



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

birray
'bir-ray'



SCHOOL
YEARS
K-3

Background

Young children in the Bloomfield area of north Queensland played the game of *birray* (march-fly). It was observed by Walter Roth in the early 1900s.

Language

The name of the game is taken from the Wik-Mungkan language of north Queensland.

Short description

This is a game where a chaser (*birray*) attempts to tag (touch) other players.

Players

- A group of four to eight players

Playing area

- A suitable designated area free of obstructions

Game play and basic rules

- Players spread out around the playing area.
- Shutting their eyes (or blindfolded) the player who takes the part of the *birray* (march-fly) runs about trying to catch (touch) another player in the group.
- As soon as the player is successful he or she makes an unpleasant noise (imitating the insect's buzz) near the ear of the player caught and also give him or her a 'pretend' pinch (indicative of the sting). The player caught (touched) becomes the new *birray* and the game continues.

Suggestion

This game is recommended for younger children.

Teaching points

- Spread out.
- Keep moving. Watch out for the *birray*.
- Look out for other players.
- Caught. Change over. Let's go again.