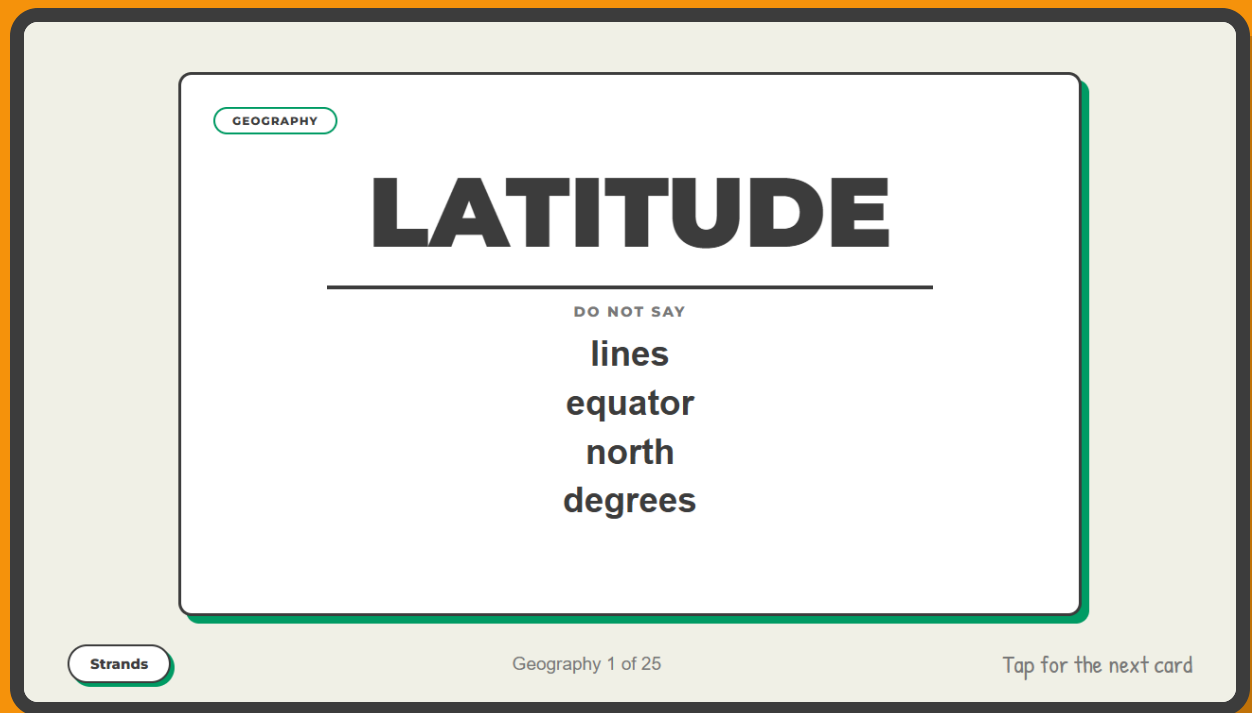


CLASSROOM REVIEW GAMES

SOCIAL STUDIES TABOO

Describe It Without Saying It · Grades 6 to 12 · 100 cards · 4 strands



Play on one tablet per table, or print the cards. Both are included.

How the game works

This is a table game, not a whole-class game. The card has to stay hidden from the guessers, so it is never put on the board. A table of 6 splits into 3 pairs and shares one tablet, or one pile of printed cards.

- 1. The describer takes the tablet or the top card. Only that person looks at it.**
- 2. A checker from another pair reads the same card. Their only job is to catch banned words.**
- 3. The describer talks and their partner guesses. Every word guessed is one point.**
- 4. A banned word means that card scores nothing. Move on to the next one.**
- 5. After 60 seconds, write the score on the table's sheet and pass the tablet along.**
- 6. Partners swap who describes each round, so everybody talks.**

Six rounds is about 30 minutes, and every student describes at least twice.

