

LET'S PLAY

The Art & Design Of Asian Games
5 Sep 2025 ————— 7 Jun 2026

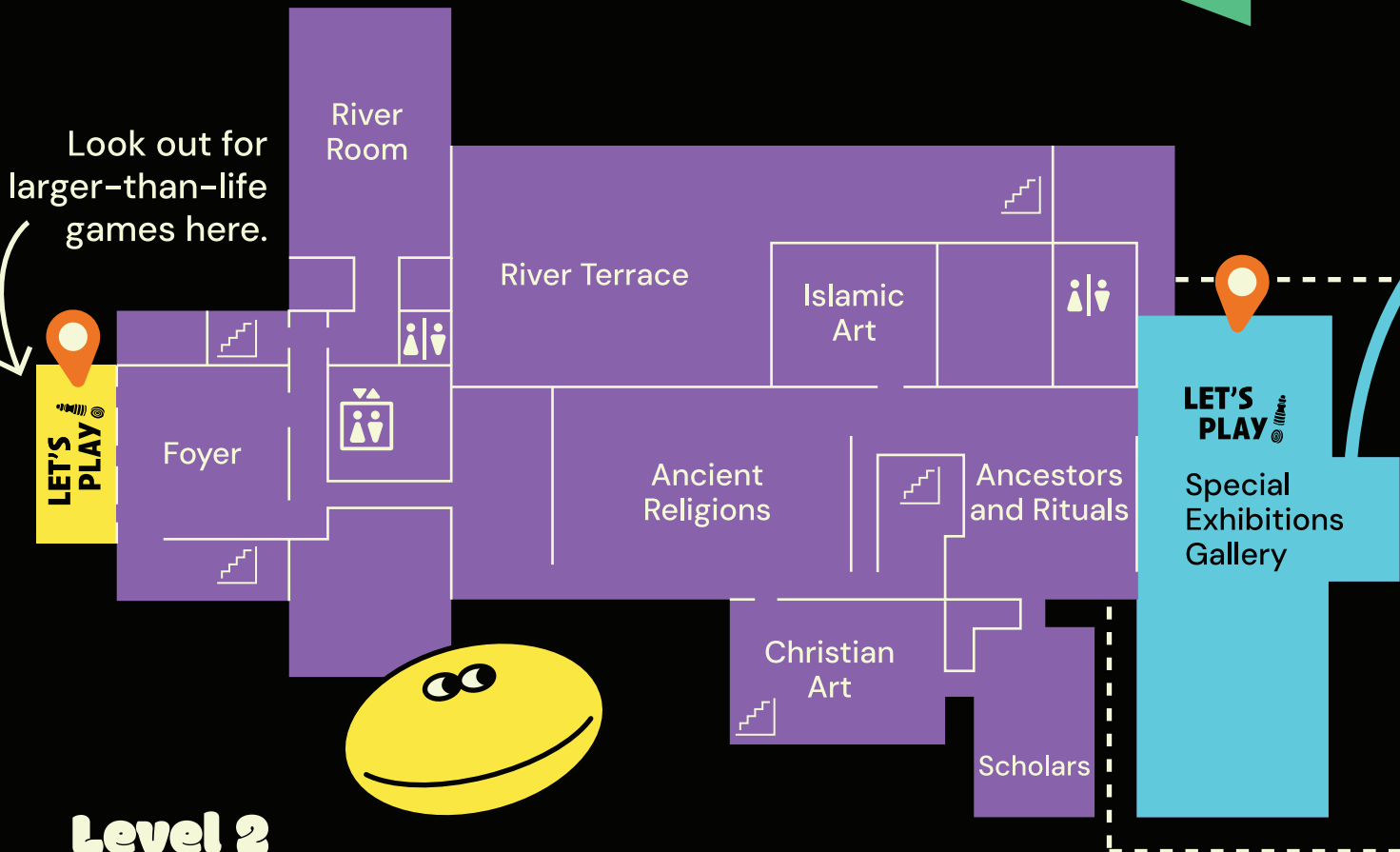
**A Playful Adventure
Activity Trail**

This activity book belongs to:



Embark on a playful adventure and discover games played across Asia.

