

VJ Day: Games for family fun in the 1940s

The traditional fun games for families in the 1940s were cards, dice, Pick-up-sticks, Noughts and Crosses, and Jacks. Many of these are still very popular today in the 2020s.

Here you will find instructions to give the games a try for yourself as we think back to life 75 years ago when World War Two ended.

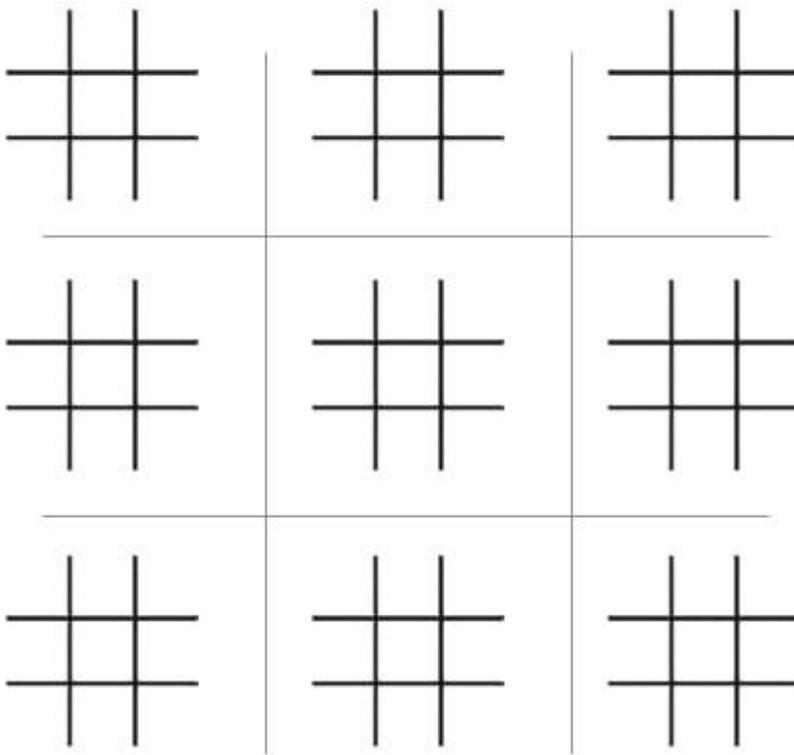
These games are good fun and help you to get better at problem-solving. Your hands, fingers and eyes will get better at working together too, so keep practising! People of all ages can have a go at them.

Noughts and Crosses

The rules are very simple.

Each **player** takes it in turn to place their Star or Ribbon into one of the empty squares in the 3 by 3 grid.

Printable noughts and crosses game



To win the game get three of your symbols in a line horizontally (--), vertically (|) or diagonally (/).

How to play Jacks



Instructions link: <https://www.wikihow.com/Play-Jacks>

Jacks is a great, easy-to-learn game that can be played indoors on a hard floor or outdoors on concrete. It can be played in groups, pairs, or solo. All you need is a small bouncy ball and a set of jacks. You'll need to know how to set up the game, learn the basic rules, and learn about some of the variations on the game.

If you don't have any jacks like these, then collect some small objects such as stones or pasta shapes to use instead. **REMEMBER: Keep the jacks and ball away from small children and pets - the small pieces could cause choking**

Dominoes



To play this game you need a special set of rectangular tiles, called dominoes that have markings on the two ends, traditionally dots in patterns (blank up to 6 dots) . The aim of the game is take turns to match your dominoes to those on the table, until you have none left. Watch this video to see how to play.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMHJhZlAbdc>

Pick-up-sticks

You could use a set of sticks from the garden or a handful of colouring pencils or long spaghetti to play this game if you don't have a "proper set" of sticks.

Follow these links to show you how to play Pick-up-sticks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InjPEuKtMkA> with scoring colours!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dxz8OyR97sw> for kids who don't want to keep a score!

The Rules for this game are quite simple: Player one begins the game by holding all of the **sticks** in their hand and then dropping them to the ground, scattering them across the floor. The player then proceeds to **pick up** the **sticks**, one by one, without moving any **sticks** other than the **stick** they are attempting to **pick up**.



Draw a Beetle game with a dice

Download the beetle sheet below and you can have your own "Draw a Beetle" game. You will need a dice and a pencil. Follow the instructions and be the first to complete your 6-legged beetle.

<https://www.storiesoflynn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/beetle-draw-4-free-gamesheet.pdf>

Cards

SNAP

How to play SNAP! Watch this video to show you how to play

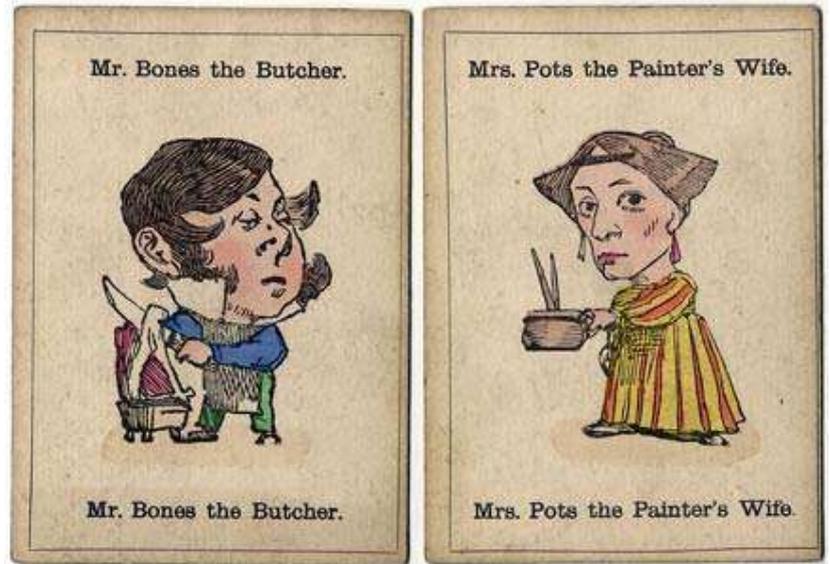
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hJ-0xfJxc4>

1. Take a pack of cards and deal them out between all the players equally.
2. Players take it in turn to turn over the top card of their pile and place it on top of the pile in the middle of the table.
3. If the cards both have the same value, the players may shout "**snap**" and cover it with their hand. The first **player** to shout "**snap**" when two cards of the same value are showing wins the round and wins those cards.
4. The winner is the person who wins all the cards in the pack.

HAPPY FAMILIES

Happy Families is a traditional British card game usually played with a specially made set of picture cards, featuring illustrations of fictional families of four, most often based on occupation types. The object of the game is to collect complete families

This game can be played with a traditional pack of cards, pretending that you need a family of cards all with the same number (one in each of the suits diamond, club, heart and spade).



The player whose turn it is asks another player for a specific card. If the asked player has the card, he gives it to the requester and the requester can then ask any player for another card. If the asked player does not have the card, it becomes his turn and he asks another player for a specific card. Play continues in this way until no families are separated among different players. The player with the most cards wins.

One of the rules states that a player cannot ask for a certain card to deceive any player if he does not have a card in the set he is asking for.