Mancala

Getting Started
1. Open the game board and place it lengthwise.
2. The larger pockets are called Mancalas and start empty — your Mancala is to your right.
3. Place 4 stones into each of the smaller pockets.
4. Choose one player to take the first turn.

Winning the Game
When one player has no more stones in their pockets, the other player claims all remaining stones on their side. The player with the most stones in their Mancala wins!

Taking Your Turn
1. Remove all the stones from one of the smaller pockets on your side of the board.
2. Moving counter-clockwise from the empty pocket, place one stone in each pocket until you run out of stones — this includes your Mancala and your opponent’s pockets.
   - Pockets have no stone limit — but beware opponents claiming your stones!
   - Stones in your Mancala stay there until the game ends — they are like scoring points.
   - If your last stone ends in an empty pocket on your side, take all the stones in the opposite pocket and place them in your Mancala.
   - If your last stone ends in your Mancala, you may take another turn.
   - Ignore your opponent’s Mancala when placing stones.

Tips
- End your turn on your Mancala whenever you can.
- Plan ahead to claim your opponent’s stones.
- Keep your opponent from claiming your stones by filling their empty pockets with stones from your side.
- Avoid placing too many stones on your opponent’s side.
- Keep things simple — sometimes getting one or two stones into your Mancala is all you need.

You can borrow this game from the library! Bring the call number on this page to the front desk. You can borrow board games for one week.

Ancient board game originating in Africa, once played with seeds and stones. Move your stones around the board and place them in your Mancala!