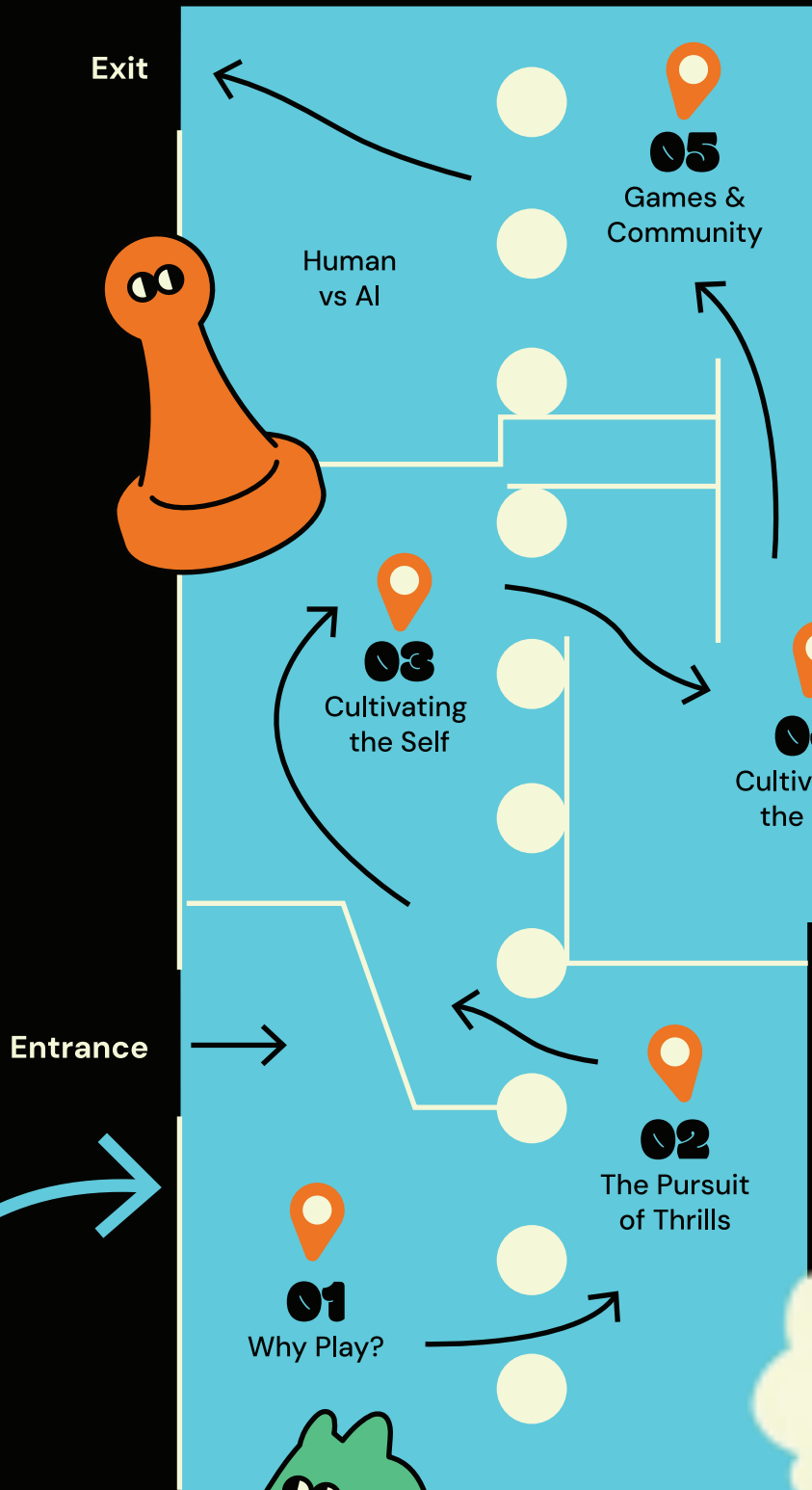
Use this map to guide you!



