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**Checkers game board**

Picture: Tim Noack/Moment/Getty Images Before the internet, there were few things we could do on rainy days or when we were stuck at home. If we were lucky enough to have siblings (or babysitters involved), we could play board games when we were bored. Simply put, board games are amazing in theory: everyone gathers and has fun playing games ... that is, until someone starts crying because they lost or someone starts cheating because they are siblings and siblings can't say anything. So, while board games can have the side effects of great family fun, they can also lead to competition and arguments spanning decades - but who's counting? If your family has a game rack (or game room), you may be able to recognize almost every popular family board game when you were a kid. However, if your family is a serious gamer family (before gaming becomes electronic, of course), you may be able to mention every board game ever made. Let's see if you have what it takes to beat the rest. Take this quiz to find out if you can identify all these board games (but we'll warn you, some of these games are pretty unclear). TRIVIA Can Identify These Disney Movies From One Frame? Trivia 7 Minute 7 Minute Quiz You Know These Games From The Right Price? 7 Minute 7 Min TRIVIA Quiz Can Call 40 Most Famous Cartoon Characters of All Time? Trivia's 6 Minute 6 Minute Quiz Can You Name a Disney Live-Action Movie From a Screenshot? Trivia's 6 Minutes 6 Minute Quiz Can You Complete the Title of This Disney Movie? 6 Minute 6 Minute TRIVIA Quiz Can You Guess The Vintage of This Gadget? Trivia's 6 Minute 6 Minute Quiz Can Identify These Candy Bars From Pictures? 6 Minute 6 Minute TRIVIA Quiz From Typewriter to Boombox: Can You Identify Jada's Technology? Trivia's 6 Minute 6 Minute Quiz Can You Guess the Most Popular Movie of All Time From the Plotline? Quiz 7 Minutes 7 Min TRIVIA 91% People Can't Name This Sci-Fi and Fantasy Movie From One Picture! Can you? 7 Minute Quiz 7 Minutes How much do you know about dinosaurs? What is octane ranking? And how do you use the right noun? Luckily for you, HowStuffWorks Play is here to help. Our award-winning website offers a reliable and easy-to-understand explanation of how the world works. From fun quizzes that bring joy to your day, to interesting photography and interesting lists, HowStuffWorks Play offers something for everyone. Sometimes we explain how things work, other times, we ask you, but we always explore in the name of fun! Because learning is fun, so stay with us! Play quizzes for free! send trivia questions and personality tests every week to your inbox. By clicking Register you agree to our privacy policy and confirm that you are 13 years of age or older. Copyright © InfoSpace Holdings 2021, LLC, System1 Company The Spruce Crafts uses cookies to provide you with an exceptional user experience. By using The Spruce Crafts, you accept our use of cookies. Skipping Skipping From valuable classics like Chess and Monopoly to new favorites like Speak Out and Cards Against Humanity, we've rounded up 50 of our favorite board games of all time. Click our selection for the 50 best board games of all time. Each product we display has been independently selected and reviewed by our editorial team. If you make a purchase using the included link, we may earn a commission. As the holidays get closer and we start spending more time with friends and family, we challenge you to throw electronics and collect 'round for a good old fashioned board game. No matter which game you like to play, you will enjoy a break. We've rounded up 50 of our favorite board games of all time that cover every popular category. When you click on this list, you will find the best board games for kids and families as well as adult board games suitable for older family members. Some of these fun board games are perfect for one player while others are meant for two, while others are still best played with extended families. Whether it's critical thinking and the competition you're looking for or simple fun and lots of laughter, there's something on this list for everyone. There is a reason why these classic board games have been around for centuries: they are fun to play and sure to improve any setting. How could we not include Life in this roundup? We remember playing this game as kids and dreaming about all the possibilities (and responsibilities) that come with being an adult — college, marriage, kids, insurance! In this classic game, players each receive a plastic car to maneuver around the game board representing a step through several stages of life, from choosing college to enjoying a sweet retirement. The premise of the game is to live life making smart decisions and eventually become the first retired player and with the most money. This is a great game for kids to learn about life lessons in an approachable way, and will definitely trigger some good conversations when you play together as a family. Buy It: Hasbro The Game of Life Board Game, (\$26, Staples) Clue is a thrilling murder mystery game that turns everyone into detectives. There's a murder at boddy mansion and it's up to you to find the culprit. There are only