined themes and target group

3

Eight Concepts on water issues

3.1

Experience of water by working at learning stations

3.2

Water in our everyday life

3.3

Research on waterbodies, organisms and water quality

3.4

Water Art on paper

3.5

Water and climate change

3.6

Water and history

3.7

Water and energy

3.8

Water games

4

Attachment

## WATER GAMES: Back to Back Water Balloon Relay Race

It's hilarious watching the kids as they try to gently hold a water balloon between their bodies without breaking it, while racing to the finish line. It's also a lot of good wet fun for the kids.

Style: Competitive

Type: Water Balloon Games

WHAT YOU NEED: Water balloons (small thin balloons, not regular balloons) and a place to fill them up. A container to hold the filled water balloons.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Divide the kids into two teams, and have each kid pair up with another kid from their own team.
2. Have the first pair of kids from each team stand back to back, with their arms locked together, at the start line. Place a water balloon between their backs.
3. On the word, »Go!«, they must transport the balloon between their backs to the finish line - about 20 feet away. Then they have to manoeuvre themselves, so that they can deposit the balloon into the empty bucket.
4. If any pair breaks their balloon, before they can deposit it in their team's bucket, then they have to sit out, and the next pair goes.
5. The game continues like this until each pair has had a turn.
6. The team with the most unbroken balloons in their bucket wins.

1

Education partner and target group, content and goal

2

Abstract of the examined themes and target group

3

Eight Concepts on water issues

3.1

Experience of water by working at learning stations

3.2

Water in our everyday life

3.3

Research on waterbodies, organisms and water quality

3.4

Water Art on paper

3.5

Water and climate change

3.6

Water and history

3.7

Water and energy

3.8

Water games

4

Attachment

## WATER GAMES: Water Balloon »Clean Up«

This is ingenuity at its best (a parent probably thought this one up)!  
Make this the final game of the day and you'll have lots of enthusiastic helpers.

Style: Competitive

Type: Water Balloon Games

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic buckets (one for each kid), an enticing final prize.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Give each kid a bucket (this can be a party souvenir that each kid gets to take home).
2. Have each kid pick up as many popped balloon pieces from the yard as he can.
3. The kid who picks up the most pieces gets the last and final prize of the party.

Source:

[www.awesome-kid-birthday-parties.com/kid-party-game.html](http://www.awesome-kid-birthday-parties.com/kid-party-game.html)

**The games are downloaded from internet sites:**

- <http://familyfun.go.com/parties/holiday/feature/famf68cooloff/famf68cooloff2.html>
- [www.funattic.com/game\\_water.htm#anchor8](http://www.funattic.com/game_water.htm#anchor8)

**Other useful links:**

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GejGvb-Vpiq](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GejGvb-Vpiq)
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyJr5ZqHPqE&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyJr5ZqHPqE&feature=related)

1

Education partner and target group, content and goal

2

Abstract of the examined themes and target group

3

Eight Concepts on water issues

3.1

Experience of water by working at learning stations

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Water in our everyday life

3.3

Research on waterbodies, organisms and water quality

3.4

Water Art on paper

3.5

Water and climate change

3.6

Water and history

3.7

Water and energy

3.8

Water games

4

Attachment