Deal one strand to review that unit, or shuffle all 100 for a mixed game.

Scoring is peer checked, so the teacher never has to judge an answer.

The tablet deck: 100 card slides

Choose a strand

Tap a strand to start there, then keep tapping for the next card.

GEOGRAPHY

25

cards

Tap to start

CIVICS

25

cards

Tap to start

ECONOMICS

25

cards

Tap to start

WORLD HISTORY

25

cards

Tap to start

CIVICS

CITIZEN

DO NOT SAY

member
country
rights
born

Strands

Civics 4 of 25

Tap for the next card

Tap anywhere for the next card. The Strands button in the corner goes back to the menu, so the next student can switch strand without leaving the slideshow. Opens in Google Slides and PowerPoint.

Social Studies Vocabulary Taboo

Tables of 6

Describe It Without Saying It · Grades 6 to 12 · 100 cards · 4 strands

This is a table game, not a whole-class game

The card must stay hidden from the guessers, so it is never shown on the board. Each table of **6** splits into **3 pairs** and plays with one tablet, or one pile of printed cards, passed around the table. Every table plays at the same time.

Set up (3 minutes)

1. Tables of **6**. Partners sit next to each other, so 3 pairs per table.
2. Give each table **one score sheet** and a pencil, and either **one tablet** showing the deck or **one pile of cards** face down.
3. Pairs decide their order. Pair 1 goes first.
4. You keep the clock for the whole room: **60 seconds** a turn.

Read this out

"You are playing in pairs. When it is your turn, one of you looks at the card and describes the word so your partner can say it. You may not say the word itself, and you may not say any of the four words listed under it. Someone from another pair watches your screen and checks. You get 60 seconds. Every word your partner gets is one point. Then the tablet passes on."

A turn, step by step

- 1 **Describer** takes the tablet or the top card. Only that person looks at it.
- 2 **Checker** from another pair sits so they can see it too. Their only job is to catch banned words.
- 3 **Describe.** The describer talks; their partner guesses out loud. Right answer, tap next and keep going.
- 4 **Banned word?** The checker says "banned". That card scores nothing, move to the next one.
- 5 **Time.** When the 60 seconds are up, write the pair's score on the sheet.
- 6 **Pass.** The tablet goes to the next pair. Inside a pair, swap who describes each round.

The rules a class will test

- No part of the word: no "sounds like", no first letter, no spelling it.
- No gestures and no drawing. Words only.
- Skipping is allowed, but a skipped card scores nothing.
- The checker's call is final. Arguing costs the pair that card.

Timing for one period

Set up 3 min · 6 rounds of about 4 min (60 seconds of play plus passing and scoring) · add up and announce 4 min. **About 30 minutes**, and every student describes at least twice. Short period? Play 4 rounds.

What is in the deck

Geography (25) · **Civics** (25) · **Economics** (25) · **World History** (25). Deal one strand at a time to review that unit, or shuffle all 100 for a mixed game.

Table card: the rules students keep in front of them

At Your Table

Print one per table. Keep it in the middle where everyone can see it.

- 1 **One person describes.** You look at the card. Your partner guesses.
- 2 **One person checks.** Someone from another pair reads the same card and listens for banned words.
- 3 **Never say** the word, any of the four banned words, part of the word, or the first letter.
No pointing, no acting, no drawing.
- 4 **One point** for every word your partner says correctly in 60 seconds.
- 5 **Pass it on** when time is up, and swap who describes next round.

Stuck?

Say what it is used for, where you would find it, what happens because of it, or what it is the opposite of. Those four openings will get you through almost any card.

Table score sheet

Table Score Sheet

One per table. Write each pair's name, then their score for every round.

Table _____

PAIR	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOTAL
Pair 1							
Pair 2							
Pair 3							

Which strand each round

ROUND	SUBJECT
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Table winner

Pair

Points

Best describer at this table, voted by the table:

Hand this sheet in at the end so the class winner can be worked out.