six suspects and you're one of them. Move your game pieces through the mansion's secret rooms and hallways depicted on the game board in search of clues. Who killed poor Mr. Boddy? What weapon is used? And where did the incident take place? The more clues you find, you will be able to narrow down many possible answers to those questions. It's a race against fellow players to be the first to put all these mystery pieces together. No matter your age, it's always a thrill when you finally solve a crime. Buy It: Clue Classic Edition Board Game, (\$21, Target) Candy Land's sweet game brings up beautiful childhood memories for us. Bizarre board game featuring landmarks such as candy candy forest and gumdrop mountains and colorful characters like Mr. Mint and Princess Frostine. The premise of Candy Land is simple, making this a game that even the youngest family members can enjoy. King Kandy is gone and the players are in a race to find him. Players take turns drawing from stacks of cards that tell them where to go on the board. The card shows the next move with the color for the next rectangle to move to or a picture of the landmark. The first player to reach the end of the board and find King Kandy wins. Buy It: Retro Candy Land, (\$20, Barnes & Noble) The first official Monopoly game hit the market in 1935, and this property buying game has created a real estate titan ever since. Board games require risk and luck, as players buy and trade properties and try not to be thrown in jail. If you have funds, players are allowed to purchase available properties. You can then generate income during the game by charging other players rent if they land in one of the spaces you have. To win the game, you have to bankrupt your opponent, which can take a while. The idea is to buy enough property in the same part of the board that you create a monopoly on and eventually other players won't be able to pay your rent anymore. Buy It: Monopoly Classic, (\$20, Barnes & Noble) Scrabble is a beloved word game. It's like a messy giant word with endless possibilities. Players are given a number of wooden letter tiles to start, and each letter is rated a different point. You'll immediately start analyzing your letter tiles to see what word combinations you might be able to create to play the most point-rich words. You'll want a pen and paper nearby to track your score, and you might as well want a dictionary —it'll come in handy when the validity of the word will no doubt be challenged. Once one player uses all his tiles, the game ends and the points are tallied, but whoever ends up with the most points is the real winner. Buy: Scrabble, (\$15, Barnes & Noble) These games demand skill and patience as you plan trails, claim resources, and map new territories. In this two-man strategy game, players secretly set up their ship on a 10x10 grid of 10x10s and then try to find and destroy their opponent's fleet. There are two grids for each player. One grid is used to place your own ships and track hits made against you, while the second grid is to mark hits targeted at your opponents. Take turns firing by calling one of the plot grid points. If the hit does not attack the ship, it is considered missed and pegged with White. If the hit made contact with the ship, then the strike would be pegged with red. The number of hits each type of ship can sustain before sinking varies. After some initial exploration shooting, you'll probably start figuring out the location of your opponent's ship and start dealing fatal blows. This is is On the high seas! Buy This: Battleship Retro Series 1967 Edition Game, (\$20, Target) Feel what it's like to rule the world in risk games. In this game, the world map is scattered on the game board, and all continents are broken down into regions. The ultimate goal is for one player to conquer all 42 territories and eliminate other players along the way. But first, a little diplomacy is needed to get there. Create alliances (and then break alliances) as you slowly begin to conquer more territories, but be careful—if you're willing to break alliances, then you know your opponents will too. We have to add a time warning on this one, because a complete risk game can last up to several hours. No one has ever said total world domination will happen quickly. Buy: Risk 1959 Board Game, (\$40, Kohl's) Stratego like a version of Napoleon to catch the flag. In this two-man military movement game, players organize all 40 pieces of their game in whatever order they choose. There are 12 different types of pieces, and each plays a different role to consider during setup. There are as many layers of strategy involved in a successful setting, making this game as fun for adults as it is for kids. Once all the pieces are set up, the game begins as you enter enemy territory in an attempt to find your opponent's flag. Tedden carefully—there are bombs planted to throw you off track and spies carry out reconnaissance for the enemy. The player who manages to win the flag of the opposing team. Buy: Stratego Original Revised, (\$30, Barnes & Noble) Axis & Allies is another interesting military strategy board game. It's fun for history buffs because it's based on World War II, but as long as the game plays its