

games with Luna



Mancala

For 2 players ages 8 and up

The game of Mancala has been known by many names and has been played for thousands of years throughout Africa. It has been found in Egyptian tombs, but the game may be older than Ancient Egypt.

The Mancala board is made up of two rows of six holes each. An empty egg carton is perfect. Or you can draw circles on the sidewalk with chalk.

Needed: 2 players, 1 Mancala board or 1 egg carton and 2 cups, 48 playing pieces: stones, beans, or nuts

Object: The object of the game is to capture more pieces in your Mancala "bank" than one's opponent.

Step 1: Place the Mancala board between two players lengthwise and place 4 playing pieces in each of the small cups on the game board. The six smaller cups are playing cups. The larger cup at either end is the Mancala "bank." (Each player's Mancala "bank" will be on her right.)

Step 2: The first player picks up the stones in any one of her six playing cups.

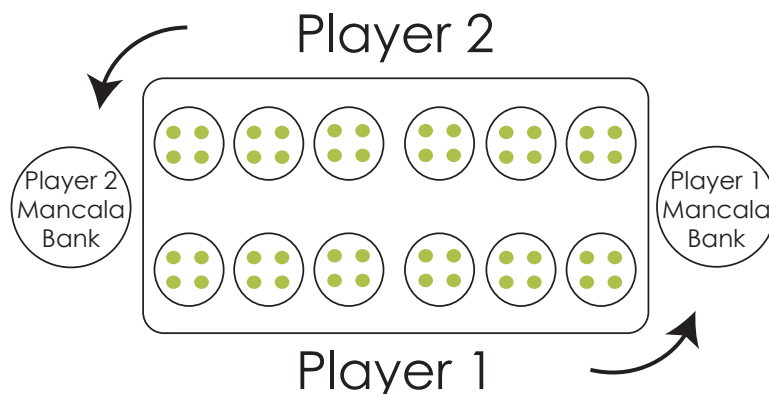
Step 3: Player 1 drops her stones one-by-one into sequential playing cups moving counter-clockwise around the board until she runs out. She will include her own Mancala "bank" as she moves around but will not include her opponent's Mancala "bank." If her last stone falls into her Mancala "bank" she gets another turn.

Step 4: Each player takes turns moving around the board.

Step 5: If a player's last stone falls into an empty cup on her side of the Mancala board, she takes all the pieces from the player's cup directly opposite and puts them into her own empty playing cup. Players are to hoard all the stones they can on their side of the board.

Step 6: Whenever a player runs out of pieces on her side of the board, the game is over. The player with remaining pieces on her side of the Mancala board adds her pieces to her Mancala "bank." The player with the most pieces in her Mancala "bank" wins the game.

An illustration of the Mancala game is also provided below.



To see the game in action go to: <http://www.howcast.com/videos/210328-How-To-Play-Mancala>. Note: Some of the rules will slightly vary from those here.