



Mink and Otters game



Group



Running game



Setting up:

1. Split the group into two equal teams – the “Otters” and the “Mink”.
2. Lay a rope in the centre of your playing area, or use a couple of sticks, to mark your “centre” line.
3. Define a home base for each team – around 3m behind the centre line on each side.

Play the game:

4. The two teams line up along the centre line, facing each other. They should stand about a metre back from the centre line.
5. The leader shouts out a statement*: If it’s **TRUE** the Otters chase the Mink. If it’s **FALSE** the Mink chase the Otters.
6. If a player is tagged before getting to the home base area that player joins the opposite team.
7. Bring the teams back to the centre line and play again.

There will be an amount of chaos and happy pandemonium as the group try and work out who is chasing who. The leader will probably need to shout the answer over the chaos and remind the groups which way they should be running.

To help remind the group you can place a blue object at the Mink home base and a red one at the Otter home base and tell the group that “if it’s true head for blue” i.e. the Otters chase the Mink towards their home base.

* On the next page is a list of TRUE or FALSE statements to get you started. You can make more up as you play, just keep them simple and unambiguous.

TRUE or FALSE? – Invasive non-native species themed statements.

- Another term for 'non-native' is 'alien' = **true**
- The Red squirrel is non-native to GB = **false**, they are native. Most of the GB population live in Scotland
- All non-native species become invasive = **false**, only a small percentage become invasive
- Giant hogweed plants can grow 10 meters tall = **false**, they can grow approximately 4 meters tall
- Invasive species cause problems for our environment = **true**
- Giant hogweed sap can burn your skin = **true**
- The American mink originates from China = **false**, it is native to North America
- Alien invaders are often bigger and faster growing than native species = **true**
- Japanese knotweed can grow 10cm a day = **true**
- The alien ruddy duck has a pink beak = **false**, it has a blue beak
- A plant or animal is considered native to GB if it has been here since the last Ice Age = **true**
- The New Zealand flatworm got to GB by hiding in a tourist's suitcase = **false**, it came in via soil of pot plants
- Red deer are non-native in GB = **false**, they are native
- Himalayan balsam flowers can throw their seeds 7m from the plant = **true**, they have exploding seed pods
- American skunk cabbage smells like onions = **false**, it smells like a skunk or smelly socks!
- Giant hogweed seeds can survive in the soil for 7 years = **true**
- Over 2,000 alien invaders have been introduced to GB = **true**
- Japanese knotweed spreads by seeds = **false**, it spreads by creeping rhizomes and vegetative regeneration of stem / rhizome fragment
- Invasive species can pass on diseases to native species = **true**, for example Grey squirrels carry the squirrel pox virus which is deadly to red squirrels
- Cleaning boots is important to help stop the spread of invasive species = **true**
- Parrots feather is the name of an invasive bird = **false**, it's an invasive plant
- American mink eat otters = **false**, they eat water voles, small mammals, bird eggs etc
- There are goldfish living in the wild in GB = **true**, they were released as unwanted pets
- The alien leathery sea squirt is a type of plant = **false**, it's an animal
- The Victorians introduced lots of today's invasive plants = **true**, they sent people on expeditions to collect new plants flowers for garden collections
- The alien mitten crab looks like it's wearing a pair of mittens = **true**, that's how it got its name!
- The rabbit is a non-native species = **true**, they were introduced into GB by the Romans