

# RETRO recess

This is a collection of games that were often played during recess in one room schoolhouses during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Though some of these games may seem familiar to many of us have you ever thought about the origins of these classic games? The origins and uses of these games can tell us a lot about what growing up during this period was like.

You will notice going through these games the simplicity of many of the activities. This is because there was not a lot of materials available to people so children's games relied on finding creative ways to have fun!

We hope you can also get creative while encouraging activity and movement!

- Frontenac County Schools Museum



Thank you to our Sponsors:



# British Bulldog

Type: catching game

Players: group

As the name suggests the game originated in the UK. Variations of the game were mentioned throughout the nineteenth century. Originally the game involved fairly violent tackling and physical contact between players which caused it to be banned from many schools. Now the tackling has been replaced with tagging.



## How to play:

To play this game you will need a fairly large area with boundaries set up at either end. One player is IT and they must stand in the middle of the area while the other players line up along one end. When IT yells "British Bulldog" the rest try to run across to the other boundary without being caught. IT tries to stop as many people as possible by tagging them. Those caught then join IT and try to catch other runners the next round. This is repeated until everyone has been caught. Whoever was caught first becomes the new IT for the next round. In more physical versions of the game IT is required to throw the runner to the ground and hold them down while It yells "one, two, three, British Bulldog." But this practice can be opted out for tagging.