



# Teaching Cross-Country Skiing

*Bridget Duoos, Anne Rykken*

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Whether you are new to teaching cross-country skiing or an experienced instructor, *Teaching Cross-Country Skiing* has everything you need for delivering a fun and successful learning experience for children and young adults. This complete teaching tool offers foundational information, teaching aids, 115 unique games and activities, and 30 detailed lesson plans aligned to current National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) standards. Cross-country skiing offers an excellent opportunity to get out of the gym and beat those winter blues! Easy on the joints and offering benefits for the cardiovascular system, muscular development, and coordination, cross-country skiing is an activity that both young and old can enjoy.

*Teaching Cross-Country Skiing* presents lesson plans to progress children and young adults from beginning to advanced levels. Each lesson follows a consistent format, which includes lesson goals, introductory activities, lesson focus, review, games, and assessments. For those new to cross-country skiing, this text presents the basics of ski mechanics and guidance on clothing and equipment selection. To help you understand and convey classic cross-country skiing skills, you'll find straightforward explanations with illustrations and photos that highlight the critical features of each skill.

Each of the 30 lessons incorporates games and skill-testing activities to keep students active and engaged. Distances gradually increase to match your skiers' increased skill and challenge their muscular and cardiorespiratory capacities. In the first 10 lessons, students practice basic skills indoors and then on snow, learning the diagonal stride technique (with and without poles) and how to double-pole, climb, and descend gentle hills.

Then, 10 lessons for intermediate skiers continue work on the diagonal stride as well as improving hill climbing and descending techniques, stops, speed control, and maneuverability. These lessons also challenge students with increasing length of glide, shifting weight to commit to the gliding ski, and using poling action for propulsion.

Finally, 10 advanced lessons help your skiers achieve a diagonal stride that is rhythmic and continuous even over hillier and longer trails. In addition to refining their diagonal stride technique, your skiers will have fun learning the stem christie, traversing steeper hills, and edging.

*Teaching Cross-Country Skiing* also includes the history and benefits of cross-country skiing, which you can use in developing a cross-country skiing unit or interdisciplinary unit. Plus you'll find reproducible handouts, worksheets, poster signs, ideas for interdisciplinary lessons, additional games and activities, rubrics, checklists, and activity aids such as a chart for measuring boot size and ski length.

Learning to cross-country ski gives children and young adults opportunities to build the skills and motivation to achieve lifelong health and fitness. You can improve your own skiing skills and knowledge as you teach your students a fun physical activity to practice for a lifetime. *Teaching Cross-Country Skiing* provides everything you need—except the snow!

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