Special Exhibitions Gallery

See the objects featured in this booklet in the Special Exhibitions Gallery on Level 2. They are marked with a 📍 on the map.

Discover more fun activities in our *Let's Play More!* space at the foyer on Level 2.



Explore objects at the tactile stations throughout the exhibition.

Don't know where to start?

01 You like things from a long time ago

02 You love excitement

03 You enjoy careful thinking and strategy

04 You are drawn to quirky and unusual things

05 You like movement and sounds

Games & Emotions

WHY PLAY?



Take a close look at the two figurines playing the ancient board game liubo.

What do their expressions and body language tell you?

Who do you think is winning?



Did you know?

Liubo is an ancient board game from China. Its rules have been lost over time, and no one today knows exactly how it was played.

ABOUT THIS OBJECT

Seated liubo players with board and pieces

China, Han dynasty, early 3rd century
Earthenware
Asian Civilisations Museum



Think about a time you played a board game.

What emotions did you feel? Draw a face to show how you felt.



Surfaces to

THE PURSUIT
OF THRILLS

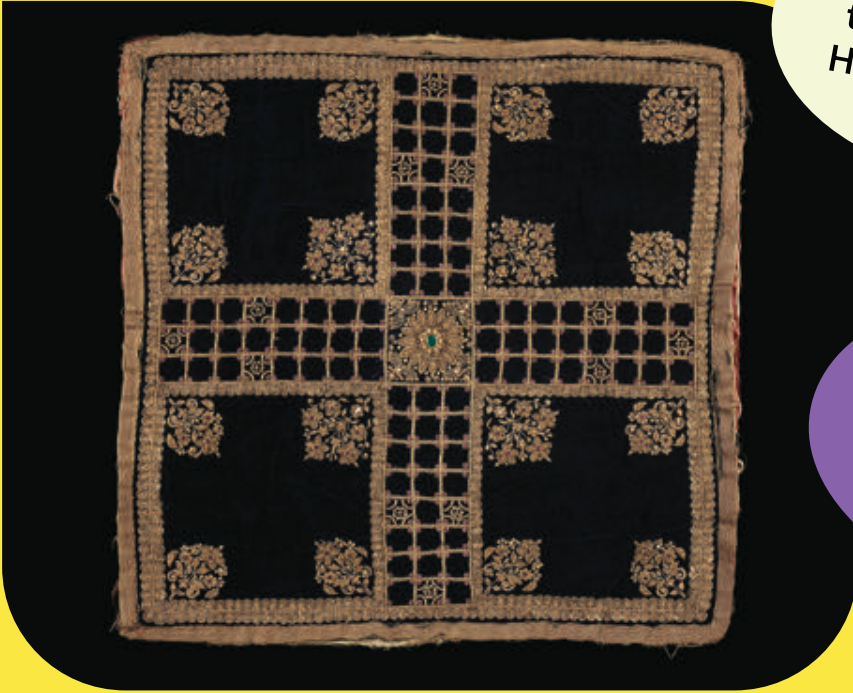


play On

ABOUT THIS OBJECT

Chaupar board

North India, probably Lucknow, 19th century
Velvet, silver-gilt thread, emerald, rubies, pearls
Asian Civilisations Museum



LOOK & THINK



Take a close look at
this chaupar board.
How is it decorated?

Did You Know?

Chaupar, also known as pachisi, is a traditional game that uses three long dice or five to seven cowrie shells to decide how many steps to move.

Game boards can be made from many different materials. This chaupar board from India is made of cloth.

As you explore the gallery,
look out for the different
materials used to make
game boards.



Circle the ones
you can spot!

*Some objects in the gallery are made from ivory. These were created a long time ago. Today, many countries have laws that ban the buying and selling of ivory to protect wildlife and prevent the killing of endangered species.

Let's play Aeroplane Chess!

