

*Board Game Your Way
To a Fun
Educational Day!*

How to use games as a tool in your homeschooling.

by Arlette Buss

abphotobug@gmail.com

Additional handouts:

Board Games for Gameschooling

Helpful Weblinks for using Board Games

Notes:

Board Games for Gameschooling

| Subject | Boardgame | Age* | # of Players* | Mensa Winner* | Game type | Synopsis* |
|--|---|----------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|--|
| GAMES THAT HELP TEACH | | | | | | |
| Abstract Strategy | Code 777 | 10+ | 2-5 | | Manipulative | Each player has rack for 3 tiles turned away from you and players ask questions of the others to determine the tiles. |
| Abstract Strategy | Hive | 9+ | 2 | X | Manipulative | Players attempt to surround the opponent's queen bee before their own is surrounded. |
| Abstract Strategy | Ingenious | 10+ | 1-4 | X | Tile Placement | Players take turns placing colored domino-style tiles on a game board, scoring for each line of colored symbols that they enlarge. |
| Abstract Strategy | Mancala | 5+ | 2 | | Manipulative | Move your manipulatives strategically to capture your opponents' manipulatives. |
| Abstract Strategy | Tsuro | 8+ | 2-8 | | Tile Placement | Lay a tile in front of your own token to continue its path. The tiles create intermingling rope paths. |
| Art | Atelier: The Painter's Studio | 14+ | 2-4 | | Set Collection | Take on the role of an artist managing an art studio. Roll dice, manage assistants, collect needed paint, & complete famous works of art. |
| Chemistry | Periodic: A Game of the Elements | 10+ | 2-5 | | Board/Set Collection | Players collect sets of elements and advance research by moving through Periodic Table. |
| Economics | Stockpile | 13+ | 2-5 | | Board Game | Players act as stock market investors with each person knowing something about the stocks, but no one knows everything. |
| Geography | 10 Days Series | 10+ | 2-4 | X | Tile Placement | Draw and arrange tiles and place in an order that allows you to move between countries/states in a 10 day streak. |
| Geography | Scrambled States of America | 8+ | 2-4 | | Card | Learn about the United States in this madcap game of observation and quick reflexes |
| Geography | State Smarts | 8+ | 2-4 | X | Card | In addition to state specific facts, kids will also learn unique characteristics about each region of the country. |
| Geography | Ticket to Ride Series | 8+ | 2-5 | | Board Game | Players collect colored cards to build track between cities. Great for expanding general knowledge of cities and countries. |
| Geography | Trekking the National Parks | 10+ | 2-5 | X | Board Game | Compete in a cross country race to visit the National Parks and collect points. |
| Geography | Trekking the World | 10+ | 2-5 | | Board Game | A light strategy game about the pleasures and wonders of world travel. |
| Language Arts | Apples to Apples | 12+ | 4-10 | X | Card | A game of matching adjectives to noun cards. Active player chooses which adjective they like the best. |
| Language Arts/Spelling | Bananagrams | 7+ | 1-8 | | Manipulative | Race to arrange your letter tiles into a crossword before anyone else. |
| Language Arts/Spelling | Boggle | 8+ | 1-8 | | Manipulative | Find as many words in a 16 cube grid as you can trying to find ones the other players did not see. |
| Language Arts/Spelling | Dabble | 10+ | 2-4 | | Manipulative | players pick 20 tiles each, then attempt to create a 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, and 6-letter word in five minutes. |
| Language Arts/Spelling | Quiddler | 8+ | 1-8 | X | Card | Short words and long words can make for high scores in this versatile word game. |
| Language Arts/Spelling | Scrabble | 10+ | 2-4 | | Tile Placement | Place lettered tiles to make high-scoring words. |
| Logic | Abalone | 7+ | 2 | X | Manipulative | Abstract game where the goal is to push your opponent's marbles off the board. |
| Logic | Chess | 6+ | 2 | | Board Game | A classic abstract logic game. |
| Logic | Dust in the Wings | 10+ | 2-4 | | Board Game | A family game of perception and planning. |
| Logic | Onitama | 8+ | 2 | | Boardgame | An abstract game with a random starting set-up. Similar to chess on a 5 x 5 board. |
| Math | Allowance Game | 5+ | 2-4 | | Board Game | Teaches how to use money and make change. |
| Math | Blokus (also teaches Spatial Relationship) | 7+ | 2-4 | X | Manipulative | Place transparent, Tetris-shaped, colored pieces onto the board trying to avoid being blocked by others. |
| Math | Clumsy Thief Series | 5+ | 2-6 | | Card | A card game that teaches putting cards together to meet the goal, e.g. Jr is to 10, Candy Shop is to 20, and the original is to 100. |
| Math | Dimenson | 8+ | 1-4 | | Manipulative | Stack your colored orbs while making sure to follow all the rules given on the card drawn. |
| Math | Frog Juice | 8+ | 2-4 | | Card | Math practice card game. |
