

## Games, Nature, & Experiments

### The Paper Game

**Estimated Time:** 10 – 20 minutes

**Age range:** All grades

**What you need:** at least three participants, index cards (you can also cut notebook paper into index-sized cards), writing utensils

#### Background Information:

Today we are going to learn a new game that can help you to improve your communication skills with your friends and family! This game can be a great outlet for creative expression and drawing.

Follow the instructions on the next page to get started!



## The Paper Game

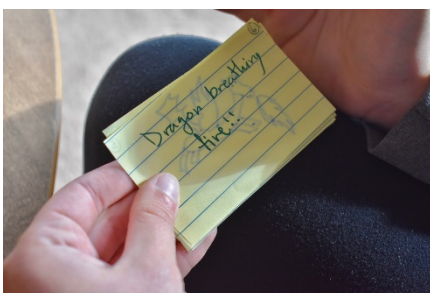
### Instructions:

1. Make stacks of paper/index cards. You should have enough so that everyone participating has a stack of five cards.
2. Number the front and backs of the cards. Odd numbers should be on the front of every card, and even numbers on the back. (e.g. the first card has 1 on the front and 2 on the back, next card has 3 on the front and 4 on the back, etc.) Make sure that each participant's stack is ordered from 1-10, with odd numbers facing up.
3. Have everyone sit in a circle with their stack. Participants will then write a word or phrase on the front of the first card (labeled 1). Keep your writing face up, and pass your stack to the person to your right.



*Try to write down something that is tricky to draw for a more fun and challenging game!*

4. Take the stack from the person on your left and read what they have written. Then flip the card over (labeled 2) and do your best to draw what they have written. Keep your drawing face up on top of the stack, and pass the stack to the person on your right.
5. Using the new stack from the person to your left, look at what they have drawn. Once you have a good idea of what the drawing could be (without peeking at the word), move the card on top to the bottom of the stack and write your description of the drawing on the first side of the next card (labeled 3). Then pass the stack with your writing facing up to the person on your right.
6. Repeat Steps 4 & 5 with every card until there are no sides left. Then, find side 1 of every stack and pass the stacks back to the people who write the original words or phrases on side 1.
7. Allow time for everyone to share with the group how their words and drawings changed over the course of the game!



**Alternative:**

If flipping cards over is too complicated, play this game with twice as many cards. Once you write or draw on a card, keep that card on top and pass it to your right. Once you grab a stack from your left, you will always look at what the person before you has written or drawn, then move their card to the back of the stack.

Now it's time to talk about our experiences!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Paper Game Debrief

Once everyone has shared their sequence of cards, use the following questions to discuss your experiences as a group. Feel free to write down your responses!

Consider the following questions:

**How did your original word or phrase change over the course of the game?**

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**Did this activity remind you of anything? What did it remind you of?**

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**How are our words or ideas misinterpreted in everyday life? List any examples you can think of.**

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**What is one aspect of the game that you thought went well? Why?**

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**Do you think this game inspires creativity? How?**

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