Aeroplane chess (*feixing qi*) is a popular Chinese board game where pieces are shaped like aeroplanes. They can skip ahead or take short cuts, just like flying!



The game shares similarities with chaupar. It is popular around the world, including Singapore.



How to Play

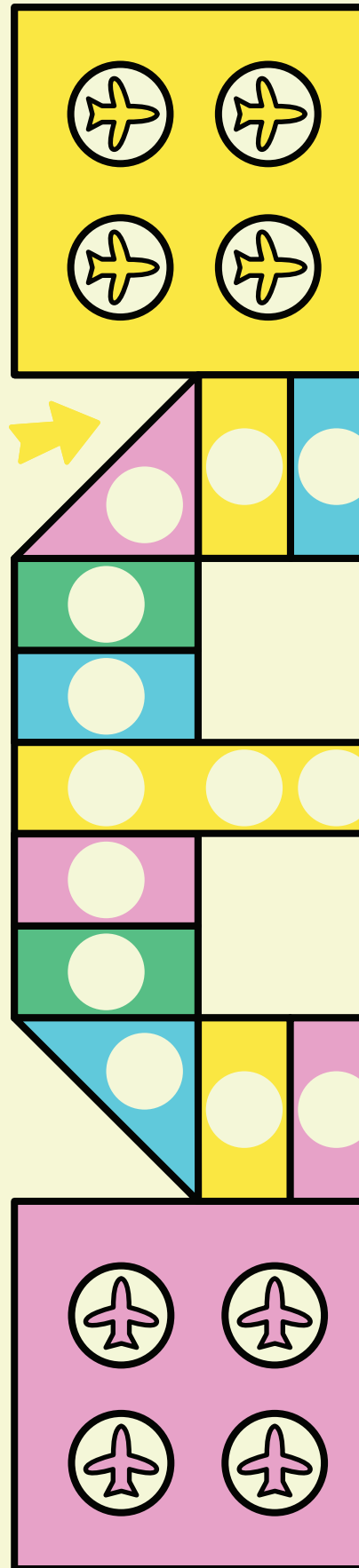
1 Roll a six to move a piece onto the starting area.