course history can be changed. Players represent Axis forces and Allied forces, and at every turn can make combat and non-combat movements around the world as well as decide what military units to build and whether to fund research or not. If you've never played before, definitely read the rules first — there's a lot of moving parts to keep track of. Depending on the agreed ultimate goal, the goal is for your power to have control over 13-18 winning cities. It should be noted here that axis games & Allies can last a while — as in a few hours. Will allied or Axis forces win? (And if you're interested, check out The Man in The High Castle to see how the latter might have changed.) Buy: 1941: Axis & Allies Board Game, (\$26, Target) When the game has lasted as long as Chess has (we're talking almost 1,500 years!) You know it's worth playing. In a two-player game Here, you and your opponent have the same 16 pieces to maneuver on the 64-square game board, with the ultimate goal being to check out the king pieces of your opponent. The game pieces consist of pawns, fortresses, bishops, knights, queens, and kings, and there are different rules about how each piece can move. We We very helpful to keep the cheat sheet useful. The best advice we can give for this game is to take a step back and assess the whole situation before making any major steps. As it turns out, Chess is also a pretty good metaphor for life. Buy It: Staunton Chess Set in Shesham Wood, (\$125, Etsy) Backgammon is another board game that has been around for centuries. The game has an iconic look that you'll surely recognize, whether you've actually played before or not. The play area consists of 24 alternating color triangles and a bar in the center of the board. The game is often put in folding boxes, which makes cleaning and storage easy. To play, you are responsible for moving a set of 15 inspectors around the board, with the movement determined by the rolling of two dice. The first player to successfully dispose of, or remove, all of his examiners from the winning game. Backgammon is a two-man game that definitely needs strategy, but there's a bit of luck involved as well. Buy It: Colorful Backgammon Set, (\$96, MoMA Design Store) Don't let the simple look of this game fool you, there may be a lot of excitement in the game checker. You and your opponent are each responsible for 12 pieces of uniform game, which you are allowed to move diagonally across the 8x8 check board. Maneuver a piece all the way across the board and you can crown the king; Jump the opponent's pieces and you can catch them and remove them from the game. To win, capture all the opponent's checkers, or position your pieces in such a way that there are no moves available to other players. Inspectors are relatively easy to learn, making it a great way to introduce young players to strategy games. Buy It: Game Gallery Chess Board Game Set, (\$10, Target) Chinese Examiner is an approachable multiplayer strategy game that you can play with your entire family. The wooden board game features a series of holes in the form of six-pointed stars. Each point on the star is home to 10 colored pegs or marbles. Whether you're playing with two people or six, the object of the game is the same: Be the first player to move all 10 of your pegs/marbles to a star point right across from you. Players take turns moving one of their pieces at a time. You can move only one space at a time. However, if you have arranged your pieces in such a way that you can skip them, you can advance multiple spaces in one game a lot to chagrin your fellow players. Heading out on the way? Try creating your own magnetic Chinese Checker game. Buy: Chinese Examiner, (\$40, Etsy) For a quick strategy game, we recommend Blokus — it's like Tetris with a twist. Each player is given a set of 21 tiles in play colors and each tile in the set is a different geometric image. To start the game, each player places his chosen tile in one corner of the 400-square-foot game board. As play continues, the harder it is to put your tiles in on Tiles of the same color are only allowed to touch in one corner, while tiles of different colors can share sides. With each move, you may want to create the remaining tile sizes in your set to determine which shape best matches the available space. Try to play all 21 of your tiles to win Blokus. Buy: Classic Blokus Board Game, (\$20, Target) At Agricola, if you work hard and play smart, your farm will thrive. The game is based on the premise that you are a farmer in 17th century Europe, and as such, you must perform the necessary tasks to care for your animals and land and provide for your family. Work on the field and build your homestead. Then grow your family to have more helping hand, but make sure you have enough resources to feed them come harvest. There are six harvests in Agricola's 14-round game. Players collect points during that time for things like owning animals, having fenced cages, and building bigger houses. After the final round is played, the farmer with the most points (and possibly the most prosperous farm) wins. Buy: Agricola Family Edition Board Game, (\$40, Target) This game is fun for kids to play and helps them develop skills like critical