



# Go Fly A Kite

Or at least play a game!

## QUICK GAMES FOR THOSE KINDS OF DAYS

Put together a "kit" with these things:

- 4 large bandannas
- A bag of balloons
- 2 different sizes of playground balls
- Timer & whistle
- 8 cheap Frisbees
- 4 jump ropes
- 4 small foam balls
- 4 rulers
- 12 plastic tumblers or cups
- 1 color cube (make it from a box using red, yellow, green, and blue)
- 1 number cube (make it from a box using only numbers 1 through 4)
- Masking tape



Keep these things together for a quick grab when you need a game.

### TAXI AND RIDER.



Needed: Number cube and a cup.

Object: Find a taxicab and be the first pair to snatch the cup.

Directions: The cup is set up at one end of the playing area, and the students go to the other end. Divide the students into two groups, the Taxis and the Riders. The Taxis must secretly number themselves from one to four. (If it is a large group there can be more than one Taxi with the same number. Scatter the Taxis around the field on the one end.)

The teacher announces: "It's an icy day, and you need to find a taxi to get home. Riders, when I tell you the Taxi number, race to find a Taxi with that number. Then the Taxi and Rider lock arms and rush to pick up the cup. First set of people to pick up the cup wins."

"Ready? (roll the number cube) Ok, look for Taxi #3!"

[After each turn, have the Taxis secretly renumber themselves.]



## TOO TOOTY TWO



**Needed:** Stopwatch or timer, jump ropes, bandannas (one for each pair of students)

**Object:** Work together to travel in a different way and be the first to snatch the cup.

**Directions:** Use the jump ropes to make a line at one end of the playing area as well as a starting line. Form the students into pairs. Put a cup on the ending line. Tell students that they must find the fastest way to get to the cup and pick it up. BUT they must be tied to their partners in some way (NOT AROUND THE NECK). And they may not walk or run forward. (Emphasize this several times: because the trick is that they can go backward or sideward, roll, hop, jump, etc.)

Give each pair a few minutes to plan what they think is the best way to go. Then they must tie themselves together in some fashion (NOT AROUND THE NECK).

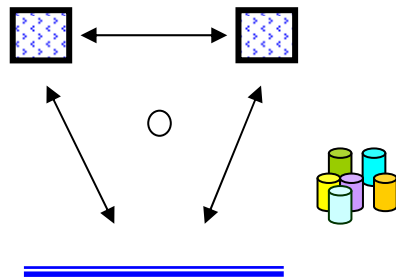
Line up the pairs. *Ready, set, Too Tooty Two Go!*

## TANGLE TRIANGLE BALL

**Needed:** Jump ropes, 6 cups, 2 bandannas (or bases), disks, playground ball.

**Setup:**

**Object:** Make the most points.



**Directions:** This game is best played outdoors for it is similar to kickball. Use a jump rope on the ground for the home base. Set six cups up beside home base. Place bandannas or bases at outward angles (see diagram) at about 20 feet apart. The disk should be in the center of the triangle.

Students should get into two groups: Fielders and Kickers. The Fielders choose a Roller. The Roller stands on the disk and holds the ball. The rest of the Fielders guard the bandannas. The Roller rolls the ball to a Kicker. The Kicker kicks the ball and then tries to run around the bases, picking up a cup along the way, without getting tagged with the ball. Only "runs" that come in with a "cup" count. Switch after everyone has had two turns to kick.



## CLEAN OUT THE CLOSET

**Needed:** Masking tape, timer, whistle, bandannas, twenty objects from the room or desks such as pencils, erasers, chalk, pens, rulers, etc.

**Object:** Have the fullest closet!

**Directions:** Use the masking tape to mark off two rectangles a distance apart. Put ten objects in each rectangle, and divide the class into two parts. Divide each group and tie them together in pairs or threes or combinations, as long as both sides match.



The timer is set for five minutes. When the whistle blows, each group picks up ONE object from their "closet" and races to the other side, placing the object in the other side's "closet". They then return and place it in their "closet". When the timer goes off, the side with the emptiest "closet" wins.



## WIGGLY WORM

**Needed:** jump ropes, bandannas, three or four books

**Object:** turn into worms and wriggle a distance

**Directions:** Lay the jump ropes at one end of the playing area as the starting line. Place the bandannas at the opposite end as the finish line. Scatter books around the playing field.



