CLASSROOM REVIEW GAMES

TABOO REVIEW GAME

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

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.

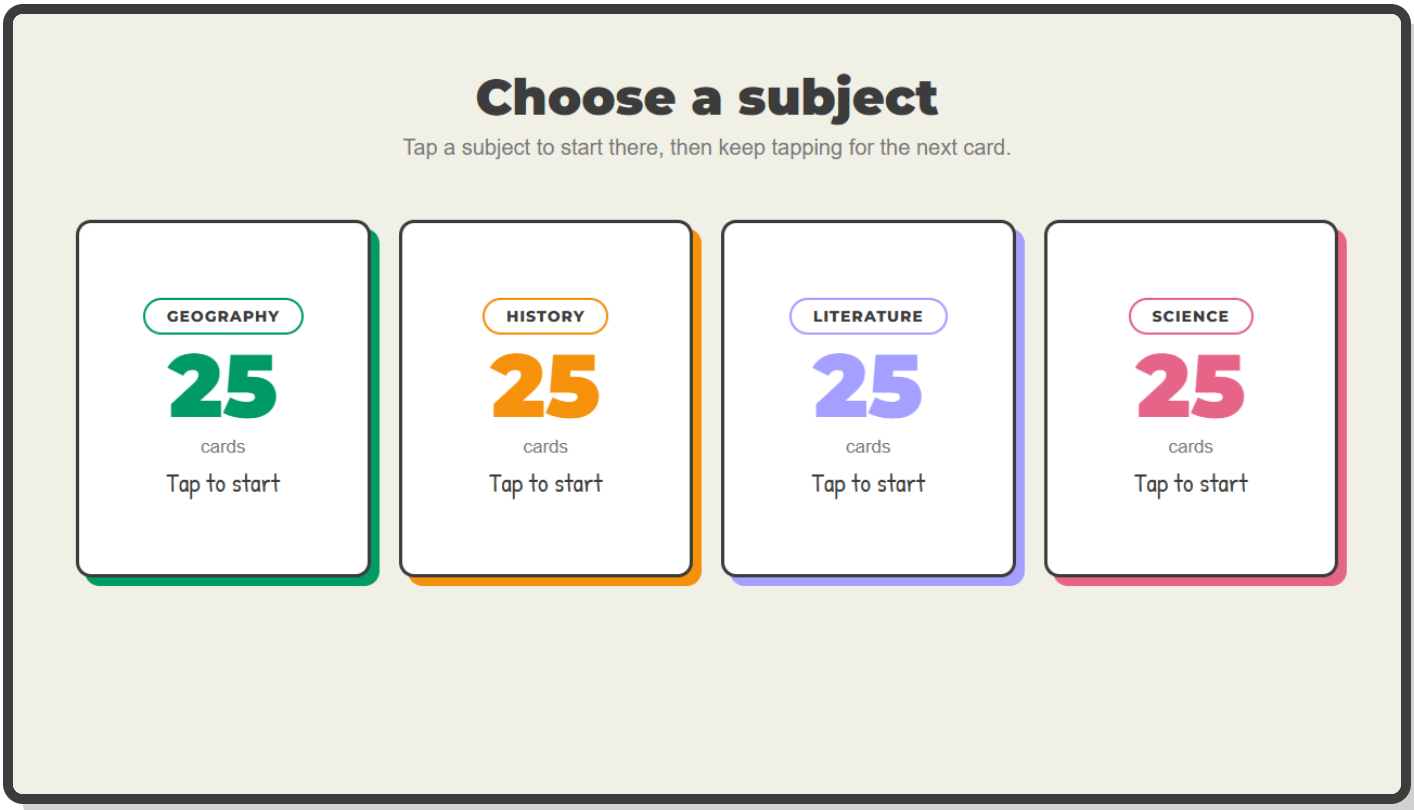
1. The describer takes the tablet or the top card. Only that person looks at it.
2. A checker from another pair reads the same card. Their only job is to catch banned words.
3. The describer talks and their partner guesses. Every word guessed is one point.
4. A banned word means that card scores nothing. 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.

