



Short Activity
Ages 3–5
20–30 minutes

What Time Is It, Mountain?

Description

During ancient times, in some East Asian countries such as China, Japan and Korea, people would divide a day into 12 two-hour periods and assign a zodiac animal to each period.

What Time Is It, Mountain? is a new, original game based on the What Time Is It, Mr. Wolf, with added features like a 24-hour clock, zodiac animal hours and animal movements.

Number of Participants

For a minimum of three participants

Space Considerations

Any large space free of obstacles where kids can move from one end to the other

Competencies

- Body awareness
- Creative expression
- Following directions
- Oral communication skills
- Strategic thinking

Materials

- Card stock
- Masking or painter's tape

Preparation

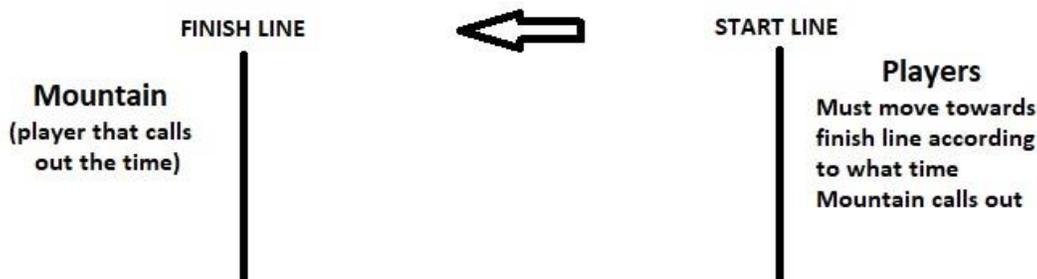
- Ensure boundaries of space are marked
- Print out several copies of the Mountain player's handout

- Mark start line and finish line on the floor or ground with masking or painter's tape

Implementation

How to play

1. One player is assigned the role of "Mountain"
2. The Mountain player stands far away, with back turned away from other players
3. A marker is placed in the vicinity of the mountain that the kids need to reach in order to win (to discourage physical contact with the Mountain player)
4. The Mountain player has a clock with divisions assigned to zodiac animals



Each round

1. Kids will ask, "What time is it, Mountain?"
2. Mountain will tell them the time, the year and count the number aloud: "It's 2 a.m., the Year of the Rat! 1-2"
3. Once Mountain says the name of the year and begins to count, kids will creep toward the mountain, mimicking the movement of the animal that is called out
4. After counting, Mountain quickly turns around, and the kids must freeze
5. Any kids that move have to sit in the spot where they are standing
6. Mountain turns around again, and the next round begins, and so on
7. The first kid to reach the finish line before Mountain turns around yells, "It's New Year!"

Examples of rounds

Kids: What time is it, Mountain?

Mountain: It's 11 p.m., the Year of the Rat! 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11

Kids: What time is it, Mountain?

Mountain: It's 2 p.m., the Year of the Sheep! 1-2

Kids: What time is it, Mountain?

Mountain: It's 10 a.m., the Year of the Snake! 1-2-3-4 ...

Closest player: It's New Year!

Accessibility Considerations

- The zodiac chart and the zodiac clock will be enlarged on the Mountain player's handout
- The zodiac chart (and clock) can be posted or redrawn on chart paper or written out on a white board for the other participants to see
- Animal sounds can be substituted for or used with animal movements
- Encourage the Mountain player to speak loudly and count slowly
- Elimination can be removed, and the focus can just be on moving toward the finish line
- Offer the option to play with a buddy

Book Suggestions

Indonesian Children's Favorite Stories: Fables, Myths and Fairy Tales by Joan Suyenaga and Salim Martowiredjo

Once Upon an Hour by Ann Yu-Kyung Choi and Soyeon Kim

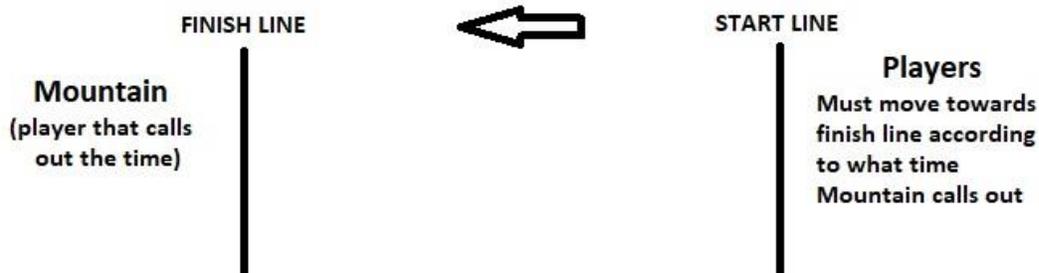
Treasury of Magical Tales from Around the World by Donna Jo Napoli and Christina Balit

Download Links

[Mountain player's handout DOCX](#)

Images

- Game set-up
- Mountain player's handout



ZODIAC CHART & ZODIAC CLOCK

INNER CIRCLE (AM)					
RAT	COW	TIGER	RABBIT	DRAGON	SNAKE
11 PM	1 AM	3 AM	5 AM	7 AM	9 AM
12 AM	2 AM	4 AM	6 AM	8 AM	10 AM
1 AM	3 AM	5 AM	7 AM	9 AM	11 AM

INNER CIRCLE (PM)					
HORSE	SHEEP	MONKEY	CHICKEN	DOG	PIG
11 AM	1 PM	3 PM	5 PM	7 PM	9 PM
12 PM	2 PM	4 PM	6 PM	8 PM	10 PM
1 PM	3 PM	5 PM	7 PM	9 PM	11 PM

