

Send North America: Seattle

Kids Learning to live life on mission in North America

Games and Activities

Orcas and Seals

Orca (killer whale) watching is a favorite activity for tourists visiting Seattle. An orca's favorite meal is seal. This is a tag type game where orcas are trying to capture seals.

Items needed for play-area boundaries:

- Cones
- Rope

Prepare

Using the rope, make a large "sea" in the center of the play area. If the play area is large, use the cones to establish play-area boundaries.

Play

Choose one or two people to be the orcas, who will swim in the sea. All other players are seals. Orcas may leave the sea provided they are connected (holding hands) to each other and the orca closest to the sea has at least one foot in the sea.

Seals start at one end of the play area. When the orcas say, "Go" everyone must try to run to the other side of the play area without getting tagged. If a seal gets tagged, he/she joins the group of orcas. Once all the players make it to the other side, they will need to wait until the orcas say "Go" before they can run back to the other side.

The game is over when everyone is tagged or when the leader says stop.

Variations:

1. When there are about four orcas, the leader can make the size of the sea smaller.
2. You can allow seals to run through the sea or only around the sides of the sea.
3. If a seal is taking his/her time running to the other side, the leader can count down from 10 and the seal has 10 seconds to make it to the other side. If the seal does not move within 10 seconds, he/she will need to join the orcas.

Tip: This game may be easier to play indoors, where there are walls that define the space.

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Gold Rush

In 1896, the Klondike Gold Rush of the Yukon in northwestern Canada helped Seattle become a major transportation center as Seattle became the main transport and supply point for the miners in Alaska and the Yukon. In honor of this, play Gold Rush, as a type of treasure hunt.

Children may hunt in pairs or individually, depending upon the size of your group.

Items needed:

- Gold-foil wrapped chocolate candies, several per child
- Paper
- Zipper-close sandwich bags, 1 per child

Prepare

Before children arrive, place several candies in each sandwich bag. Hide the bags of gold in different parts of the room. If children will be working in pairs, hide two bags very near each other so each child will have one.

Designate a starting point for the hunt. On sheets of paper, draw a map to each “gold mine.” The children will use the maps to locate the hidden gold. Make it fun by having them take a roundabout path to their gold. Children are only allowed to claim their own gold, even if they should happen to spot other gold.

Play

Explain to the children the following information: Many years ago the Klondike Gold Rush of the Yukon in northwestern Canada helped Seattle become a major transportation center as Seattle became the main transport and supply point for the miners in Alaska and the Yukon. In honor of this, they are going to play a game called Gold Rush. They will be using treasure maps to find bags of gold.

Assign pairs as needed. Pass out the maps. At your signal, children will disperse to find their bags of gold. Help children as needed.

After all the gold has been found, tell the children that though gold is valuable, it is not lasting. Our real treasure lies in a relationship with Jesus, which will last forever.

Pause to pray for the people living in Seattle who are valuing things that don’t last. Pray for the missionaries who are working in Seattle. Pray that God will bless their work and their lives as they serve Him.