

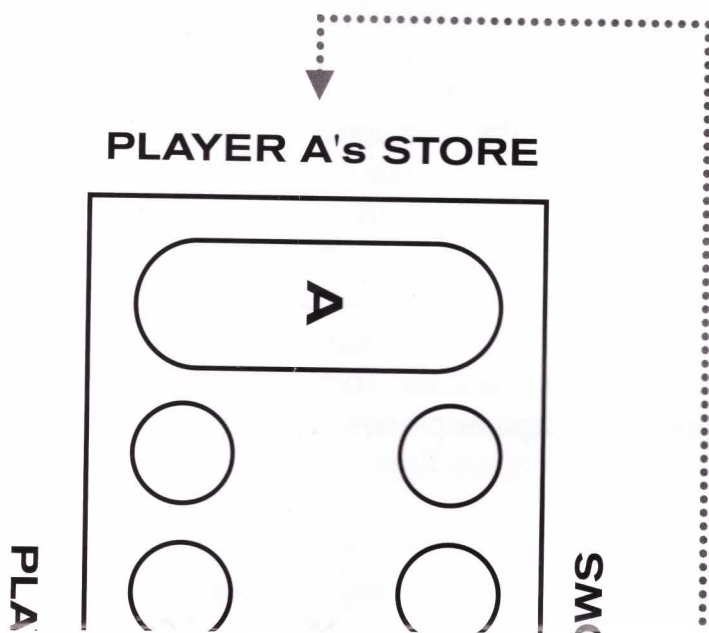
mancala

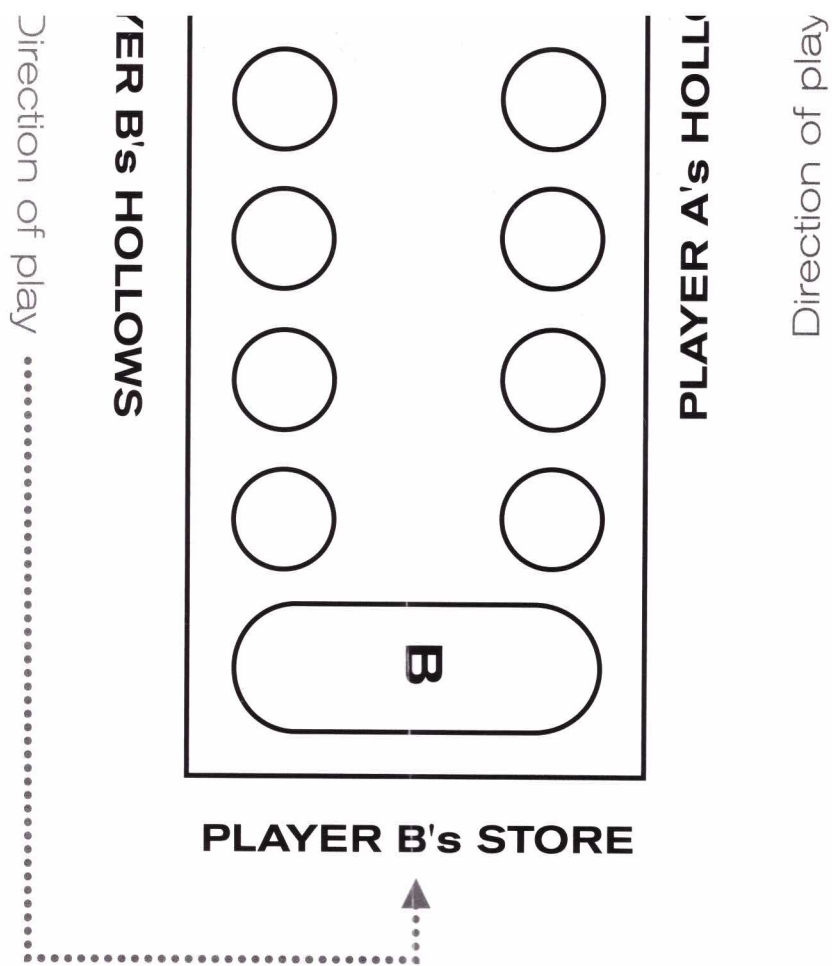
ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST WIDELY PLAYED GAMES

Mancala is a classic amongst strategic games: simple to learn, but with a lifetime's depth to it (for those who want to get serious!)

It can be enjoyed on any level

A game for 2 players
Ages 8 to adult





'MANCALA' is actually the name given to a whole family of games which have been played for thousands of years. These games were originally played on the ground, using stones or shells as pieces, although carved wooden boards are now preferred by the millions of people who play variations of it every day, all over Africa and the Middle East. Our version is perhaps the most widely-played "westernised" variation of the game.

TO BEGIN: Place the board between the two players as in the diagram. The board is divided down the middle, with each player claiming one side of six hollows and the store, or mancala, to the right of these as his or her own. At the beginning, each hollow should contain four pieces (of any colour) and the mancalas should be empty.

THE AIM OF THE GAME: The aim of the game is to collect the most glass beads in your mancala.

TO PLAY: On your turn, you choose one of your hollows, pick up all the pieces in it, and moving anti-clockwise, redistribute them one by one into the adjacent hollows. If, as at the beginning of the game, you have four pieces in the hollow, this means putting one in each of the four hollows to the right of this chosen one. Depending on which hollow you choose, and how many pieces it has in it, you may well end up passing your mancala and going onto your opponent's side of the board. If you come to your mancala, put a piece in it, but if you come to your opponent's mancala, ignore it. If the last of your pieces from your turn lands in your mancala, you may have another go, choosing a hollow as before. If your last piece lands in an empty hollow on your side of the board, you empty the opposite hollow on your opponent's side of the board, placing all those pieces and the piece that landed in the empty hollow into your mancala. This ends your turn. It is impossible to capture pieces when you are in your opponent's half.

The game ends when all the hollows on one side of the board are empty. The person who still has pieces in his or her hollows scoops them all up and puts them in their mancala. The winner is the person with the most pieces collected in their mancala.

Mancala is one of the most popular games in Africa and parts of the Middle East, yet until recently it was virtually unknown in the West. Following a popularity explosion in the States, all that has now changed – and about time too, given the addictive blend of simplicity, subtlety and excitement that this ancient game has to offer. A game that can be learnt in minutes, played for hours, and has been around since the time of the Pharaohs, Mancala is a fast-moving game of skill and tactics that can be played by anyone old enough to count!

Half the world can't be wrong!