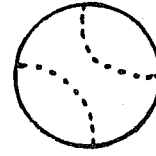


NATURE?



PARTICIPANTS: 9 Pathfinders from each club

PROCEDURE: In this "baseball" game, the pitcher "throws" a question instead of using a ball, and the batter "hits" the answers.

Divide your group into two equal teams. In each corner of the room make believe there is a base. Each team then makes a list of 23 or more questions on nature. (Better have plenty of questions.) The first-inning pitcher takes the list of questions his team has made up. As each opposing team player comes up to bat, the pitcher asks him a question from the list, such as, "What animal builds dams?" If the batter answers correctly (without help) by saying, "Beaver", it's a hit, and he goes to the corner that is supposed to be first base.

Then the next player comes to the bat. Unlike regulation baseball, the batter doesn't have three chances before he is declared out -- he just has one turn. If he answers incorrectly, he is out and the next person comes up to bat. If he answers correctly, he goes to first base, and the player on first moves to second base, etc. When a succession of hits moves a player completely around the bases, that team scores a run, provided three outs have not been made in the meantime. As in baseball, when there are three outs, the side is called out and teams change. The team that pitched the questions before is now at bat. In the second inning, another player becomes the pitcher, etc.

The idea, of course, is for each team to get as many runs as possible.

If a player feels confident of his nature lore, he can tell the pitcher he wants to try for a home run. He then has to answer four questions pitched to him, one right after the other. If he succeeds in answering them all correctly, he runs around the bases, returns to home plate, and scores a home run. If there were other players on base when he hit the home run, they score ahead of him. If, however, he misses a single question, his team is called out. Therefore, the player who decides to take a chance on a homer had better know nature well.

An impartial umpire can keep score and also settle disputes over some of the answers. He should have a good knowledge of nature or possess an answer sourcebook.