thinking, creativity, and team building. What kid doesn't like connect four fast games? All you need to do is alternate with other players dropping tokens into open slots on the game. To win, connect your four colored tokens as quickly as possible, either horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. You also want to make sure to keep an eye on other players. If they have three in a row, you may need to use your next turn to drop strategically placed tokens to prevent them connecting four of their own. You would think that with 42 slots for tokens, it would be easy to connect four but, with a decent enemy, there is a chance it will be a draw. No matter the result, we're sure you can't just play one round! Buy: Connect 4 Game, (\$12, Kmart) Twister will, as promised by the box, do you twist in knots and maybe double as much laugh as well. To play, put the game's large vinyl mat on the floor. The mat has four rows of different colored dots and the cardboard spinner is broken down into quadrants that determine what part of the body is going on at what point of color. You may find yourself in a dog down or you may find yourself with someone's ass on your face, but try to hold your position no matter how strange it may seem. You will definitely be eliminated if you fall, but you also risk elimination if someone catches you resting your knees elbows on the mat. See who can last the last and become the Twister champion. Buy: Twister, (\$12, Target) Poor patients in Surgery are sure to have many ailments: cramps, water in the knees, and brain clotting are just the beginning. In this game, you can become a doctor, and it is your job to relieve the patient by eliminating all 13 diseases. The retrieval process can be complicated You have to use a pair of tweezers to eliminate a small plastic disease, and if you skip and hit the patient side, the game buzzes, and other players, specialists, can try. If you successfully delete the items indicated by the game card, you will be paid for your good work. After all the surgeries are over, the doctor with the most money wins. Buy: Operation, (\$13, Target) A good game for younger kids, Don't Break the Ice is simple and easy. A plastic ice tray holds a small plastic ice cube in place. One larger ice cube, which can be placed anywhere in the tray, is where the game's little plastic penguins stand. You don't want to be the player that causes penguins to fall. Players take turns tapping ice cubes with one of the small plastic hammers provided. A player must continue tapping on the same ice cube until it becomes dislodged and falls off the ice tray, even if additional ice cubes also become dislodged in the process. The more ice cubes that fall, the more precarious things become for little penguins. Play continues until the penguins finally fall through the ice. Buy It: Don't Break the Ice, (\$13, Target) Hungry Hungry Hippos is a fast marble game suitable for young players. Four colorful (and hungry) hippos on the board game try to cut down 20 marbles launched into the middle of the board. Players quickly press the lever, which controls the hippopotamus, in an attempt to devour the most marbles. Pressing the lever causes the hippo's neck to protrude towards the marbles and open jaws. When the lever is released, the hippo's jaw closes —hopefully on one or two marbles!—and the neck pulls back, pulling the marbles into the player's possession. After all the marbles are consumed, calculate how many hippos you caught. Players whose hippos choke on marbles win the most. Buy This: Hungry Hungry Hippos, (\$16, Target) It's a race to find as many unique word combinations as possible in this fun game. The boggle consists of 16 six-sided letter dice in a 16-square-foot tray. First you have to scramble the letters, which means putting the cover on the tray and giving it a good shake. Once the dice have been scrambled you are ready to play. Start a sand timer and write down all the words you can possibly find. Words can be created from letters that are horizontal, vertical, or diagonal to each other, but must be at least three letters long. Once time is up, compare your list of words with other players. Any word that appears on more than one list is crossed out. Score points for any word that no other player duplicates. Play as many rounds as you want and increase the total points at the end to determine the winner. Buy: Boggle, (\$10, Walmart) Fast, scurry, little mouse! Try not to get stuck as you circle the board and token cheese. At the beginning of this game, players work together to build a mouse similar to Rube Goldberg Goldberg but once the trap has been assembled, it is every mouse for themselves. Roll it dead to advance the space, but be sure to keep an eye on other sneaky mice as you move around the board. If you are on a cheese wheel and the other mouse is on one of the mousetrap cranks, they will turn the crank in an attempt to trap you. Some mice may avoid traps, but in the end, all but one will be caught. The last mouse still in the game wins. Buy: MouseTrap, (\$19, Target) We like Jenga because of its ease of play. The rules are simple and easy, and whether you're playing solo or with a group of people, the game is always full