



Musical Hot Potatoes Game



This is a low-prep, fun, and versatile game that can be used with all ages. When I first started out as a Teacher-On-Call, I used this game numerous times to review concepts and vocabulary. It was easy to adapt the questions to any lesson plan in any subject area. I used to bring my guitar with me and play a song for the students, but you can use a CD, if you are not musically inclined.

Materials:

- Music on a tape or CD
- CD player
- Index card box
- Index cards with applicable tasks or questions written on them

Set-Up and Activity:

Prepare questions ahead of time on index cards and place the index cards in a small index box. The students sit or stand in a circle. The students pass the small box around the circle as the teacher plays some music. When the teacher stops the music, whoever is holding the box must open it and pull out an index card with a question on it. He or she tries to answer the question. If the student doesn't know the answer, he or she can call upon a friend in the circle to help or the question can be placed back in the index box for another person's turn. If the student gets it right, he or she keeps the index card. The game continues until all questions are answered or the teacher wishes to stop the game. If you have a large class, you can divide the class in half and have two games happening at the same time, but the teacher needs to monitor both circles to ensure that the students are following the ground rules listed below.

Ground Rules: Remind students to pass the box gently. No throwing is allowed! Also, it is the last person who has held the box that must answer the question. In other words, the student cannot drop the box into another person's lap at the last moment.

Purpose:

This activity can be used to review any concept you wish to teach. In particular, it's a fun and effective way to review vocabulary.

Examples of Ways to Use this Activity:

- Name that bone! I use a life-size skeleton model for this activity. The students point to the various bones as directed on the cards.
- Identify the character from a story/novel. I put the quotes on the cards.
- Know your opposites. Give an antonym for the word on the card.
- Name that shape. Have pictures of geometric shapes on the cards. Students must identify the name of the shape.
- True/False questions. Use any applicable topic.