

Mancala

Number of Players: Two

Materials: Egg carton and 48 pieces of pasta*

Procedure:

1. The board is placed between the two players.
2. Each person takes 24 pieces of pasta and puts four pieces in each of the six bins on his/her side of the board.
3. On your turn, you can move any of the pieces from your side of the board. You may not move the pieces on your opponent's side of the egg carton.
4. Scoop up all the pieces from one bin on your side of the board. Now, moving to the right, drop one piece into each following bin until your hand is empty.
5. If you come to the end of your row and you still have one piece in your hand, drop it in front of you. Then you get another turn.
6. If you have more, continue to put your remaining pieces into the bins on your opponent's side (moving left until your hand is empty).
7. If you come to the end of your opponent's side-this will happen later in the game-continue around to your side again. If your last piece lands in front of you, you get to go again. Otherwise, it is your opponent's turn.
8. Capturing: If the last piece of pasta that you drop goes into an empty bin on your side of the board, you capture the playing pieces in the bin directly across from that bin. Place them in the pile in front of you. After you make a capture, it is your opponent's turn.

Object: The game ends when all six bins on one side are empty. The player with pieces remaining in the bins puts these in the pile in front of him/her. The winner is the player with the most pieces of pasta at the end.

*Pasta, such as elbow macaroni, can be brightly colored by mixing the pasta in a sealed plastic bag with 1/4 cup rubbing alcohol and a small bottle of food coloring. Pour the wet pasta in a single layer on a sheet of newsprint in a well-ventilated area to dry overnight.