of thrilling fun. Quick setup. Build a tower of 54 small wooden beams provided — three blocks wide by 18 blocks high. The player then takes turns removing a block from inside the tower and placing it back on top. Cross your fingers and hold your breath as the tower grows taller and more unstable with every move. See how many laps you can go before the tower comes crashing down. The last person to successfully place the block before the tower falls is considered the winner. Buy: Jenga, (\$10, Target) If you or your child likes cracked codes, then you'll love Mastermind games. In each round of this two-person game, one player can create a code and another player tries to solve it. Using a combination of the six colors provided, the codemaster secretly creates a code consisting of only four pegs. The second player then begins the guess-and-check process to figure out the code by placing a series of four pegs onto the board. After the first guess, the codemaster provides feedback for any accurately placed pegs or pegs of any color that are the right color but in the wrong place. The second player then guesses again by placing the second line of the peg, and the process continues until the code cracks or the second player runs out of guesses. Buy It: Mastermind, (\$15, Target) Qwirkle is a game of colors and patterns. The game contains 108 wooden tiles with different colored shapes on them. Players start with six tiles drawn randomly from a bag. Use your tiles to create a line on the play area that has the same color or pattern, and get a point for each tile you play. Lines can be built vertically or horizontally and or played through existing lines (such as Scrabble). The six-tile line is called Qwirkle, and it's the longest line you can play. The game ends with the first player using all his tiles, but in the end it is the player with the highest score who wins. Ready to get your Qwirkle? Buy: Qwirkle, (\$26, Kohl's) Gather your loved ones for a night of friendly competitions. This board game includes fun options for families children, school-age children, and adult children. All you need to play this fun family game is uno card deck. No marbles, spinners, or other game pieces are required, which makes this quickly cleaned and great to take anywhere. Uno Deck contains 108 cards—25 cards each in one of four colors, plus 8 special action cards (such as Skip and Reverse). Players alternately match cards from their hands by number or color to the cards in the middle of the game. Players replenish their hands by pulling from the draw deck until there are no cards left. When a player has only one card left they can call Uno! as a warning to other players, who, in our opinion, are one of the best parts of the game. That, and the victory dance is mandatory after you win. Buy: Uno, (\$6, Michaels) We love this game because it makes the whole family hum, sketch, break, and think. There is no way out of it — to win cranium games, you and your team have to go all the way around the board and complete the designated activities. Each color along the game path shows which of the four categories of cards you have to drag to continue. If you successfully complete the challenge presented on the card, you can roll off and continue the amount of space. If you don't complete the challenge, you get stuck until the next turn when you have to try that category again. As an added bonus for time-crushed families, the game board offers three different levels of play. Buy: Cranium, (\$15, Hasbro) Dominoes are great fun for players of all ages, so grab Grandma and a set of dominoes and start playing! We love this special set from Amazon as it contains 91 domino tiles, which is perfect for multiplayer games. Although there are various games that you can play with dominoes, one of our favorites is The Mexican Train. In this game, the largest double number tiles are placed in the station in the middle of the table. From here, each player is responsible for his or her own domino train, where the end of each domino played must match the end of the domino before that. Additional tiles are placed on the boneyard and replenish each player's stash until everything is gone. The first player to complete his train victory. Buy: Gallery Game Double 6 Color Dot Dominoes, (\$12, Target) This is a race to finish in this classic childhood game where good deeds take you a long way, and misbehavior will set you back. The Chutes and Ladders game board contains 100 boxes and depicts a series of stairs and slides. Each ladder represents its good deeds and rewards, but each slide represents the consequences of bad behavior. Each player starts in the first square and the spinner determines how much space the player can dim progress from there. If you're lucky, you'll land at the bottom of a good deed ladder, which you can climb, advancing the extra space. But if you're not so lucky, you'll land at the top and should come down, that will set you back quite a bit. The first player to win 100 space. Buy: Chutes and Ladders, (\$8, Best Buy) The area of watches, roads and cities is rapidly evolving in the Medieval-themed game Carcassonne. Players take turns placing one of the tiles in an attempt to build their land. Once you've placed