

Below is an article about games a teacher could play in the classroom. If you had to choose one game or activity you'd like to play, which one would it be? Explain your thinking. After that, choose one game you wouldn't want to play and explain why you feel that way.

## Games or Activities Teachers Could Play

---

### Educational Bingo

There are literally countless ways to use bingo. I created an award-winning bingo game based upon the people of American History. The boards have people's faces on them and the clues are all standards-based facts.

What about math bingo – the boards have numbers and the clues are problems that the students have to do mentally (or with scratch paper). Bingo can be used for phonics, vocabulary, spelling, sounds of letters.

The other great part about bingo is that you can make a game specifically designed for what your students are learning, go to any store and buy a bingo game, or make it an end of unit activity to create a bingo game in small groups – and then play that game in class. To make it free and easy, print out blank bingo cards and have students randomly fill in answers from the word/number bank before you start.

### Around the World

This might be my favorite time filler, quick game. Around the World works best with a set of flashcards – can be math, vocab, sight words, or spelling.

You have all your students stand up, the first student stands next to the student behind them. You show a flashcard and whoever is the fastest to say the correct answer moves on. The idea is to be the best in the whole class.

For a bonus, if a student makes it all the way around the room then they get to go against me. They LOVE this. “What, beat Mrs. Pak?!?” Since I'm the teacher and I know the answers faster, I give them 3 tries to beat me. If they beat me, then the next time we play around the world they get to be the 'teacher'.

---

## Get Out of Here

'Get Out of Here' is a fun game I like to play right before the end of the day, right before recess, or lunch. I stand in the doorway with either a set of Trivial Pursuit questions or flashcards.

In order to get out of my classroom you need to answer 3 questions correctly. If not, you head to the back of the line and start over.

For students who answer those questions correctly, they can get out of my room earlier than others. And who doesn't love that?

## Jeopardy

This is such a fun game. There are already lots of middle and high school teachers who utilize Jeopardy type games. And why not? It's great to use as a studying tool before a big test. It also works so well for when preparing for the end of a unit, midterms, or finals.

There are plenty of free Jeopardy templates for teachers available online. This helps make prep time for this game more manageable.

If you play Jeopardy enough times, you could actually make it a project for small groups of students to create their own component of Jeopardy, under a certain heading, and have the whole class play together. This game is perfect for studying social studies, the arts, science, history, novels...the list goes on and on.

## Scavenger Hunts

Scavenger hunts are a lot of fun, but they definitely take some planning to get set up. The great thing is, they can be used for nearly every subject.

I like to set up a scavenger hunt for when starting new social studies, science, or reading units. I go through the material beforehand and I create questions, fill-in-the-blank, pictures, dates, people – anything that I want my students to really know before we get into the unit. And then I put them into small groups and they have to search the textbooks, encyclopedias, online, and around the classroom for the clues.

If I'm really on my game (meaning I've had enough coffee) I try to get other classrooms involved and have students go to visit there for clues. It's so much fun. I've tried doing scavenger hunts when doing nature units – but that does present the logistics on keeping an eye on all students, so plan accordingly if you decide to go that route.