| Math | Jetpack Joyride | 8+ | 1-4 | | Tile Placement | Players fly their way through a lab using a stolen jetpack. Points are scored through mission cards. |
| Math | Math Fluxx | 8+ | 2-6 | | Card | Players use positive integers to achieve a math goal — also featuring the Plan B Meta Rule requiring even more arithmetical acumen. |
| Math | Pass the Pigs | 8+ | 2-10 | | Manipulative | Roll two pigs into all kinds of positions and encourage quick addition with each roll. |
| Math | Prime Climb | 10+ | 2-4 | | Board Game | Use arithmetic to race to be the first to get to the center of the board while avoiding getting knocked back to the start by other players. |
| Math | Qwirkle | 6+ | 2-4 | X | Manipulative | Complete a set of shapes or colors among the criss-crossing tiles for big points! |
| Math | Red 7 | 9+ | 2-4 | | Set Collection | The rules of "Red" are simple: highest card wins! |
| Math | SET | 6+ | 1-20 | X | Set Collection | Everyone plays simultaneously to race to find a set of three among the twelve cards. Even no "set" is a set! |
| Math | Sleeping Queens | 8+ | 2-5 | | Card | Math practice card game. |
| Programming | RoboRally | 12+ | 2-6 | | Board Game | Players control a robot using game cards to race through the factory. |
| Science/Chemistry | Chemistry Fluxx | 8+ | 2-6 | | Card | Use atoms and laboratory gear to match the current goal and win! |
| Science/Ecology | Boak | 13+ | 2-4 | | Board Game/Manipulative | Navigate the four seasons and lay claim to the land with your trees and their leaves. |
| Science/Ecology | Petrichor | 14+ | 1-4 | | Board/Set Collection | Control the weather to make it rain and dominate the earth with your plants. |
| Science/Ecology | Planet | 8+ | 2-4 | X | Manipulative | Players choose a tile with mountain/ice/forest/desert on it and place it on a 3D planet. Players who fulfill most conditions win the animal. |
| Science/Ecology | Rescue Animals | 8+ | 2-5 | | Card | Frantically roll dice to find and rescue the most endangered animals possible. |
| Science/Ecology | Wingspan | 10+ | 1-5 | | Card/Set Collection | You are bird enthusiasts seeking to discover and attract birds to your preserve. |
| Science/Plants | Photosynthesis | 10+ | 2-4 | X | Board Game/Manipulative | Trees compete for sunlight to grow taller, as the sun moves around the board. |
| K.,GTOK | Jenga | 6+ | 1-8 | | Manipulative | Build your tower as high as you can before it crashes down. |
| Spatial Relationships | Tiny Towns | 14+ | 1-6 | | Manipulative | Plan well as you build your town one building at a time making as many fit on your 4x4 grid as you can. |
| Spatial Relationships | Kingdomino/Queendomino/Dragonomino | 8+/8+/5+ | 2-4 | | Tile Placement | Build a kingdom with varied terrains on domino-shaped tiles in this fast family game. |
| GAMES TO INSPIRE FURTHER LEARNING | | | | | | |
| Art/Abstract Strategy | Canvas | 14+ | 1-5 | | Card/Set Collection | Artistically layer your paintings to create a masterpiece and win the Best in Show |
| Art | Museum: Picture | 10+ | 2-4 | | Deck Building | Create collections of some of History's most iconic works of art. |
| Geography/Ecology | 7 Wonders | 10+ | 2-7 | | Card/Set Collection | Draft cards to develop your ancient civilization and build its Wonder of the World. |
| Geography/Ecology | Incan Gold | 8+ | 3-8 | | Card | Fast paced game where players choose to go deeper into the mine or leave with the valuables the find. |
| Geography/Ecology | Reykjolt | 12+ | 1-4 | | Board Game | Compete against rival geothermal farmers to produce the best vegetables in Iceland! |
| Geography/History | Azul Series | 8+ | 2-4 | X | Manipulative | Artfully embellish the walls of your palace by drafting the most beautiful tiles. |
| History | Century: Spice Road | 8+ | 2-5 | | Card/Set Collection | Grow and trade spices and use them to gain estate. |
| History | Guillotine | 12+ | 2-5 | | Card | A humorous game where you manipulate the line to collect the most valuable heads. |
| History | Imhotep | 10+ | 2-4 | | Manipulative | Gather, ship, and lay stones to build the most magnificent monuments in Egypt. |
| History | Takenoko | 8+ | 2-4 | | Tile placement | Players cultivate land plots, irrigate, & grow one of the three species of bamboo with help to maintain this bamboo garden for a panda |
| History | Teotihuacan: City of Gods | 14+ | 1-4 | | Board Game | Use your worker dice to raise the legendary and breathtaking Pyramid of the Sun |
| History | Timeline Series | 8+ | 2-8 | | Card | What came first? Order all your Event cards correctly to win! |
| History | Tzolkin | 13+ | 2-4 | | Board Game | Lead your people, build monuments and make offerings to earn the favour of the gods. |
| History/Geography | Between Two Castles of Mad King Ludwig | 10+ | 2-7 | | Tile Placement | Help your 2 neighboring players build the wackiest—but highest scoring—castles. |
| History/Geography | Castles of Burgundy | 12+ | 2-4 | | Tile Placement | Plan, trade, and build your Burgundian estate to prosperity and prominence. |