a tile, you can score points by placing a follower piece on the item you're building. The role and the value of the next point of the follower varies depending on what part of the property you place. For example, a follower placed on a monastery tile is a monk who earns different points from followers who are placed on street tiles as thieves. With each turn, you have to decide if it's worth placing the tiles added to your property, or if you'd rather strategically place tiles that mess up your opponent's plan. Calculate your movements carefully, because after all the tiles are played, the player with the most points wins. Buy: Carcassonne, (\$35, Best Buy) There's gridlock during peak hours and it's up to you to help. In this single-player game, try to free the red runaway car by maneuvering cars and trucks out of the way. This is likely to take a lot of small movements, as obstructing vehicles can only move forward or backward in the direction they are facing. Traffic Jam comes with 40 different challenges with different levels of difficulty. Depending on the puzzle, up to 15 cars and trucks can get in the way but, slowly and carefully, you can slide it to free the red car. This game is meant for one player, but we think it's helpful to talk through strategy and work together if you have more than one who wants to play. Buy: Rush Hour Jr., (\$20, Barnes & Noble) In Trouble, the goal is to be the first player to get all four of your work around the board and back home again. The premise is simple, but there are challenges along the way. The game is controlled by the dead, but not only rolled by hand — no, no — to roll dead in Trouble, you can hit the plastic dome on a cool pop-o-matic dice roller game. For a piece to leave home base, you first have to roll six. After that, the pieces can advance normally based on dead rolls. With 28 places on the board game, it can get crowded when all 16 pieces are being played, and that's where the problem can begin. If another player lands in a place occupied by one of your pieces, your piece is sent back to the home base and has to start the process again. Buy: Classic Problem Game, (\$16, Target) All aboard! The stakes are high in this game to see who can visit the most cities in North America in just seven days. In Ticket to Ride, players claim trains across the United States and Canada and compete to connect the most cities with their trains. Draw a card to see what kind of train cars you can play or what your next destination is. Earn points for train and to successfully connect the two destination cities. The game ends when a player has less than two trains left, and bonus points are then awarded to the player who creates the longest continuous route. The player with the most points wins. You have tickets to ride, so where will your trip take you? Buy: Tickets to Board, (\$45, Target) Move your four around the board and safely navigate them home again in the game Sorry. All pawns begin in their respective start rooms, and players take turns drawing from a deck of 44 cards to see what the pawn's next move is. Sorry is the competition, and there are two ways to rearrange your opponents. Similar to the game Trouble, if you land in a space already occupied by other players' pawns, the pawn is sent back to the beginning. The second way to make a setback is to draw one of the four Sorry card decks. If this happens, you can choose one of the opposing pawns to get back started, except for the pawns in the safe zone. Win by being the first to get your four pawns home. Psst, what's going on? There is a grading system if you want to play a few rounds of this game. Buy: Sorry!, (\$10, Best Buy) We're glad that there's no limit to how many people can play a fun game from Yahtzee, a dice game where everything is up to luck roll. Each round, players receive three chances to roll up to five dice. After each roll, you can evaluate the dice and choose which, if any, you want to roll again. You are looking for a pattern that will work for any of the 13 possible Yahtzee categories. At the end of your turn, choose which category you'll use for that round and tally the corresponding score. You can only use the category once per game, so choose carefully. If you land all five dice on the same number, it's called Yahtzee (feel free to shout). At 50 points, Yahtzee is the highest score you can roll. Play up to 13 rounds and then tally your score; the player with the highest score wins. Buy: Yahtzee, (\$12, Macy's) There's nothing fun like a refreshing game that encourages players to shout, act, and strategize quickly. Pictionary is a party game suitable for players of all ages. Teams take turns drawing and guessing as many words or phrases as possible in timed rounds. You may think drawing games sounds easy, but this game can be more difficult than it looks. The paths on the Pictionary game board consist of different colored squares, each showing different difficulty levels for the word on the corresponding game card. Players take turns drawing things like buck teeth and sand traps for their teammates to guess. Play using the board and become the first team to make it to the finish line, or throw the board at all and play just for a laugh. Buy: