

Guess Which Racquet Game?

















An activity of "New racquet sports are challenging tennis"

"New racquet sports are challenging tennis" (page 26–27, *What's Up* March 2023) explains the impact that pickleball and padel are having on the more traditional tennis sporting industry. Read the article before playing this game.

A. WARM-UP ACTIVITY

1) In the table below, draw lines to match the racquets to the correct balls. Write the name of the corresponding racquet sport in the first column. Helping words:

Padel	Pickleball	Tennis	Jai Alai
Qianball	Table-tennis	Squash	Frescobol

		
b) _____		
c) _____		
d) _____		
e) _____		
f) _____		
g) _____		
h) _____		

B. PREPARE FOR THE GAME

1) Form four teams by dividing your class into fairly equal quarters.

2) Go through this list to learn about 16 different Racquet Games:

- **Tennis:** Originating in 12th century France, tennis is a racquet sport played between two or four players on a rectangular court divided by a net.
- **Badminton:** Originating in ancient India, badminton is played with a shuttlecock and a lightweight racquet, typically between two or four players on a rectangular court.
- **Squash:** Originating in England, squash is a racquet sport played between two players in an enclosed court using a small, rubber ball.
- **Table Tennis:** Originating in England as a parlour game, table tennis (also known as ping-pong) is played on a table with a small ball, typically between two or four players.
- **Racquetball:** Originating in the United States, racquetball is a fast-paced racquet sport played between two players in an enclosed court with a small rubber ball.
- **Padel:** Originating in Mexico, padel is a racquet sport played between two or four players on a smaller court enclosed by glass or mesh walls.
- **Pickleball:** Originating in the United States, pickleball is a racquet sport played on a smaller court with a perforated ball, typically between two or four players.
- **Beach Tennis:** Originating in Italy, beach tennis is a racquet sport played on sand between two or four players using a slightly depressurised tennis ball.
- **Speedminton:** Originating in Germany, speedminton (also known as crossminton) is a racquet sport played with a shuttlecock and a heavier racquet, typically between two players.
- **Frescobol:** Originating in Brazil, frescobol is a racquet sport played on a beach between two players using wooden paddles and a rubber ball.
- **Platform Tennis:** Originating in the US, platform tennis is played on a smaller court with a wire meshed floor and heated court, typically between two or four players.
- **Soft Tennis:** Originating in Japan, soft tennis is a variant of tennis played with a softer, larger ball and with slightly different rules, typically between two or four players.
- **Jokari:** Originating in France, jokari is a racquet sport played with a rubber ball attached to a wooden board by a string, typically between two players.
- **Basque Pelota:** Originating in Spain, Basque pelota is a fast-paced racquet sport played with a hand or basket-shaped racquet and a ball, typically between two players.
- **Jai Alai:** Originating in Spain, jai alai is a high-speed game played with a hard ball and a curved, basket-like racquet called a cesta. Typically, two teams of two players each compete.
- **Qianball:** Originating in China, qianball is played with a soft ball and a paddle-like racquet. Players have to hit the ball over the net and into the opponent's side without the ball bouncing on their side. It can be played with two or four players.

- 2) Select a Game Leader from each team. The Game Leaders prepare by making the following twenty separate game slips. Put the slips into an envelope or box.

TENNIS	BADMINTON	SQUASH	TABLE-TENNIS
RAQUETBALL	PADEL	PICKLEBALL	BEACH TENNIS
SPEEDMINTON	FRESCOBALL	PLATFORM TENNIS	SOFT TENNIS
JOKARI	BASQUE PELOTA	JAI ALAI	QIANBALL

C. PLAY THE GAME

- 1) Team A goes to the front of the room and faces the rest of the class. Team A's leader picks a slip from the envelope and shows it only to that team's members. The team gives the class clues about the game it has picked. The rest of the class tries to guess Team A's game. Each player can guess many times.

RULES

- The words used to give clues cannot mention the name of the racquet sport.
- Only one player can speak at a time.

SCORING

10 points to the team of the correct guesser.

10 points to the clue-giving team when a game is guessed correctly within a minute.

- 2) When someone has guessed Team A's first game, Team B takes a turn, and so on until all the slips are used up.
- 3) Game Leaders are the timekeepers. They also facilitate the turn taking, make sure the rules are followed, and keep the score.
- 4) The team with the highest score wins.

D. REFLECT ON THE DIVERSITY

- 1) In your teams, share your thoughts about racquet games.
- Before this activity, which of these racquet games were you aware of?
 - How many of them have you or your friends played?
 - Are there any that you have never tried but would like to some day?
 - Why do you think humans like to play racquet-ball games?
 - What are your insights about having such a variety of racquet games?
 - What is your main takeaway from this activity? Any other thoughts?