



ISLANDS

Number of players: 5-30

Space: Enough room to move around

Materials needed: None

Procedure:

Place sheets of newspaper around the floor. Put out one less sheet than you have students playing. Ask the group to walk around the room ["Go for a swim"] taking care not to tread on the paper. They can also be described as "islands." When you shout "Sharks!" each participant should get on his or her nearest sheet. You are allowed more than one person per piece of paper. A person is on a sheet if no part of their body is touching the surrounding floor. After everyone is safely, completely on a sheet, ask the group to move around the room again. As they do this, remove one [or more] sheet[s] and repeat the process. End the game when the whole group has successfully negotiated getting on a few remaining pieces of newspaper . . . or when they have collapsed in an amicable pile trying.

Possible side coaching:

"Keep moving around the space"

"Watch the other bodies on your island when you join up. Take your time to play safely."

Variations:

You could use music to cue the swimming, or the theme from Jaws to cue the "sharks."

Processing points:

- What did you like about this activity?
- What happened by the end?
- What strategies did you use to solve the challenge?
- What are other times in our world where many people have to share a small amount of land or another resource?

Possible learning areas:

Use this activity to introduce themes of survival, problem solving, limited resources, collaboration or over-population.

Source: Drama Activities for Offending Behavior by James Thomson