Pictionary, (\$14, Target) We challenge you to try and keep a straight face during apples to Apples games. This clever party game will make everyone laugh out loud. Each box contains a set of green apple cards, which have adjectives on and a set of red apple cards, which have nouns in them. Each round, a new player will be a judge and present a green apple card to the group. Other players choose one of the red apple cards from their hands to play. Sometimes nouns match adjectives perfectly, sometimes they are them it doesn't make any sense at all, and sometimes they're really hysterical. After everyone donated a red card, the judge chose the favorite. Depending on your group, you can play just for fun, or point to a number of rounds and see who can play the most winning cards at that time. Buy: Apples to Apples, (\$24, Target) Scattergories is a fun list-making game that requires quick thinking. The idea of the game is to create creative answers for 12 different categories — things like TV shows, U.S. presidents, vegetables, or sandwich types — in no time. At the beginning of each round, you roll up a dead 20-sided letter that decides which letter each answer should begin with. Then you set the sand timer and go! When time runs out, players compare their answers to each other. If the same answer appears on more than one list, the answer is crossed out, but a player receives one point for each unique word. The winner is the player who has the most points after three rounds. (Or more, if you have too much fun.) Buy: Scattergories, (\$16, Target) In this fast-paced game, players try to get their teammates to pronounce the word on an electronic disk without actually saying the word or its variations. The disc has about 10,000 words stored in it. Play a category of everything that will randomly pull one of the words, or choose one of 10 different categories for a smaller set of words with a central theme. Have your teammates say a word and then quickly forward the disk to the opposite team. This process continues, passing the disk from team to team until the end of the round. The timer embedded in the disk gradually beeps faster and faster until suddenly there is a loud buzz, signaling the end of the round. Move fast! You don't want a buzzing disk in your hand. Buy: Catchphrase, (\$20, Target) Taboo is a forbidden word game. In Taboo, your goal is to get your teammates to say a word written on one of the game cards without saying that word or the taboo words that are also listed with it. Try and get as many cards as possible within a certain time. Your team will earn one point for each correctly guessed card, but you'll lose one point each time you say one of the taboo words. A minute's hourglass and buzzer button will belong to the opposing team during your round. Your opponent, no doubt, will be happy to shout time out! the second last grain of sand falls through the dial and presses the buzzer every time you sneak in and utter one of the taboo words. Buy: Taboo Kids vs. Parents Game, (\$17, Target) This game is a riot to play at a party. Ellen DeGeneres played it with guests on her TV show. You know that's good. In Speak Out, players read a phrase from one of the game's cards while wearing a special mouthpiece that makes it difficult to pronounce. Have your group form team and take turns trying to guess phrases on the game card. You can read as many phrases as you want or try and instructions, but it will only help if your teammates can understand what you are saying. Try to pass as many cards as possible within a certain time. Each game comes with 10 dishwashing safe funnels, but you can buy additional funnel packs if you have a large crowd. Friendly advice: Save some handy napkins or paper towels to wipe your saliva. Buy It: Speak Out, (\$20, Barnes & Noble) This game, which is perfect for four players, is based on the popular '60s game show of the same name. In Sandi, one player on each team knows a secret word and gives a one-word clue to his teammates. If the first team does not get an answer after one clue, then the second team is allowed to give instructions and try to crack the password. This continues until the word secret is finally guessed or up to 10 clues have been given, whichever is first. Each password starts with a value of 10 points but decreases by one point with each clue given. Play 10 secret words for a total of five rounds, and in the end, the team with the highest score wins. Think you can guess the password? Buy: Password, (\$16, Ace Hardware) Do you ever repeat a word over and over until it sounds like it's not even a word? Mad Gab's silly game is like the opposite of that. If you repeat a series of strange words enough times, they actually sound like common words or phrases. The game contains cards with 800 words and phrases on them in Mad Gab that will make you scratch your head as you try and figure out what the hell the cards want to say. Teams are given two minutes to sound three cards, and if they can't solve one of the puzzles, the designated thief on the opposing team can steal that point. Enjoy playing this game where everyone sounds silly. Buy: Mad Gab, (\$15, Mattel) This multiplayer game combines strategy, wit, and humor. Play at parties or take