Board Games for Gameschooling

| Subject | Boardgame | Age* | # of Players* | Mensa Winner* | Game type | Synopsis* |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|---|
| History/Geography | Castles of Mad King Ludwig | 13+ | 1-4 | X | Tile Placement | Players are tasked with building an amazing, extravagant castle for King Ludwig II of Bavaria...one room at a time. |
| History/Geography | Inuit: The Snow Folk | 13+ | 2-4 | | Card Placement | Draft members for your Inuit tribe including hunters, shamans and scouts. |
| History/Geography | Isle of Skye | 8+ | 2-5 | | Tile Placement | Build your kingdom as Chieftain one tile at a time and rule all of Scotland |
| History/Geography | Tokaido | 8+ | 2-5 | | Board Game/Set Collection | Travel the famed Tokaido road |
| Math | Quacks of Quedlinburg | 10+ | 2-4 | | Board Game/Manipulative | Pull ingredients from your stock to make your pot bubble, but hopefully not explode! |
| Math/Economy | Bohnanza | 13+ | 2-7 | | Card | Farm beans, harvest crops and trade your way to fortune |
| Math/Economy | Cover Your Assets | 8+ | 2-6 | | Set Collection | Players compete to become the first millionaire by building towers of matching sets made from 10 different types of asset cards |
| Math/Economy | Jalpur | 12+ | 2 | | Card | Trade and sell goods to become the most wealthy merchant |
| Math/Economy | Pit | 7+ | 3-8 | | Card | An open-outcry commodity trading game |
| Science/Ecology | Bärenpark | 8+ | 2-4 | | Manipulative | Build a bear park on personal boards by carefully placing polyominoes |
| Science/Ecology | Takenoko | 8+ | 2-4 | | Manipulative | A long time ago, the Chinese Emperor offered a giant panda bear as a symbol of peace to the Japanese Emperor. |
| Science/Sociology | Pandemic | 8+ | 2-4 | | Board Game | A team of experts must prevent the world from succumbing to a viral pandemic. |
| Spatial Relationships | Copenhagen | 8+ | 2-4 | | Manipulative | Players must design new façades for "Nyhavn" (New Harbor) in Copenhagen so that the pieces fit seamlessly into this harbor setting. |
| * Taken from Boardgamegeek.com | | | | | | |

HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR USING BOARD GAMES

The links on these pages are not endorsed by myself or LDSHE, they are simply websites I've come across that may expound on this class and open a window to using games in ways homeschoolers and educators hadn't thought of before. My hope is that you will find new ways to find joy and laughter in your homes.

