

How bored families are getting through the coronavirus lockdown

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 04.23.20

Word Count **582**

Level **590L**



(From left) Alex Presley, Taylor Sharpe, Zach Presley, Wendy Presley and Lee Presley play a game with toilet paper while sheltering in place at home in North Carolina amid the coronavirus pandemic. Photo: Alex Presley

The "Quarantine Olympics" is a trend on the internet. It came out of the coronavirus pandemic. The Olympics began at the Presley family home in Cornelius, North Carolina.

In one event, the Presleys played dodgeball. Yet none of the players could see each other. They used rolls of toilet paper instead of balls.

"We played through all the board games. So we had to get creative," said Alex Presley, age 25. Alex has been in quarantine with his family for a month.

The rules of the game are similar to dodgeball. The difference is that players are blindfolded. Instead of balls, they throw rolls of toilet paper. Alex created a video of the game and shared it on TikTok.

The Presleys' games have made them internet famous. The family has started the "Quarantine Olympics." They play unusual games for people to watch. The series has gone viral on TikTok.

Lively Family Dinners

The contest began in early April. Alex suggested that his family attempt a challenge. In the challenge, participants drank water from a cup. The cup was constantly filled while the competitor drank from it using a straw. The "Straw Challenge" video drew 7.5 million views.

Now, the family is coming up with new events. Fans watching at home root for players. They can try playing the games themselves. Alex said they try to keep the games easy so that other families can try to play them, too.

The Cannuscio family from Massachusetts also went viral. Derek Cannuscio is a 14-year-old with a passion for cooking and comedy. He cooks themed dinners for his family. He uses supplies he finds around the house. He combines cooking with humor. He makes it feel like a restaurant experience. Derek's dinners are popular on TikTok.

Caitlin Cannuscio is Derek's 18-year-old sister. She said that Derek's dinners have inspired other families to come up with their own themed meals. "I don't know what I would be doing in quarantine without this," Caitlin said. She takes videos of the meals and puts them on TikTok.

Other families have imitated videos from popular culture.

Song Lyrics Get A Rewrite

The Marshes are a family from the United Kingdom. They went viral last month. The family shared their own version of "One Day More." It is a song from the musical "Les Misérables." Ben Marsh said the lyrics are inspired by common frustrations. Like many others, the Marshes have been bored in quarantine.

The Marsh family made a video of them singing the song. They posted it to Facebook.

The video has been seen around the world. It was even shared by actress Anne Hathaway. She was in the film version of the musical. She won an Oscar for her performance.

Joel Sutherland and his family live in Canada. They also made a video. They filmed a live version of the opening for "The Simpsons." The video recreates the cartoon's introduction. Sutherland posted the video to Twitter. It was reposted by the "The Simpsons" producer and the show's official Twitter account.

Creative Projects Keep Families Busy

Colleen Morris is Sutherland's wife.

"Doing creative projects is a good way of keeping busy," Morris said.

These unusual projects have strengthened many families' relationships.

Caitlin Cannuscio said her family was very busy before the quarantine. Before, they never really ate dinner together.

"I'm supposed to be at college, so I haven't had dinner with them in a while," said Caitlin. "This has all really just brought us together."

Quiz

- 1 Which sentence from the introduction [paragraphs 1-5] explains WHY the Presleys started the "Quarantine Olympics"?
- (A) The Olympics began at the Presley family home in Cornelius, North Carolina.
 - (B) "We played through all the board games."
 - (C) The rules of the game are similar to dodgeball.
 - (D) The Presleys' games have made them internet famous.
- 2 Which question is answered in the section "Song Lyrics Get A Rewrite"?
- (A) Who are the Presleys?
 - (B) Who are the Cannuscios?
 - (C) What kinds of videos are families making?
 - (D) What kinds of meals are families cooking?
- 3 Which sentence from the article states the main idea of the entire article?
- (A) Alex created a video of the game and shared it on TikTok.
 - (B) Alex said they try to keep the games easy so that other families can try to play them, too.
 - (C) She said that Derek's dinners have inspired other families to come up with their own themed meals.
 - (D) "Doing creative projects is a good way of keeping busy," Morris said.
- 4 A main idea of the section "Lively Family Dinners" is that families are finding fun ways to entertain themselves at dinner. Which key detail from the section supports this main idea?
- (A) The "Straw Challenge" video drew 7.5 million views.
 - (B) Fans watching at home root for players.
 - (C) He combines cooking with humor.
 - (D) Derek's dinners are popular on TikTok.