

Mastering the Field: Invasion Game Tactics with Max

Learning objective: To understand and apply tactical principles in invasion games, such as attacking, defending, and creating space.

Max the monkey is analysing his latest football match! To help Max win the next game, sort the following actions into two categories: 'Attacking Tactics' (how we score or move forward) and 'Defending Tactics' (how we stop the other team). Then, answer the tactical questions to show your understanding of team movement.

Word bank: Dribbling · Marking an opponent · Passing into space · Intercepting a ball · Creating width · Tackling · Communication

1. Choose two items from the word bank that are Attacking Tactics and explain why they help a team move towards the goal. (2 marks)

2. Choose two items from the word bank that are Defending Tactics and explain how they prevent the opposition from scoring. (2 marks)

3. If you are in possession of the ball and all your teammates are standing still, why is it difficult to score? Suggest one movement a teammate could make to help. (2 marks)

4. Max says, 'Communication is the most important skill in any game.' Do you agree? Give one reason why talking to your team helps during a match. (2 marks)

5. Imagine you are defending against a player who is very fast. Would you stand right next to them or give yourself a little bit of distance? Explain your choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view of a rectangular pitch. Use arrows to show how your team is 'creating width' by spreading out to find space, and show one player passing the ball to a teammate in an open area.



Extension challenge: Design a simple set of three rules for a new invasion game that requires players to use at least one 'Attacking' and one 'Defending' tactic to score a point.