Australian Curriculum links:
Year 4 Geography
The use and management of natural resources and waste, and the different views on how to do this sustainably (ACHASSK090)
Sustainability cross-curriculum priority

This team game is designed to reinforce the concept of a healthy catchment. Students think about items that should and should not be found in their local waterways. It explores the possible impacts that items have on the catchment and life within it.

Equipment

For the class (three teams)

- seven hula hoops
- six 'smiley' face pictures for items that we should find in our coastal catchment
- six 'frownie' face pictures for items that we should not find in our coastal catchment
- eight pictures of objects that should go into waterways (for example, a fish, plants, mud, rocks, water bugs, sand, shells, bird, stick)
- eight pictures of objects that should not go into waterways (for example, plastic bag, oil, plastic bottle, old shoe, bike, rag, cigarette butts, tyre)

Preparation

If possible, use the **Story of a river** activity as an introductory demonstration to show the impact of items and substances that shouldn't go into our waterways.

Locate pictures and items that reflect your local catchment. For instance, suitable items for a coastal catchment could include sea shells and sand.

The following instructions are written for three teams. Set up the 'rob the nest' game with one hoop in the centre as the 'nest' which contains pictures or objects of the items to be robbed (figure 1) and two hoops for each team placed approximately three to five metres from the nest in the centre.

Each team should have one hoop with a smiley face for 'should' items and one with a frownie face for 'should not' items. Tape the faces to the top of the hoops (figure 2).
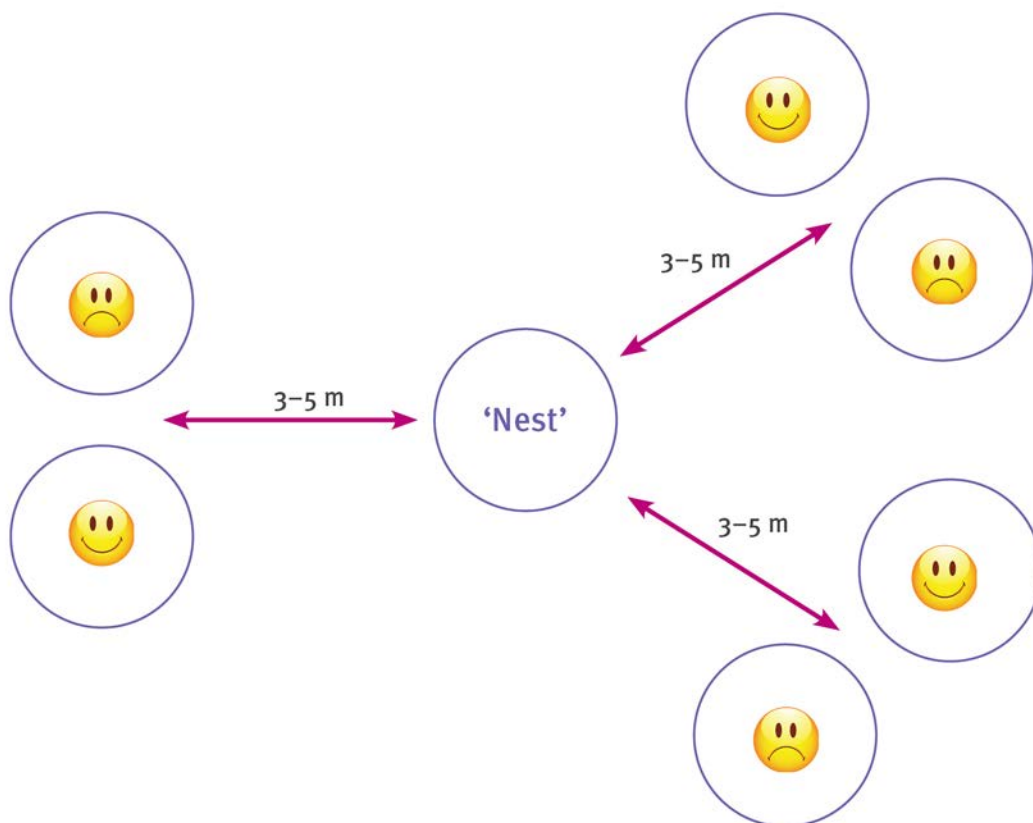
Figure 1 'The nest' hula hoop

Figure 1 Hula hoop configuration

Game steps

Divide the class into three teams.

Students line up at least one metre behind the two team hoops. On a signal from the teacher, the first student in line (the 'robber') walks quickly to the nest in the centre and takes one item. This student walks quickly back to their team hoops.

The student places the item they selected in one of the hoops – either the smiley face or the frownie face hoop. The student tags the next student in line and moves to the end of the line.

Teams continue to play until they have three items in both hoops. When a team has three items in both hoops, they signal that they are finished by raising their hands or sitting down.