

Skill or Chance
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OVERVIEW

Students research the types of recreational activities enjoyed by the Colorado Indians.

STANDARDS

- Language Arts Standard 4: Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing.
- Language Arts Standard 5: Students read to locate, select, and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference, and technological sources.
- History Standard 2: Students know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.

OBJECTIVES

- Students understand that Colorado Indian children and adults enjoyed games of chance and skill.
- Students understand that Colorado Indians used games to display and sharpen skills used in everyday life.
- Students use research skills to complete a graphic organizer on recreational activities.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- What purposes did games serve in the life of the Colorado Indian?
- How are games played today similar to those of the Colorado Indian?
- How are they different from those of the Colorado Indian?

MATERIALS

- Doing History/Keeping the Past CD-ROM disk or web site -the section: Colorado Indians – Section: Community Life - Entertainment and Sports.
- Other local materials gathered by the teacher as resources for this activity – both print and AV.
- A game of chance and a game of skill (these games are not authentic games but rather an example of the type of game played by the Colorado Indians).

- Computer for use with the CD-ROM disk or connected to the Internet
 - A TV monitor for viewing AV materials.

PROCEDURE

1. Before the lesson, determine the number of stations for the research activity.
Possible stations:
 - a. Computer with CD-ROM or connected to the Internet.
 - b. Book, magazine, and reference materials.
 - c. Game of skill. game of chance.
 - d. TV monitor with AV materials.
2. Enlist the Library Media Specialist to help you find resources and the needed equipment for this activity. A good place to set up the rotations for the research is in the library, if this is possible. Determine in advance how much time you want students to spend at each location. The game stations will not take as long as the research stations. Decide how you would like to extend these. One possibility is to combine the two stations together, have the students play each type of game and then do some type of oral discussion directed by an adult volunteer comparing the two.
3. It is always helpful to have additional adults at each station. Parent helpers are a possibility.
4. On the day of the activity, review with the class what they already know about recreational activities enjoyed by the Colorado Indians. Pass out the graphic organizer and explain how to fill in the information needed in each section. Divide the class into groups and explain the rotation system. This activity may take more than one classroom session.
5. Culminating activity: Have the students create a game of skill to share and play with classmate. It should include a written explanation of how the game improves a skill in everyday life.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of the lesson students should know:

- Colorado Indians enjoyed games of skill and games of chance.
- Colorado Indians played games to display and to sharpen skills needed in their everyday life.
- Students make a game of skill, play it with a classmate, and writes an explanation of how the game improves a skill used in everyday life.

Games Played by Colorado Indians

Using key words and short phrases, write your notes below. Use a check mark to indicate whether the game is a game of skill or a game of chance.

Name of Game	Brief Description of the Game (including who played it)	Skill	Chance	This game reminds me of