Students will stretch and wiggle their way around the objects while on their tummies. The first child lies down and stretches as far as possible. The next one goes to the front and lies down. The first "worm segment" catches on to the "next worm segment" and they stretch as far as they can. Now the "third worm segment" comes. But be careful! The "worm" must make it around each object without touching it! When all worm segments are on the field, the first worm segment gets up and goes to the head of the line.

This can be played with just one team, or two teams can race.

These games have been adapted and modified from: Instant Games for Children's Ministry, by Susan Lingo, Group Publishing, Loveland, CO, 1995. There are 101 games in this book!



# Silly Party Games & Activities for April Fools' Day

If you are afraid that April Fools' Day may get out of hand, take the initiative and plan a few hours where you control the hilarity.

- You may begin with telling jokes to each other and acting them out to add the punch to them. Asking riddles is another option.
- Tell real-life experiences about people who pulled creative hoaxes such as the Cardiff Giant.
- You may also play treasure hunt with a slight variation, where you have to hunt a 'gawk' or a stuffed cuckoo bird, picture of 'April Fish' or a joker and other such related symbols. The winning team can then dare the other team or ask them to do something funny.
- Fill the rooms with the balloons, and split the people into two teams and ask them to stomp on the balloons. The team getting the maximum number of balloons under their shoes and sandals wins.
- Charades is a good game for the day.
- 'Simon Says Opposites' is a game where everybody has to do opposite of what is told by the person acting as Simple Simon.
- Ask people to spell backwards the word given to them.
- Make arrangements for relay races and, keeping in the spirit of the day, pass silly objects such as a broom or an eggbeater or even a toilet tissue paper roll.
- Play kid games with the adults or make them recite nursery rhymes.
- Play the game of tag by tagging string taped on the backs of people.

The maple syrup's full of ants.  
A mouse is creeping on the shelf.  
Is that a spider on your back?  
I ate the whole pie by myself.  
The kitchen sink just overflowed.  
A flash flood washed away the school.  
I threw your blanket in the trash.  
I never lie----I---  
APRIL FOOL!

- Myra Cohn Livingston





# The Cardiff Giant



Cooperstown, **New York**

The Cardiff Giant was conceived by George Hull, a cigar manufacturer and atheist, after he'd spent an evening arguing with a fundamentalist minister. Hull remembered Genesis 6:4 and its reference to "**giants in the earth**" and wondered if people like the minister could be convinced that a large, stone statue found in the ground was actually a "**petrified giant**." He decided to find out.



Hull had a statue carved in secret and used himself as the model. It was over ten feet long when finished. Hull washed it with sulfuric acid and pounded it with darning needles to make it look old, then had it buried on a friend's farm in Cardiff, NY. It cost \$2,600, but Hull figured that enough people would want to see it for him to make a profit.



The exhibit includes historic photos and ads from the period.

A year later, in 1869, workers hired to dig a well on the Cardiff farm instead dug up the giant. The statue was immediately denounced as a fraud, but as Hull had guessed, it was fervently defended by Christian fundamentalists and also by civic boosters in whatever city happened to be exhibiting it. The debate raged long enough for Hull to make \$30,000 charging admission at 50 cents a peek. For this stroke of marketing genius, Hull has been branded a "confirmed scoundrel" by many historians.

The Cardiff Giant was so successful at making money that **P.T. Barnum** (father of the **Fejee Mermaid**) had his own giant sculpted -- a fake of the fake -- and given its own tour. (The false giant can be seen today at **Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum**, Farmington Hills, **Michigan**).

After years of haggling, the New York Historical Association bought the giant from a private owner for \$30,000 and brought it to Cooperstown, where it has resided at the Farmers Museum -- a place that features broom-making demonstrations -- ever since. The giant is hidden in a tent, so to see it you'll have to pay an **admission fee** and fight your way past "New York State Coverlets 1790-1860" or some equivalent exhibition of historical interest. George Hull would be proud.





