

Max's Invasion Games Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the tactical principles of invasion games, including attacking, defending, and spatial awareness.

Help Max the monkey solve these sporting puzzles! Read each question carefully and circle the best answer. Remember: invasion games are all about working together to move the ball or object into the opponent's territory.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.Spatial Awareness, 5.B, 6.A, 7.True, 8.Possession, 9.B, 10.A. Teacher note: Remind pupils that invasion games (like football, netball, or hockey) rely on communication and teamwork rather than just individual speed.

Word bank: Possession · Interception · Spatial Awareness · Tactics · Defending · Attacking · Transition

1. 1. What is the primary objective of an invasion game? A) To stand still B) To pass to the referee C) To move an object into the opponent's territory* D) To ignore teammates (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: 'Defending' involves trying to stop the other team from scoring. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: You should always bunch together in one big group to follow the ball. (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the term for being aware of where your teammates and opponents are on the pitch? (1 mark)

5. 5. Which action describes a player catching or blocking a pass from the opposing team? A) Dribbling B) Interception* C) Scoring D) Dodging (1 mark)

6. 6. When your team has the ball, what should you do to create space? A) Spread out across the pitch* B) Run towards the ball carrier C) Stand behind an opponent D) Stop running (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: Communication with your team is essential for success. (1 mark)

8. 8. What do we call it when your team keeps hold of the ball for a long time to control the game? (1 mark)

9. 9. In a game of hockey, which of these is a fair way to gain an advantage? A) Pushing an opponent B) Passing to a teammate in space* C) Kicking the ball D) Holding an opponent's shirt (1 mark)

10. 10. What is the best way to move the ball quickly past a defender? A) Using short, accurate passes* B) Running alone into a crowd C) Holding the ball still D) Waiting for the whistle (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view (from above) of a pitch. Show your team in blue and the opposing team in red. Use arrows to show how your blue team is spreading out to create space.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why spreading out makes it harder for the defending team to stop you. 2. Compare and contrast the role of an attacker versus a defender. 3. Justify why communication is more important than individual skill in a team game. 4. What might happen if every player on a team chased the ball at the same time? 5. If you were the team captain, what tactics would you suggest to keep possession? 6. Design a 'dream' invasion game: What equipment would you use, and what is one unique rule that makes it fair for everyone?