

TIC CAT TOE

Students will name four items that fit the category named in a square of a tic tac toe grid.

OBJECTIVES: Vocabulary
Categories
Strategies

TARGET POPULATION: Grades 1 & above
MATERIALS: Chalkboard and chalk
Category List (provided)

PROCEDURE: Divide the class into two groups, Team "X" and Team "O". On the chalkboard draw a 3 x 3 tic tac toe grid. Label each of the nine boxes of the grid with a category such as "zoo animals" from the provided list.

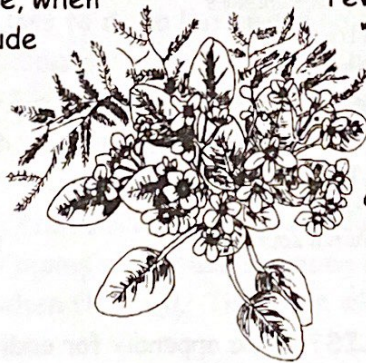
The first person from Team X comes to the board and chooses the place where she would like to place her team's mark. She reads aloud the label in that box, and then names four items that suit that category. If all of her words fit the category, she enters her team's mark in the selected space. Play then passes to the other team. If any or all of the student's responses are incorrect, she receives no mark for her team, and play still passes to the opponent. Be sure that every team member has the opportunity to respond once before anyone gets a second turn.

The first team to get three marks in a row horizontally, vertically, or diagonally wins the game. Begin again, if desired.

MODIFICATIONS: A 4 x 4 grid could be used to extend the game board. The first team to get four marks in a row *or* a mark in each corner wins.

Choose categories that relate to your curriculum to use this game as a review. For example, when reviewing a unit on weather, categories could include "types of clouds", "types of precipitation", "destructive weather", etc.

Allow teams to steal a square previously won by the opponent by naming four *additional* items that fit the



steal a square previously won by naming four *additional* category.



Category Suggestions for Lower Levels

zoo animals	cartoon characters	baby animals
farm animals	teachers' names	girls' names
body parts	toys	furniture
trees	birds	flowers
holidays	relatives	types of stores
tools	things in the sky	bugs
kinds of cookies	road signs	camping gear
seasons	shapes	vegetables
school subjects	2-syllable words	kinds of pie
beverages	junk food	playground equipment
sports	liquids	things that smell good
school things	sports	musical instruments

Category Suggestions for Upper Levels

occupations	naturally white things	normally wet things
non-green vegetables	things that smell bad	things that use batteries
winter clothing	things made of paper	things to do while sitting
illegal activities	countries	things that go on walls
breakable things	footwear	things that can be poured
cold things	authors' names	winter activities
planets	salty things	things that have corners
foreign languages	things that sting	types of fabric
presidents of the US	Olympic events	types of animal homes
state capitols	gemstones	mountain ranges
movie stars	types of cars	numbers divisible by 9
circus acts	snakes	pro sports teams
military ranks	animal sounds	people in uniforms

(See CATEGORY RESOURCE LIST in the appendix for additional suggestions.)