

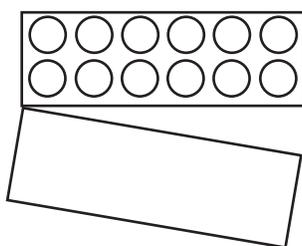
mancala

is a very old game played in many parts of Africa, and was brought by Africans to the U.S. Stone game boards have been found in ancient Egyptian temples! It has many names; in Ghana, where it is the national game, it is called Oware. **Have you heard of other names?**

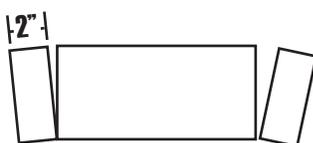
make your own board

supplies egg carton, scissors, tape, markers or paint, 48 stones or beans

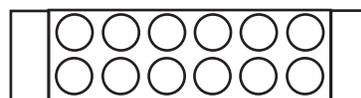
1 Cut the lid off the egg carton.



2 Cut about two inches off each end of the lid.



3 Tape the lid ends to the short sides of the egg carton to form two mancala bins.



Decorate your mancala board with the markers or paint. Start playing!

one way to play

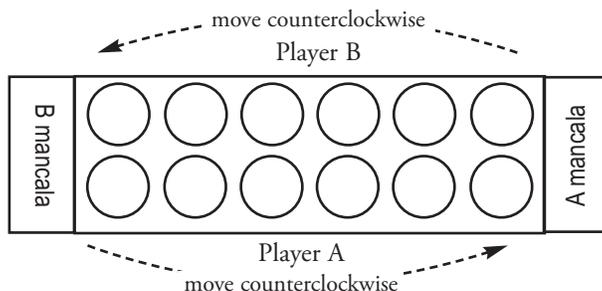
1. Each player sits on one long side of the board. The 6 holes in front of each player are hers. The larger end holes are the mancalas—one for each player. Put 4 stones in each of the 12 center holes.

2. Player A picks up all of the stones in one hole on her side of the board. Moving counterclockwise (to her right), she puts one stone in each hole. If the last stone lands in her own mancala, she gets a second turn (Players do **not** drop stones into their opponent's mancala).

3. Player B then takes a turn. If a player's last stone lands in an empty hole on his side of the game board, he collects all of his opponent's stones in the opposite hole, as well as the single stone in his own. He puts these stones in his mancala. The players keep taking turns.

A player can't touch the stones in a hole to count them before taking a turn. Once a player touches the stones, she must play them.

4. The game ends when all six of one player's holes are empty. The other player places all the remaining stones from his holes into his mancala (the player who ends the game does not always win!). The players count the stones in their mancalas. The player with more stones wins the game.



NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY®

History Happens Here

© North Carolina
Museum of History