## BBC Hoaxes

<http://www.thefoolsday.com/bbc-hoaxes.html>

British media have been quite active for years making their readers, listeners and viewers "April Fools" years after years. BBC (British Broadcasting Company) has made quite a name for itself for reporting the truth and maintaining journalistic ethics. However, being unbiased and doing truthful reporting does not mean that you have to lack wit and humor and that you cannot play pranks on people or advertise hoaxes. Here is a list of some of the most interesting and funny hoaxes broadcast by BBC:

- In 1957, BBC's famous news show "Panorama" showed the video footage of Swiss peasants eagerly pulling strands of spaghetti from their trees as they had harvested a bumper crop due to a very mild winter. It was surprising to see the



numbers of viewers that were actually fooled by the program and inquired about the ways to grow their own spaghetti trees. BBC appropriately suggested planting a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce.



- In 1965, BBC TV used power of suggestion to fool people. It aired an interview with a professor, claiming that he had invented a device called "smell-o-vision", which could transmit the aromas just as the pictures were being transmitted to the homes of the readers. The professor offered a live demonstration by helping to pass the smell of onion and brewing coffee to the viewers. There was no such device, and everything was just cooked up in the minds of the writers. People actually called in to confirm that they had experienced the scents at their homes while watching the program!



- BBC Radio 3 and the famous naturalist David Attenborough conspired in 1975 and broadcast about the discovery of a new species of night-singing tree mice known as *Musendrophilus*. This species was reported to have been found on a group of islands in the Pacific known as the Sheba Islands, and even fake



sound recordings of the island's fauna were played for the audience. It was said that the inhabitants of the island used the webbed feet of the animal as reeds for musical instruments. The report sparked quite an interest among people. Later, it was said that the inspiration for such an animal was taken from the tales of Tree Squeaks that are said to live high in the tress of North America and squeak every time the wind blows.

- In 1973, the comedian Spike Milligan impersonated an elderly academic by the name of Dr. Clothier for BBC Radio. Apparently, this professor was being interviewed and went into great details about an unusual tree disease known as the Dutch Elm disease and some amazing facts that had been discovered about it. He said that Dr. Emily Lang of the London School of Pathological and Environmental Medicine has found that this disease can infect humans too, which is good in general, for it immunized people to the common cold. Their targets were the redheads this time. It was said that redheads that have a blood count similar to the soil conditions of the trees affected by the disease would have to face a severe side effect of the disease, as their red hair would turn yellow and eventually fall out. Thus, they were advised to stay away from the forests, where they might get infected.



- Eleven years after the 'smell-o-vision' stunt, in 1976, BBC Radio 2 aired an announcement by the British astronomer Patrick Moore. It stated that at 9:47 AM the audience could all experience a once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event in which the planet Pluto would pass behind Jupiter and thus, due to the gravitational alignment during this planet, the Earth's gravity would lessen.



People could jump higher at that very moment and might even have a floating sensation such as the astronomers do in the space. Liars and gossip-mongers found it a good opportunity to claim that they indeed had experienced the sensation, and one woman even called in to report that at that very moment she was sitting with her eleven friends when they all rose from their chairs and floated around the room. Liars, liars!



- BBC has always found people at important posts and positions to help it fool the people on April Fool's Day. In 1977, Tom Jackson, General Secretary of the British Union of Post Office Workers, was aired voicing his protest against a proposal that the British mail should adopt the German method of addressing envelopes and write the house number after the name of the street. Jackson gave a long speech about the postal employees who would have to unlearn the methods that they have painstakingly learned to sort the mail and about the difficulties and complications that would arise from adopting the new proposed method. He found great support and instant reactions from the audience, who called in to join him in his campaign. The only thing was that there was no such proposal, and the day on which this was aired was April 1.



- BBC sparked a big protest in 1980 against the announcement that Big Ben was to have a digital readout to keep up the modern times. The BBC Japanese service even announced the sale of the clock hands of Big Ben to the first four listeners to contact them, and among the first people who radioed in the bid immediately to get such an opportunity was a Japanese seaman, who was sailing in the Atlantic Ocean at the time.
- In the last year of the millennium, BBC Radio 4 startled anybody listening to its Today program with the new decision of the British Parliament to change the British national anthem from the monarchy-advocating "God Save the Queen" to a Euro-anthem sung in German that used extracts from Beethoven's music. Pupils of a German school in London sang the anthem that was aired. It is said that even the royal family was stunned with the announcement and Prince Charles's office telephoned Radio 4 to ask them for a copy of the new anthem. St. James Palace insisted later that it had not been fooled but was only playing along with the prank.

For more hoaxes try:

<http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/>