

Math in the woods

#1 – Camouflage

Level: Grades 1 through 6

Skills: Math, Nature Appreciation, Physical Education

Camouflage is a fun way to practice math skills while out in the yard or on the trail! I use it often with school groups and summer camps.

How to play:

1. Go for a walk. When your family is least expecting it, call out a math problem – for example, “five times four!” The problem can be addition, subtraction, or whatever is appropriate for the skills of your players. All players should say their answer out loud to you. **Make sure everyone agrees on the solution** before moving on to the next part.
2. Once an answer is agreed on, yell “Camouflage!” and close your eyes. All players except you must run and hide – BUT when hiding, they may only take the number of steps that was given as the answer to the math problem (20 in the above example).
3. Count out loud to that same number (in this example, 20) and then open your eyes. If you see anyone, call out his or her name and have them return to you. Anyone not visible “wins” that round. There can be more than one winner.
4. Continue your walk, and repeat!