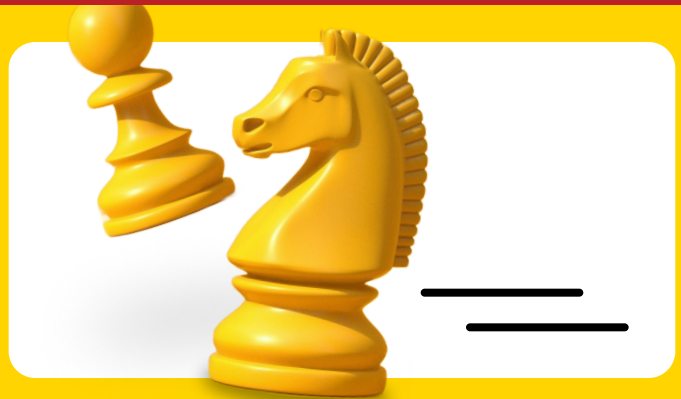# Design Your Own Board Game

Games are global activities, enjoyed by people of all ages. From crossword puzzles in the Sunday newspaper to epic online adventures with friends across the world, games offer entertainment, fun, and learning. Players must think, strategize, and aim for victory.

HERE'S YOUR CHALLENGE

Can you make your own board game to play with a classmate, friend, or family member?

01/05 Prepare

Before designing your own game, think about the aspects of a game that make it fun and challenging:
- What are your favorite (board) games? What makes those games your favorite?
- What is an example of a challenging game that you have played? How did you feel when you played that game?
- What makes a game memorable?
- What makes you want to play a game over and over again? What makes you want to stop playing a game?

02/05 Plan

Before you start creating, sketch a plan and develop a materials list.
- What will the board look like?
- What will you use for game pieces?
- What materials will you need to create your board game?
- If you have LEGO® bricks available to you, how can you incorporate them in your design?
- Will you create cards, dice, or other game materials?

VOCABULARY Playtest · Iterate · Player · Game Piece

03/05 Create

Start by collecting your materials. You can use whatever materials you have available in your classroom or at home – be creative. Grab some paper, cardboard, markers, toothpicks, straws, bottlecaps – anything can become a board game piece.

If you have LEGO bricks available, consider using a plate as your game board, bricks as spaces on the board, and use your imagination to create game pieces.

Once you have collected your materials, start building and creating! Depending on the type of game you chose to create, use your materials to make a board, cards, dice, game pieces, and more! As you build, practice playing the game to make sure it works how you planned.

04/05 Test

An important part of game design is playtesting. This means trying your game to see if it works. Test your game with a friend.
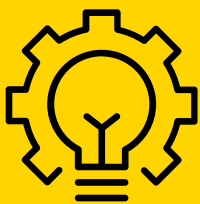
Consider the following:
- Are they having fun?
- Did you get stuck anywhere in the game?
- Were your directions or instructions clear enough for your players to understand?
- Was it too easy? Or too challenging?
- Does the mechanism for taking turns or advancing in the game make sense?

After receiving feedback from your play testers, iterate on your design. Iterate means to do something over or repeat a task. In this case, we are working to improve our game design by doing multiple playtests and making small changes each time to enhance our game.

05/05 Share

Once you are happy with your board game, share it with a classmate, friend, or family member. Play the game, have fun, and keep improving! Ask yourself, does my game resemble my favorite board games?

Bonus Ideas

Looking to extend your learning?
- Can you create a board game that has information about a topic you are studying in school?
- Consider making a game that challenges the player to practice math facts or a game that includes dates and information about a historical event.