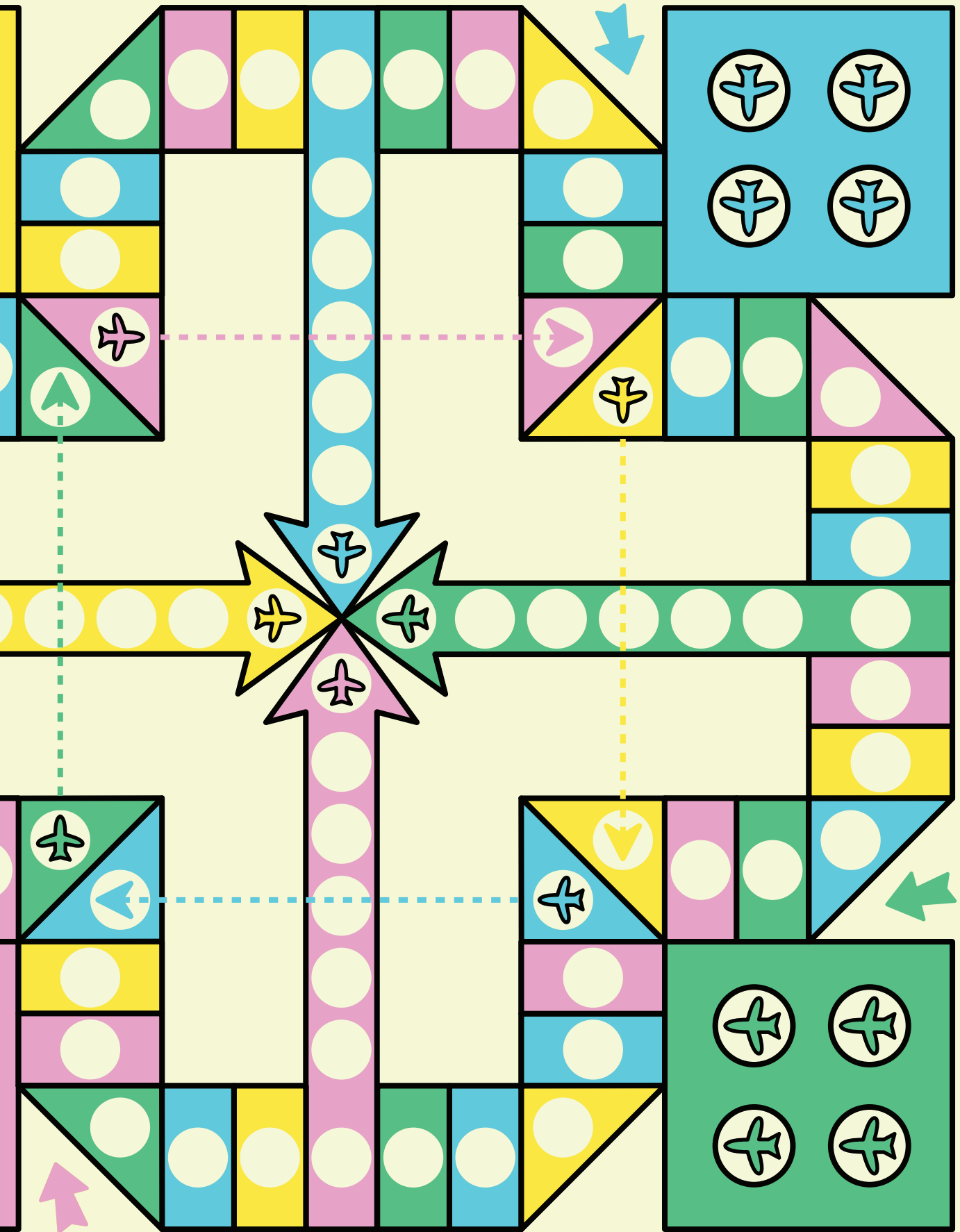
2 Take turns to roll the die and move your pieces around the board.

3 Move forward four spaces if you land on a square that matches your colour.

4 Take a shortcut if you land on a shortcut symbol in your colour.

5 The first player to move all pieces along their coloured path to the centre wins!





Better Me Through Play

CULTIVATING
THE SELF



The games in this gallery train us to think carefully before making a move. They teach patience and encourage better decision-making.

Can you find and circle the names of these games below?

W	D	R	T	N	J	D	G	U	Q
X	J	H	W	D	N	S	C	U	M
C	H	A	E	T	R	S	N	J	N
B	F	F	I	D	C	H	E	S	S
M	X	S	Q	M	Y	O	H	B	V
T	G	X	I	A	N	G	Q	I	D
Y	U	D	S	K	F	I	A	Z	C
S	H	A	T	R	A	N	J	E	N
W	G	K	T	U	W	R	G	W	D
S	D	H	F	K	E	Y	S	I	R

Keep an eye out for them as you explore the gallery!



WEIQI



CHESS



SHOGI



MAKRUK



XIANGQI



SHATRANJ

Mighty Figures

CULTIVATING
THE SELF



LOOK CLOSELY



In chess, different shaped pieces can only move in certain ways. What are the different figures that make up this chess set?



ABOUT THIS OBJECT

Chess set
India, 18th or 19th century
Ivory
Asian Civilisations Museum, 2018-00748

