

Clothesline Trivia Activity - (Grades 5-8)

Materials Needed:

- yarn or string to serve as clothes lines (long enough to string across the room twice)
- clothes pins (at least 22)
- printout of Clothesline Trivia t-shirts with trivia questions
- 2 baskets to serve as “laundry baskets”

Teacher Preparation:

1. Suspend two separate “clothes lines” across the room using the yarn or string. The clothes lines should be at a approximately a height that most students will be able to reach. Place the lines so that each trivia team will be distinctly separate from each other, preferably on opposite sides of the room. If possible, try to place the lines so that it would be difficult for students to read the questions in advance and gain an unfair advantage. If unable to do this, you may want to turn the questions toward the wall and away from students. Make sure the line is suspended well so that students don’t pull it down during the game.
2. Print off the Clothesline Trivia t-shirt questions pdf and use the clothespins to hang 11 questions on each clothesline. The papers should be fairly evenly distributed along the line to look like a clothesline with laundry.
3. Place one basket in the vicinity of each team’s clothesline.
4. Print a copy of the answer key for yourself.

Activity Instructions:

Before students enter the room, ask them to go straight to their seats and not to touch the pages hanging on the clothesline. (Somebody will inevitably try to see how high they can jump to hit the pages on the line and may tear it down.)

1. Watch “Fort Stanton’s Forgotten Heroes of Soap Suds Row” by Fort Stanton Instructional Coordinator, Tiffanie Owen.
2. Divide the class into two teams and ask them to line up near their designated clothesline.
3. Alternately, the teams will take turns trying to answer a trivia question. The first person on the team will select a trivia question t-shirt and take it off the clothesline. (Remind students to pinch the clothespin to release the paper instead of pulling it so that they don’t pull down the clothesline.)
4. The student should read the question’s number and then read the question out loud. With a correct answer, the student gets to “fold his/her laundry” (fold the paper) and put it in the laundry basket.
5. If the student does not know the answer or gets the answer wrong, he/she returns the piece of laundry to the clothesline for another student to try.
6. The first team to finish the laundry and empty the clothesline WINS!

