

The Peasant's Year – Instructions



Peasants worked hard during the year to make sure there was enough food for their family to survive. They worked for the local lord and for the local priest, but also had to pay taxes. Only when they had met all their duties could they concentrate on looking after themselves. Often they relied on good luck to get them from one year to the next.

This game simulates a peasant's year. By the end of the year, if you are to get through the winter, you need to have 25 baskets of food. Any less than this and your family will go hungry.

► To Play the Game

Organise yourselves into groups of four to six people.

To play the game, each group needs:

- four 'spinners', one for each season in the year (your teacher will give you these)
- one instruction sheet for the whole group (this worksheet)
- one scorecard per player (Worksheet 47)



► Instructions

1. Starting with spring, take it in turns to spin the spinner for the season. Each player should note down what happens to them on their scorecard and start to keep a running total for baskets of food.
2. Once everyone in the group has 'spun' for spring, you should do the same for summer, then again for autumn and finally for winter. Make sure you subtract scores during the winter round.
3. After you have used all four spinners, you should have reached the end of the year and have a total for baskets of food. Who has the most baskets? Who has the fewest?
4. Once the game has been played, each group member should answer the questions at the bottom of their scorecard.
5. Have a group discussion about what happened in the game and what would happen during the winter if this were real.