them to the brewery to be enjoyed in a lively atmosphere. Baby zebras are born without stripes. Right or wrong? Test your knowledge with the classic game Trivial Pursuit. There are over 2,000 questions covering sports & recreation, science & nature, & art; culture, geography, entertainment, and history in this ultimate trivia game. Players walk around the wheel-shaped game board and answer questions from different categories. Colored boxes along the game path indicate which categories to draw. If you answer the right question, you can go again. Collect one part of the pie shape game when you land in each category hub, then be the first player to make it to the center of the board where you have to answer one last question to win. If you don't want to get off the board, you always answer questions for fun. Buy: Trifle Chase, (\$25, Hasbro) The premise of this chip and card game is simple: Play the cards out of your hands and place the chips in the appropriate square. But there are some strategies involved as well. In order, each card of two cards 52 52 represented on the board game. Players take turns playing cards from their hands and then placing the chips in one of the spaces that match that card. Get your team's five chips in a row, either horizontal, vertical, or diagonal, and you have the order. The first team to create two winning sequences. Take a good look at the steps of the opposing team. If you see an opportunity to place the chip and block it from getting in order, you may want to take it. Sequences are like the adult version of Connect Four. Buy: Order, (\$18, Target) Welcome to the beautiful and resource-rich island of Catan. In this award-winning game, you and your fellow players are settlers on the island working to build your settlement and city. Different parts of the island provide different resources and you have to barter and trade with your opponents to get what you need. The game board consists of 19 different hexagonal tiles that allow for different layouts each time, so no two games are the same. Accumulated winning points for various cultural achievements — for example, 1 point for completion, 2 points for having the largest army. Players keep their winning cards hidden during play to dispose of opponents as the first to reach 10 winning points. Catan is a strategy game suitable for adults and older children. Buy It: Catan, (\$45, Target) Dominion is a Medieval-themed deck-building game where players compete for the most valuable cards. Each game contains 500 cards. There are no other game pieces involved other than cards, and most of the cards show how they can be used, making this a relatively quick game to learn. Each player starts with the same 10 cards and then works to build his own deck. There are cards that determine which actions can be taken during your turn, there are treasure cards used as currency, and there are winning cards, which score your points at the end of the game. Gameplay ends after the last winning card is purchased or three or more stacks run out of cards. The player with the highest number of winning points wins. Dominion can be approached for older children but is equally enjoyable for adults. Buy It: Dominion, (\$39, Target) Cribbage is a math-based strategy game that has been around for centuries. To play, all you have to do is have a deck of cards and a cribbage board. There are a number of rules for playing and scoring goals, so the game may move slowly when you first start. If you can, take the rules from experienced players (very patient), or learn to play with fellow beginners. Cribbage is great for two players but can accommodate up to four. The game consists of a series of rounds in which the player strategically plays the cards in the them to score certain points. Cribbage boards track scores, as players move their pegs along the way. To win, be the first player to score 121 points. Buy: Cribbage, (\$10, Target) Don't try to be prim and precise when playing Cards Against Humanity The game consists of black cards that have open statements and questions on them and white cards that have a variety of funny, inappropriate, and strange words and phrases on them. Each round, a new player will act as a judge and play one of the open black cards. Others then pick one of the white phrase cards out of their hands and send them to the judge. The judge shuffled the white card and read it aloud to the group before choosing a favorite. This laugh-out-loud game is only for adults for a reason. Play only for the laughter that will surely happen, or the award points for each white card that wins to see who is the best in being bad. Buy: Cards Against Humanity, (\$25, Barnes & Noble) This quick board game for adults challenges players to decorate with colorful tiles. The score is based on how the tiles are arranged. The player with the most points wins the game! One reviewer wrote, It's nice to have a strategy game that doesn't have too many rules and is relatively quick to play (maybe 30 minutes). Buy: Azul, (\$40, Barnes & Noble) © Copyright . All rights reserved. Printed from this link is to an external site that may or may not meet accessibility guidelines. Guidelines.

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