



Make and Play Mancala

Activity #1: Make Your Own Mancala Game

What you'll need:

- Egg carton (kind with flat lid works best)
- 36 paperclips
- Scissors
- Tape, stapler with staples, or glue
- Markers, crayons, stickers, etc.



What to do:

1. Remove the top of the carton from the bottom by cutting along the hinge. Remove the extraneous portion used to keep the carton closed when used to store eggs. Discard or recycle the small piece. Set the bottom aside for later.
2. Cut the top of the carton in half, crosswise. (Cut across the short axis.) These pieces will be used as the end cups of the Mancala board.
3. Slide the two halves of the top underneath each end of the bottom, extending beyond the bottom by a couple of inches. Fasten together using the tape, staples, glue, or whatever method you find most convenient.
4. Deposit three paper clips in each of the twelve cups in the bottom of the carton. Leave the end cups (made from the top of the carton) empty.
5. Decorate with markers, crayons, stickers, etc.



Activity #2: Play Mancala

What you need:

- Mancala Game



What to do:

1. The Mancala 'board' is made up of two rows of six holes, or pits, each and 2 end cups.
2. Three paperclips are placed in each of the 12 holes.
3. Each player has an end cup to the right side of the Mancala board.
4. The game begins with one player picking up all of the pieces in any one of the holes on their side.
5. Moving counter-clockwise, the player deposits one of the stones in each hole until the stones run out.
6. If you run into your own end cup, deposit one piece in it. If you run into your opponent's store, skip it.
7. If the last piece you drop is in your own end cup, you get a free turn.
8. If the last piece you drop is in an empty hole on your side, you capture that piece and any pieces in the hole directly opposite.
9. Always place all captured pieces in your end cup.
10. The game ends when all six spaces on one side of the Mancala board are empty.
11. The player who still has pieces on his side of the board when the game ends captures all of those pieces.
12. Count all the pieces in each end cup. The winner is the player with the most pieces.

Tips:

- Planning ahead is essential to victory in board games like Mancala. Try to plan two or three moves into the future.