Geography: 1 of 3 card sheets

Geography cards 1 to 10 of 25

Cut on the dashed lines. Print on card stock, or back to back with the next sheet so the words do not show through.

Geography

GEOGRAPHY

LATITUDE

lines
equator
north
degrees

GEOGRAPHY

LONGITUDE

lines
vertical
meridian
east

GEOGRAPHY

EQUATOR

middle
zero
line
hot

GEOGRAPHY

HEMISPHERE

half
earth
northern
sphere

GEOGRAPHY

PENINSULA

land
water
three
sides

GEOGRAPHY

ARCHIPELAGO

chain
islands
group
water

GEOGRAPHY

PLATEAU

flat
raised
land
high

GEOGRAPHY

TUNDRA

cold
frozen
treeless
arctic

GEOGRAPHY

SAVANNA

grassland
africa
dry
animals

GEOGRAPHY

DELTA

river
mouth
triangle
deposits

Civics: 1 of 3 card sheets

Civics cards 1 to 10 of 25

Cut on the dashed lines. Print on card stock, or back to back with the next sheet so the words do not show through.

Civics

CIVICS

DEMOCRACY

people
vote
rule
government

CIVICS

CONSTITUTION

document
rules
founding
law

CIVICS

AMENDMENT

change
constitution
added
bill

CIVICS

CITIZEN

member
country
rights
born

CIVICS

RIGHTS

freedoms
entitled
protected
law

CIVICS

JURY

twelve
trial
decide
peers

CIVICS

VERDICT

decision
jury
guilty
trial

CIVICS

CONGRESS

senate
house
laws
branch

CIVICS

SENATE

upper
congress
chamber
two

CIVICS

VETO

reject
president
bill
refuse

Economics: 1 of 3 card sheets

Economics

cards 1 to 10 of 25

Economics

Cut on the dashed lines. Print on card stock, or back to back with the next sheet so the words do not show through.

ECONOMICS

SUPPLY

amount
available
sellers
demand

ECONOMICS

DEMAND

want
buyers
willing
supply

ECONOMICS

SCARCITY

limited
enough
shortage
rare

ECONOMICS

SURPLUS

extra
left
too
much

ECONOMICS

PROFIT

money
made
costs
earn

ECONOMICS

REVENUE

money
sales
income
total

ECONOMICS

INFLATION

prices
rise
money
worth

ECONOMICS

RECESSION

economy
decline
jobs
slow

ECONOMICS

INTEREST

bank
extra
borrow
percent

ECONOMICS

CREDIT

borrow
card
pay
later

World History: 1 of 3 card sheets

World History

cards 1 to 10 of 25

Cut on the dashed lines. Print on card stock, or back to back with the next sheet so the words do not show through.

World History

WORLD HISTORY

CIVILIZATION

society
advanced
early
culture

WORLD HISTORY

ARTIFACT

object
past
dug
made

WORLD HISTORY

DYNASTY

family
rulers
line
china

WORLD HISTORY

PHARAOH

egypt
ruler
king
tomb

WORLD HISTORY

EMPEROR

ruler
empire
rome
throne

WORLD HISTORY

FEUDALISM

lords
land
medieval
service

WORLD HISTORY

MONARCHY

king
rule
royal
throne

WORLD HISTORY

COLONY

settlement
ruled
another
country

WORLD HISTORY

INDEPENDENCE

free
own
rule
break

WORLD HISTORY

TREATY

agreement
signed
countries
peace

WHAT YOU GET

- **100 cards in 4 strands: Geography, Civics, Economics, World History**
- **A tablet deck (PowerPoint, opens in Google Slides) with one card per slide**
- **The same 100 cards as printable cut-apart cards, plus card backs**
- **A teacher rules page, a table card for students, and a table score sheet**
- **Color and ink-saver black and white, in US Letter and A4**

Questions or a special request? Email me any time.

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