

Games from Ghana - Learn something new!

Type of activity: inside game for 2 people

Who is it for? Juniors upwards

What do I need?

- An egg box with lid removed (12-egg size or 2x 6-egg size) and 2 yoghurt pots
- 46 small stones or beads
- A quick mind!



Introduction

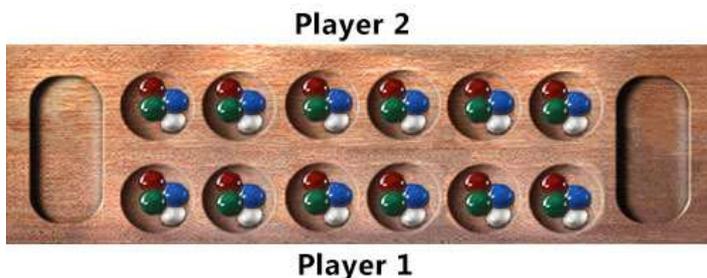
Every culture will have outdoor and indoor games that children and adults like to play. On World Day for Cultural Diversity, why not learn a new game to play with another member of your family? This game is called 'Oware' in Ghana, but in other parts of Africa it is called 'Mancala' or 'Wari' and it is even played in the Caribbean and India. Watch some experts play Oware in this film clip - they are very fast! <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-africa-35284441/the-games-at-the-heart-of-ghana-life>

There are many versions - here are instructions to play Mancala. It is a mathematical and thinking ahead game!

Here's how to...

Object of the game: to win the most stones.

- Sit one each side of the board (or egg box) - each person owns the 6 houses (holes) nearest to them.
- Put 4 stones in each house.
- Put a pot (mancala) at each end of the board. This is where you collect your stones - each player owns the mancala to their right.
- Decide who will play first.
- The player takes ALL the stones out of one of his houses and drops them one in each house going right (anti-clockwise).
 - If he passes his own mancala he drops one there, but not if he passes his opponents mancala.
 - If the last stone is placed in his own mancala, the player gets another turn.
 - If the player drops his last stone into an empty house on his side, he takes all the stones from his opponent's house opposite, plus the one stone on his side and puts them in his mancala - he has won these stones.
- Then it is the other player's turn.



This video shows a useful slow version of how to play Mancala:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGM_yntONsE.

What now?

Do you know any games from other countries - either outside or inside? What about Petanque from France? Here are some more - the Nigerian clapping games are amazing! Good luck in trying those!! <https://theirworld.org/news/games-that-school-children-play-around-the-world>

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