

# BUILD A BOARD GAME



After spending so much time at home, you may have already played all of the board games you own. Why not mix things up by making a new one? You can design an original board game based on almost any theme, using materials you probably already have. Examples of a board, rules, and some challenge cards are included at the end.

## Supplies

- ★ Paper
- ★ Pencils, pens, or markers
- ★ Scissors
- ★ Dice
- ★ Small objects for player tokens, such as buttons, pieces of candy, or coins

# PLAY

## Instructions

### Write the rules

- ★ Take some time to think about what kind of game you'd like to make. How many players will there be? Is there a theme? How difficult do you want the game to be?
- ★ Decide how many types of spaces there will be on the board. You will want to have at least a start space, a finish space, several challenge card spaces, and several blank spaces, but you may choose to have other types as well, such as "go again" or "lose a turn."
- ★ Write down a simple list of rules that new players can use to quickly understand how to play the game and what they need to do to win.



Challenge cards ask players to complete a simple task, such as answering a trivia question or doing a simple dare. Challenge cards should include a reward for success and, for a more difficult game, a penalty for failure. Challenge cards are a great way to adjust the theme and difficulty level of your game.

## Make the board

- ★ On your paper, draw out a board for your game. Starting with the start space, design a pathway that players must take to reach the finish space. Make sure each space is large enough to fit at least one player token. For a more challenging game, you may want to make a more complex path with extra twists, turns, and branches.
- ★ Label and decorate the spaces on the board based on the types of spaces you included in your rules list.
- ★ Cut out several smaller slips of paper to use for challenge cards. It's up to you how many challenge cards you'd like to make, but a good rule of thumb is at least two cards per challenge card space included on the board. That way, you're less likely to have repeats of challenges. The more players you'd like to include, the more challenge cards you will need.
- ★ Write out your challenges and stack the challenge cards on or near the game board.
- ★ Play with your family!

## Examples

### Rules

Reading Race is a board game for 2-4 players. The first player to reach the finish space wins. At the beginning of the game, players will roll the dice to establish a turn order. On their turn, each player will roll the dice and move forward that number of spaces. If another player is already on that space, the current player will land on the space behind them. If the player lands on a challenge card space, another player will draw the top challenge card and read it. The current player will then attempt the challenge. If they succeed, they receive the reward listed on the challenge card. If they fail, they face the penalty listed on the challenge card. Once played, challenge cards are added to the discard pile. If all challenge cards have been played, the discard pile will be shuffled. The shuffled pile becomes the new challenge card pile, and a new discard pile is created.

## Challenge cards

<p><b>CHALLENGE</b></p> <p>Name 3 books that include talking animals as characters.</p> <p>Success: Move forward 3 spaces.</p> <p>Failure: Move backward 3 spaces.</p>	<p><b>CHALLENGE</b></p> <p>Try to read the rules out loud, backwards.</p> <p>Success: Take another turn.</p> <p>Failure: The player in last place may attempt this challenge. If they succeed, they get a bonus turn. If they fail, discard this card.</p>	<p><b>CHALLENGE</b></p> <p>Name an author whose last name starts with the same letter as your last name.</p> <p>Success: Move forward 2 spaces.</p> <p>Failure: Lose your next turn.</p>
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## Game board