MY PINTEREST BOARD: My search for great GAMES to enjoy in homeschooling still continues. I like to keep links on my pinterest board.

<https://www.pinterest.com/arletteb/teaching-with-board-games/>

MY BOARDGAMEGEEK.COM COLLECTION:

<https://boardgamegeek.com/collection/user/arlettebuss>

MY DAUGHTER'S BOARDGAMEGEEK.COM COLLECTION:

<https://boardgamegeek.com/collection/user/athlindar?own=1&subtype=boardgame&ff=1>

THE BENEFITS OF USING BOARD GAMES:

How to use Board Games to Maximise [sic] Math Skills. A great informational site on how number counting games can help with younger children.

<https://www.lizs-early-learning-spot.com/use-board-games-maximise-math-skills/>

Board games for kids: Can they teach critical thinking? There are great points in this article. One of my favorites is that kids "need to become conscious of their own tactics and consider about *why* they work (or fail to work)." <https://www.parentingscience.com/board-games-for-kids.html>

Teaching students 21st-century skills with cooperative board games. In co-operative games, students learn they can achieve more by utilizing each group member than they can by themselves. This is a lesson in leadership and group thinking skills. <https://www.classcraft.com/blog/teaching-board-games/>

SITES THAT I LIKED BEST:

11 Best Brain-Building Board Games for Teens in the World. Each entry includes overview of game, age appropriateness, and "how it builds the brain."

https://goodparentingbrighterchildren.com/board-games-for-teens/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest&utm_campaign=tailwind_smartloop&utm_content=smartloop&utm_term=44444196

Top of the Table – Stellar Board Games That Actually Teach. These are games that are specifically directed to teach a subject: Math, Language, Geography, etc.

<https://www.gameinformer.com/b/features/archive/2018/03/23/top-of-the-table-seven-stellar-games-that-actually-teach.aspx>

Create a Language Rich Environment with Games. These are games geared toward building vocabulary and language. I am excited to get some of the games on this list I hadn't seen before, like Word a Round!

<https://www.walkingbytheway.com/blog/best-word-games-for-homeschool/>

STEAM and STEM games for kids! STEM games are educational and can be played often with different outcomes. I really like a number of these games and feel inspired by the ones I don't own yet.

<https://leftbraincraftbrain.com/best-stem-games-list-kids/>

100 Educational Games for Homeschooling. Math, language, history, science, logic and so much more can be practiced without your kiddos ever catching on that real learning is taking place!

<http://ourjourneywestward.com/educational-games-make-great-gifts/>

Our Favorite Family Board Games. A family's list of favorites that I agree are a lot of fun for the family as well as have good skill building characteristics. [https://homeschoolgameschool.com/our-favorite-family-board-games-a-free-](https://homeschoolgameschool.com/our-favorite-family-board-games-a-free-poster/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest&utm_campaign=tailwind_tribes&utm_content=tribes&utm_term=725962804_29393622_26187)

[poster/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest&utm_campaign=tailwind_tribes&utm_content=tribes&utm_term=725962804_29393622_26187](https://homeschoolgameschool.com/our-favorite-family-board-games-a-free-poster/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest&utm_campaign=tailwind_tribes&utm_content=tribes&utm_term=725962804_29393622_26187)

31+ of the Best Educational Board Games. This site lists the blog owner's favorites and what subjects and skills the games can be used for:

https://hessunacademy.com/educational-board-games/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest&utm_campaign=tailwind_tribes&utm_content=tribes&utm_term=905517206_39452824_517700

Favorite Board Games Everyone Will Love. The games on this blog are not listed specifically for educational purposes, but most of the games can be used educationally.

<https://makinglemonadeblog.com/family-game-night-board-games-ideas/>

Gameschooling: The Best History Games for your Homeschool. These are games listed with the author and her children's perspectives as to which they think are the best. <https://my-little-poppies.com/gameschooling-history/>

A forum entry from a public school teacher, Jason Kornoely with a small number of great games.

[Board of Education: Games for the Classroom and Home | BoardGameGeek](#)

The Big List of STEM Board Games. Science games that have elements of active learning and explore a topic in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics.

