Board games for kids, free to play online

Peabody · checked 2026-11-17

These are board games to play on a screen, free: 12 classics such as Tic-Tac-Toe, Snakes and Ladders, Dots and Boxes and Four in a Row, in the browser. A child plays Peabody, mostly at easy, medium or hard, or a friend on the same device. No sign-up, no download and no ads. Free through the end of 2027.

Board games to play now

- Game: Tic-Tac-Toe · What kind: Paper-and-pencil game · What you do: Line up your marks! The grid starts at 4×4, with 3×3 and 5×5 one tap away. Play Peabody or a friend. · Players: 1 or 2 · How Peabody plays: Easy, medium, hard · Practises: taking turns, spotting a line
- Game: Snakes and Ladders · What kind: Dice race · What you do: Climb the ladders, slide down the snakes, and race to 100! · Players: 1 or 2 · How Peabody plays: One level · Practises: counting spaces up to 100
- Game: Dots and Boxes · What kind: Paper-and-pencil game · What you do: Join the dots, close the boxes, and take another turn! · Players: 1 or 2 · How Peabody plays: Easy, medium, hard · Practises: planning a move ahead
- Game: Four in a Row · What kind: Line-up game · What you do: Drop discs and make four in a row before Peabody does! · Players: 1 or 2 · How Peabody plays: Easy, medium, hard · Practises: spotting lines across, up and slanted
- Game: Ludo · What kind: Dice race · What you do: Roll the dice, race your four pieces home, and send rivals back! · Players: 1 or 2 · How Peabody plays: Easy, medium, hard · Practises: counting spaces, choosing which piece to move
- Game: Mancala · What kind: Counting-stones game · What you do: Sow the seeds, win another turn, and grab the most! · Players: 1 or 2 · How Peabody plays: Easy, medium, hard · Practises: counting and planning where the last seed lands
- Game: Dominoes · What kind: Tile game · What you do: Match the dots and be first to play every tile! · Players: 1 or 2 · How Peabody plays: Easy, medium, hard · Practises: matching dots, counting
- Game: Sonar Search · What kind: Guessing game on a grid · What you do: Ping the sea to find the hidden boats. Be first to find them all! · Players: 1 or 2 · How Peabody plays: Easy, medium, hard · Practises: grid squares, narrowing down a guess
- Game: Checkers · What kind: Board game · What you do: Jump your way across the board and crown your kings! · Players: 1 or 2 · How Peabody plays: Easy, medium, hard · Practises: planning ahead, trading pieces
- Game: Reversi · What kind: Board game · What you do: Flip the discs! The most discs when the board is full wins. · Players: 1 or 2 · How Peabody plays: Easy, medium, hard ·

Practises: planning ahead, corners and edges

• Game: Backgammon · What kind: Dice race · What you do: Roll, race and send rivals back! Get all fifteen checkers home first. · Players: 1 or 2 · How Peabody plays: Easy, medium, hard · Practises: adding the dice, planning moves

• Game: Chess · What kind: Board game · What you do: The king of board games. Check, checkmate and castling too! · Players: 1 or 2 · How Peabody plays: Easy, medium, hard · Practises: planning several moves ahead

Each board game plays in the browser on a laptop, a Chromebook, a tablet or a phone. Pick one player to play Peabody, or two players to pass the screen between two children. Where a game has levels, Easy is gentle enough for a first try and Hard plays to win. Tap a piece, then tap where it goes: no dragging and no typing.

Which board game for which age

- Ages 4 to 6: Tic-Tac-Toe, Snakes and Ladders and Dots and Boxes. Short games with one idea each: three in a row, count the spaces, close a box.
- Ages 6 to 8: Four in a Row, Ludo, Mancala, Dominoes and Sonar Search. A little planning: which piece to move, where the last seed lands, which square to try next.
- Ages 8 and up: Checkers, Reversi, Backgammon and Chess. Longer games where thinking a few moves ahead wins. Start on Easy.

These are rough ages, not rules. A 5 year old who loves Checkers should play Checkers, and Snakes and Ladders is fun at any age.

What a board game practises

Board games are good practice at things school cares about without a single question popping up. Dice races are counting: in Snakes and Ladders a child counts every square to 100, and in Backgammon they add the two dice. Mancala is counting stones into cups. Dominoes is matching the dots. Four in a Row and Tic-Tac-Toe are spotting a pattern before the other player does. Checkers, Reversi and Chess are planning: if I move here, what will Peabody do? And every game is practice at taking turns, losing kindly and asking for a rematch.

Playing with a real board too

A screen game is a good way to learn the rules before the family board comes out: Checkers, Tic-Tac-Toe and Dots and Boxes play the same on paper or a real board. For a whole evening, see family game night games. For cards instead of boards, see card games for kids.

Questions parents ask

Are these games free?

Yes. Every game here is free through the end of 2027, with no ads, no download and no sign-up to start playing.

Do we need to buy a board game?

No. All 12 games here play in the browser, with the board drawn on the screen. Nothing to buy, nothing to set up and no pieces to lose.

Can two children play together?

Yes. Pick two players and the game takes turns on one device, so two children, or a child and a grown-up, can sit together and pass the screen.

Does my child play against strangers online?

No. The other player is Peabody, or a friend or grown-up sitting at the same screen. There is no chat and no one else online in these games, and nothing is typed.

What is a good board game for a 5 year old?

Start with Tic-Tac-Toe or Snakes and Ladders: each game takes a few minutes and has one idea to learn. Dots and Boxes is next. Most 5 year olds need a grown-up nearby for Checkers.

Does Peabody let my child win?

On Easy, Peabody often picks a move at random, so a young child can win. On Hard it plays to win. Snakes and Ladders has no levels: the dice decide.

Free at peabody.kids/board-games-for-kids