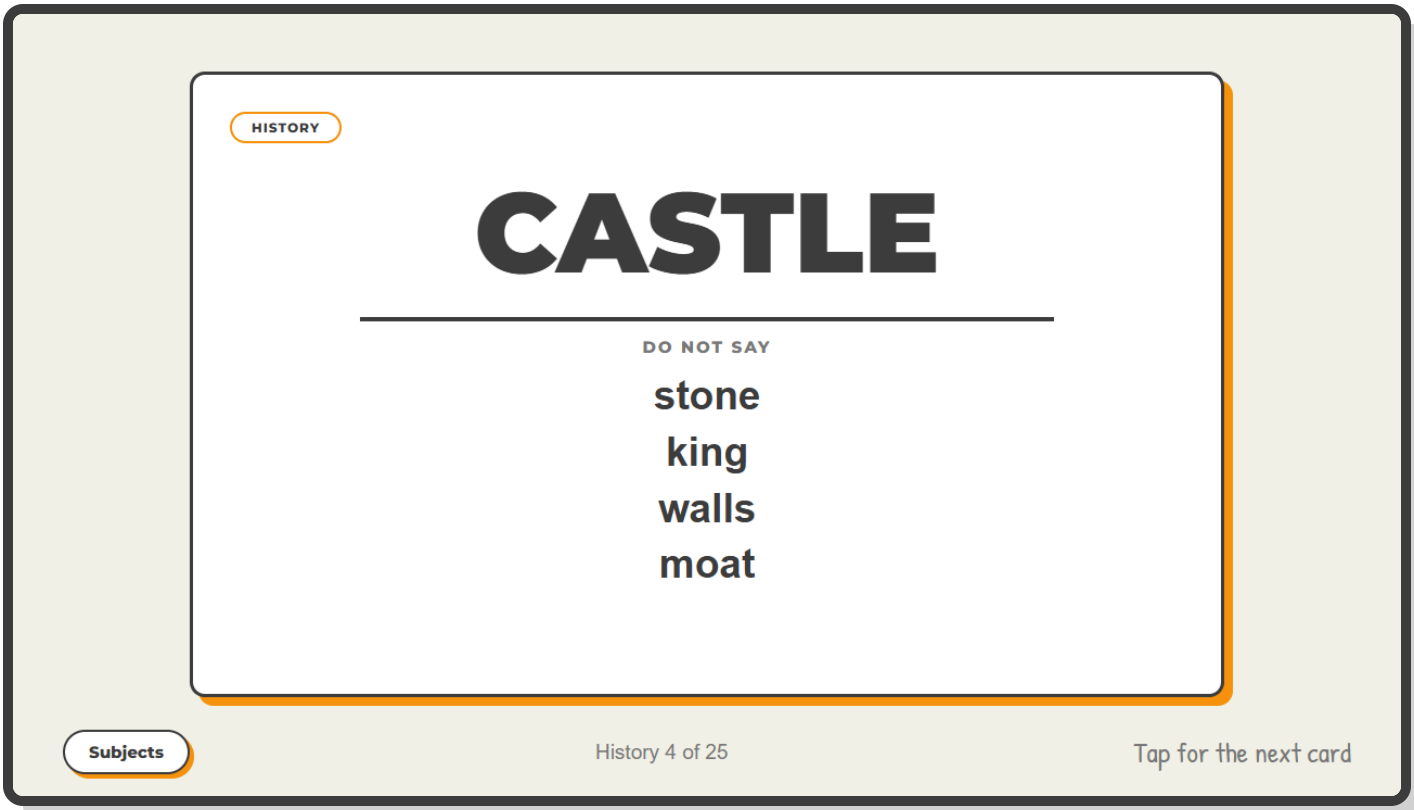
Six rounds is about 30 minutes, and every student describes at least twice.

Deal one subject 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





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

Teacher rules page

Taboo Review Game

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

Tables of 6

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) · **History** (25) · **Literature** (25) · **Science** (25). Deal one subject at a time to review that unit, or shuffle all 100 for a mixed game.

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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.

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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 subject 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.

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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

VOLCANO

lava
erupt
mountain
ash

GEOGRAPHY

DESERT

dry
sand
hot
rain

GEOGRAPHY

ISLAND

water
surrounded
land
sea

GEOGRAPHY

MOUNTAIN

tall
climb
peak
high

GEOGRAPHY

RIVER

water
flows
bank
stream

GEOGRAPHY

OCEAN

water
salt
waves
sea

GEOGRAPHY

MAP

directions
paper
places
atlas

GEOGRAPHY

CAPITAL

city
government
country
main

GEOGRAPHY

FOREST

trees
woods
green
grow

GEOGRAPHY

BEACH

sand
sea
waves
swim

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History: 1 of 3 card sheets

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.

History

HISTORY

PYRAMID

egypt
tomb
triangle
pharaoh

HISTORY

KING

crown
rule
queen
royal

HISTORY

QUEEN

crown
king
woman
throne

HISTORY

CASTLE

stone
king
walls
moat

HISTORY

KNIGHT

armor
sword
medieval
horse

HISTORY

WAR

fight
battle
soldiers
peace

HISTORY

SOLDIER

army
fight
uniform
gun

HISTORY

SHIP

sail
water
boat
sea

HISTORY

EXPLORER

travel
discover
ship
map

HISTORY

TREASURE

gold
chest
pirate
buried

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Literature: 1 of 3 card sheets

Literature

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.

Literature

LITERATURE

CHARACTER

person
story
book
role

LITERATURE

PLOT

story
events
order
happens

LITERATURE

SETTING

place
time
where
story

LITERATURE

NARRATOR

tells
story
voice
person

LITERATURE

VILLAIN

bad
evil
hero
story

LITERATURE

POEM

verse
rhyme
lines
write

LITERATURE

RHYME

sound
words
poem
end

LITERATURE

NOVEL

book
long
fiction
story

LITERATURE

CHAPTER

book
section
part
divided

LITERATURE

AUTHOR

writes
book
person
wrote

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Science: 1 of 3 card sheets

Science

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.

Science

SCIENCE

GRAVITY

falls
pull
earth
weight

SCIENCE

MAGNET

attract
metal
poles
iron

SCIENCE

PLANET

space
orbit
earth
mars

SCIENCE

MOON

night
earth
orbit
craters

SCIENCE

SUN

star
hot
light
day

SCIENCE

FOSSIL

bones
rock
ancient
dinosaur

SCIENCE

RECYCLE

reuse
waste
bin
plastic

SCIENCE

BATTERY

power
energy
charge
phone

SCIENCE

MICROSCOPE

small
lens
look
magnify

SCIENCE

SKELETON

bones
body
frame
skull

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WHAT YOU GET

- **100 cards in 4 subjects: Geography, History, Literature, Science**
- **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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