<https://blog.mindresearch.org/blog/stem-board-games>

The Big List of Board Games that Inspire Mathematical Thinking. There are many fun board games that integrate deeper mathematical thinking into the gameplay. These games help students develop skills such as multi-step problem-solving, spatial reasoning, pattern recognition, resource management and much more. <https://blog.mindresearch.org/blog/big-list-mathematical-board-games>

Our Favorite Family Board Games that are also Educational. A homeschooling mom's list of their family's favorites. The games that we have played on this list are spot on! It has inspired me to try some others.

<https://www.intentionalhomeschooling.com/games/>

Best Games for First Graders. Games that will sharpen or teach valuable skills while being fun for the family. <https://hustleandhomeschool.com/10-best-board-games-for-first-graders/>

OTHER SITES PERTAINING TO BOARD GAMES IN EDUCATION:

Over 20 of The Best Educational Board Games for Homeschool. This is just a straight-forward list of board games the author has enjoyed using in her homeschooling. While this is great list, it doesn't always tell you why the game was considered educational though.

https://freddiesmummyuk.com/games-for-homeschool/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest&utm_campaign=tailwind_tribes&utm_content=tribes&utm_term=835083398_35173694_33295

5 Great Geography Games: Board Games that Teach About the World. This is a very short list but there are some excellent games listed.

<https://kidworldcitizen.org/geography-games/>

Things to Buy Instead of Curriculum for the Summer. Things to do, games to play instead of concentrating on curriculum during the summer. There are products in this article besides board games, but it has some really great games listed. <http://growingnimblefamilies.com/things-to-buy-instead-of-curriculum-for-the-summer>

I am not advocating to pay for this class but wanted to list it in case there are those who really want to delve more into gameschooling. [Gameschooling Course: Add More Play to Your Homeschool Day | My Little Poppies \(my-little-poppies.com\)](#) The author also has listed out games she recommends in different categories with the amazon links. It's a quick way to see a lot of different games in a short period of time.

A "do and don't" list of games that a user created and others responded to.

<https://boardgamegeek.com/geeklist/2452/educational-games-vs-games-are-educational>

Using Games in your Homeschooling. The author has a small list of games their family has used.

<https://wonderfulleddays.com/using-games-in-your-homeschooling/>

25+ History Board Games to Make History Come Alive. A few ideas for ways you can use these history board games in your homeschool. <https://www.thissimplebalance.com/history-board-games/>

JUST FUN LISTS

Best Family Board Games 2021 – Best Gift Ideas. <https://toybuzz.org/best-family-board-games/>

The Best Games for Families. https://www.andnextcomesl.com/2017/11/best-games-for-families.html?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Here+s+what+s+new+on+And+Next+Comes+L&utm_campaign=RSS+for+And+Next+Comes+L

Boardgamegeek's list of 8,296 "Educational Games." [Educational | Board Game Category | BoardGameGeek](#)

A FEW PLACES TO BUY BOARDGAMES:

Your local board game store

When you look at a game at www.boardgamegeek.com there is a section where you can find links to where a game is available.

www.Amazon.com (Watch for Prime Day! We found quite a few we didn't have before at great prices.)

www.Coolstuffinc.com

Barnes and Noble and www.barnesandnoble.com

www.miniaturemarket.com

www.thegamesteward.com

Attend a board game convention.

The large ones are:

- UK Games Expo: Birmingham, United Kingdom
- Origins Game Fair: Columbus, OH
- PSX Unplugged: Philadelphia, PA
- GEN CON: Indianapolis, IN
- ESSEN SPIEL: Essen, Germany

The Small and Medium Ones are:

- BGG.CON: Dallas, TX
- CMON Expo: Atlanta, GA
- Dice Tower Con: Orlando, FL
- Geekway to the West: St. Louis, MO

Other conventions can be found at the bottom of the website at

<https://www.meeplemountain.com/articles/the-board-gamers-guide-to-board-game-conventions/>

PLAY ONLINE at www.tabletopia.com and www.boardgamearena.com

A FEW BOARD GAMES AVAILABLE AS APPS:

- Tokaido
- Ticket to Ride
- Tsuru
- Takenoko
- Spaceteam
- Splendor
- Carcassonne
- Castles of Mad King Ludwig
- Catan
- Mysterium
- Jaipur
- Pandemic
- Clue
- Isle of Skye
- Jaipur