

Everyone's rights game

For whom: Primary school	Where: Outdoors
Wilderness passport section: Everyone's rights (formerly everyman's rights)	When: All seasons
Learning outcomes: Learning about everyone's rights	What you need: -
Duration: Around 15 minutes	Personnel resources: 1

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mark out two big circles in the ground. Leave a large space between the circles. One of them is the 'you may not' circle, and the other is the 'you may' circle. Also mark between the circles an area large enough for the pupils to stand in.
2. Tell the pupils to stand in the area between the circles. Their task is to run into the correct circle when you call out something that is, or is not, included in everyone's rights. The pupils must then come back and stand in the middle until you call out the next item.

You need two 'home bases' for this game, which can be large circles marked out in the ground. A suitable distance between the circles is around 20 metres.

BACKGROUND

Everyone's rights used to be called everyman's rights. Everyone's rights are something unique for the Nordic countries. They mean that everyone can go out and about in the forest, regardless of who owns the land. Everyone's rights are free of charge and belong to everyone in Finland. When you use your everyone's rights, however, you may not cause more than minor damage to the natural environment.



Links

- A list of everyone's rights and duties on the Nationalparks.fi website maintained by Metsähallitus: <https://www.nationalparks.fi/everymansright>

Everyone's rights mean that you can

- walk, ski and cycle in nature, including in forests, natural meadows and water bodies
- ride a horse
- stay and set up camp temporarily in areas where access is otherwise allowed
- pick wild berries, mushrooms and plants provided that they are not protected species
- go angling and ice fishing (officially free fishing rights)
- boat, swim and wash yourself in a water body and walk on ice

Everyone's rights do not give you a right to

- interfere with a landowner's land use
- walk in private gardens or planted or cultivated fields
- cut down or damage growing trees
- collect dry wood or fallen trees
- collect moss or lichen
- light a fire on somebody else's land
- violate the privacy of other people's homes, for example by camping too close to their houses or making noise
- litter
- drive a motor vehicle off the road
- disturb or harm birds' nests and chicks
- disturb animals
- fish and hunt without the appropriate permits
- allow your dog to go to a public beach, a playground for children, a maintained ski track or a sports field
- let your dog off the leash in a built-up area, or on an exercise track or someone else's land
- let your dog off the leash, even on your own land, between 1 March and 19 August

