

65 - Board Games

Did you know the first board games were played between 6000 & 10,000 years ago? So, how did the classic board games we all know and love get invented? And who is the greatest board game maker of them all?

One of the earliest board games ever invented was called SENET. It was invented by the Egyptians and played by none other than King Tut! But throughout history - board games have been created by all kinds of people, all over the world, from all walks of life.

People from India and other countries created CHESS, a schoolteacher invented CANDYLAND, an architect came up with SCRABBLE, and there is a dispute whether a businessman or an actress came up with the most popular game of all... MONOPOLY.

The fact is, it doesn't matter who you are, where you're from or even how old you are... anybody can invent the next great board game. Maybe even one of you listening!

Things You'll Learn

1. How long have people been playing board games?
2. What 2-player board game has its roots in an old Indian game that originally featured infantry, chariots and war elephants each moving in different ways across a board?
3. Who invented classic games like Sorry? Candyland? Clue? and Life?

Activities

1. Create your own board game! Use things from around the house. A sheet of paper is a great game board and you can use almost anything for pieces. What kind of game will you create? Do you need to do the Chicken Dance every 3rd turn or does the winner have to clean the dishes?
2. Have a family game night! Pick a family favorite or grab a new one! Want to try something new but don't want to buy it? Maybe you could trade games with a friend and find a new favorite.
3. Make a fun snack for game night! You could pop some popcorn or try making homemade pizza. Let the kids add their favorite toppings to prepared crust for an easy, low mess dinner.

Additional Resources

Board games help build critical thinking skills, spatial reasoning and logic thinking. Need more game ideas? [Here](#) are some great game ideas for kids!

Kid News

Have you ever wanted to drive your own car? While driving an adult's car would be dangerous, there are a few child sized cars. One recently sold at auction for \$145,445! It is a replica of a vintage Ferrari. It's a single seat go cart with a whole lot of style. Read more about this pint sized Ferrari [here](#).¹

¹ This activity guide is for the Who Smarted? podcast www.WhoSmarted.com