



## Ticktionary:

An interactive game for learners aged 7-12.

## Learning Objective:

This game reinforces concepts from the 'Tick Talk,' including the tick life cycle, Lyme disease awareness, understanding risky areas for tick bites, and prevention measures. Game leaders can emphasize that combining prevention measures will increase protection.

## Objective:

Players draw pictures from concept cards while group members work together to guess what is being drawn in the time allotted.

## Set-Up:

- Divide players into groups of 3-4.
- Cut out the game cards on slides 2-4 and hand out an equal number to each group.
- Provide pencils and blank paper for players to draw what is on the cards.

## How to Play:

1. Groups choose a player to draw first. That player chooses a concept card from their card stack and reads it silently, being careful not to reveal the card content to the rest of the group.
2. The game leader starts a one-minute timer (or cell phone timer). All groups can draw at the same time, with the game leader announcing "start" and "stop" times.
3. Group members work together to guess the thing or concept being drawn before time runs out. If they guess correctly, they win a point.
4. Repeat these steps with all group members taking turns drawing.
5. The group(s) with the most points at the end win the game. More than one group can win!
6. Summary review notes are included for game leaders who wish to review take-home messages for the concept cards.

1

A tick's life  
(egg, larvae, nymph,  
adult)

2

A small tick feeding  
on a mouse

3

A person walking in  
the center of a path  
or trail

4

A person using  
insect repellent

5

A tick in the woods

6

A tick biting  
a dog

7

A tick's  
mouthparts that  
work like a straw

8

A tick in a garden

9

A person wearing  
long sleeves and  
pants

**10**

A tick in a person's hair

**11**

Permethrin being sprayed on clothing, shoes, or gear

**12**

A tick being removed with tweezers

**13**

A student asking an adult for help

**14**

A person with a Lyme disease bullseye rash

**15**

A tick in tall grass waiving its front legs (questing)

**16**

Ticks walking or crawling on the ground

**17**

A person checking a dog for ticks

**18**

A person wearing pants tucked into their socks

**19**

A tick in a pile of  
wood

**20**

The spiral-shaped  
Lyme disease  
bacteria

**21**

An adult deer tick  
with eight legs

**22**

Medicine from a  
doctor

**23**

A person washing  
with soap and water

**24**

A tick in a sealed  
bag

**25**

A tick on the back of  
a person's knee

**26**

A tick in a leaf  
pile

**27**

A tick on a light-  
colored shirt and a  
tick on a dark-  
colored shirt

## **Summary Review: Page 1**

Messages to review for each concept card (optional).

### **1. A tick's life**

Emphasize the two-year tick life cycle, the tick life stages, and that nymphs and adults are usually responsible for transmitting disease-causing bacteria, viruses, and parasites to humans.

### **2. A small tick feeding on a mouse**

Emphasize that ticks initially get Lyme disease by feeding on animals like small mammals and birds.

### **3. A person on the center of a path or trail**

Emphasize avoiding tick habitat, and other prevention methods. Remind players that a combination of prevention strategies can increase protection.

### **4. A person using repellent**

Emphasize repellent use (DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR 3535) and that a combination of prevention strategies can increase protection.

### **5. A tick in the woods**

Review common tick habitat and places in the woods where ticks might be found (tall grass, leaves, brush, sides of trails, etc.)

### **6. A tick biting a dog**

Review the fact that pets can get sick from ticks. Dogs can get Lyme disease and cats can get other illnesses. Review safety measures for pets, like tick prevention medication, tick collars, and checking pets for ticks after they have been outdoors.

### **7. A tick's mouthparts that look like a straw**

Review the hypostome. Explain that it has barbs that help the tick stay attached, and ticks drink blood through it like a straw. This is also how ticks transmit germs to people and animals (after being attached for some time – more than 24 hours for Lyme disease).

## **Summary Review: Page 2**

Messages to review for each concept card (optional).

### **8. A tick in a garden**

Review common tick habitat and that ticks can sometimes be carried into yards and gardens by animals.

### **9. A person wearing long sleeves and pants**

Review that wearing long sleeves and pants, wearing light-colored clothing, and tucking pants into socks are prevention measures. Remind players that a combination of prevention strategies can increase protection.

### **10. A tick in a person's hair**

Review the importance of performing a tick check after being outdoors. Ticks like to attach around the hairline, behind the knees, in the belly button, between the legs, and other hidden areas.

### **11. Permethrin being sprayed on clothing, shoes, or gear**

Review the fact that permethrin kills ticks and can be sprayed on clothing, shoes, and gear. It should be allowed to dry completely (this usually requires a couple of hours) and that it cannot be used on skin. Emphasize that a combination of prevention strategies can increase protection.

### **12. A tick being removed with tweezers**

Review safe tick removal. Remove with tweezers by grabbing the tick as close to the skin as possible. Pull straight up firmly but carefully. Place the tick in a sealed bag or between tape and wash the area thoroughly with soap and water.

### **13. A student asking an adult for help**

Review that players should ask a trusted adult for help if they find a tick on their body, like a school nurse, counselor, or parent.

### **14. A person with a Lyme disease bullseye rash**

Review the different ways Lyme disease rashes can look and that it is often a bullseye or ring shape that can get very large (the size of a dinner plate).

## **Summary Review: Page 3**

Messages to review for each concept card (optional).

### **15. A tick in tall grass waiving its front legs**

Review questing behavior. Ticks wait at the top of grasses or plants and waive their front legs. They can then grab on to people and animals that pass by.

### **16. Ticks walking or crawling on the ground**

Review that ticks cannot jump or fly and can only crawl or walk.

### **17. A person checking a dog for ticks**

Review the fact that pets can get sick from ticks and the importance of checking dogs for ticks after they are outside. This help keep dogs safe and reduces the chance of ticks entering your home.

### **18. A person wearing pants tucked into socks**

Review that wearing long sleeves and pants, wearing light-colored clothing, and tucking pants into socks are prevention measures. Remind players that a combination of prevention strategies can increase protection.

### **19. A tick in a pile of wood**

Review tick habitat and that ticks like piles of wood, leaves, and brush.

### **20. The spiral-shaped Lyme disease bacteria**

Review the shape and the word "spirochete."

### **21. An adult deer tick with eight legs**

Review the tick life stages (egg, larva, nymph, adult). Larvae have six legs, but nymphs and adults have eight.

### **22. Medicine from a doctor**

Explain that Lyme disease can be treated by a doctor. Antibiotics like doxycycline an amoxicillin can kill the bacteria.

## **Summary Review: Page 4**

Messages to review for each concept card (optional).

### **23. A person washing with soap and water**

Review safe tick removal. Remove with tweezers by grabbing the tick as close to the skin as possible. Pull straight up firmly but carefully. Place the tick in a sealed bag or between tape and wash well after with soap and water.

### **24. A tick in a sealed bag**

Review safe tick disposal after removal. Place the tick in a sealed bag or between tape to throw away.

### **25. A tick on the back of a person's knee**

Review the importance of performing a tick check after being outdoors. Ticks like to attach around the hairline, behind the knees, in the belly button, between the legs, and other hidden areas.

### **26. A tick in a leaf pile**

Review tick habitat and that ticks like piles of wood, leaves, and brush.

### **27. A tick on a light-colored shirt and a tick on a dark-colored shirt**

Review that wearing long sleeves and pants, wearing light-colored clothing, and tucking pants into socks are prevention measures. Remind players that a combination of prevention strategies can increase protection.