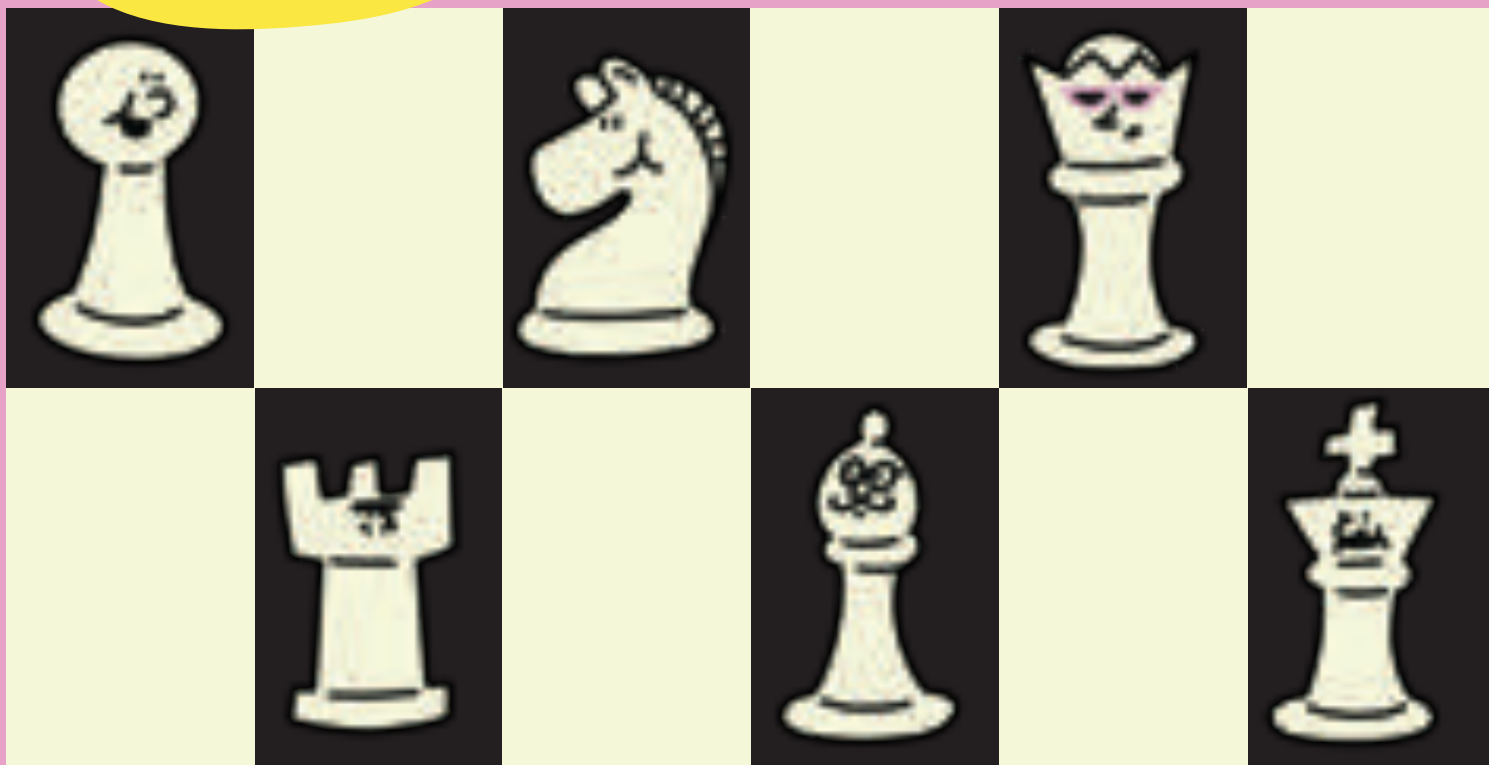
Did you Know?

The chess that we play today has origins in ancient India.

Design & Draw

Do you know the names of the different chess pieces?
Fill in the missing letters below.

Design and draw your own set of chess pieces.
Use the chess sets in this gallery for inspiration.



P _ W _

R _ _ K

K _ I G _ T

B _ S _ _ P

_ _ E _ N

K _ _ G

Sounds Fun

GAMES AND
COMMUNITY

Match & Learn

Match each game board to its game pieces below.



C _ _ G _ _ K



M _ H _ _ _ G



C _ _ R _ M

Some of the games in this gallery make interesting sounds when played. Can you guess what these games are called? Try spotting them in the gallery to find out.



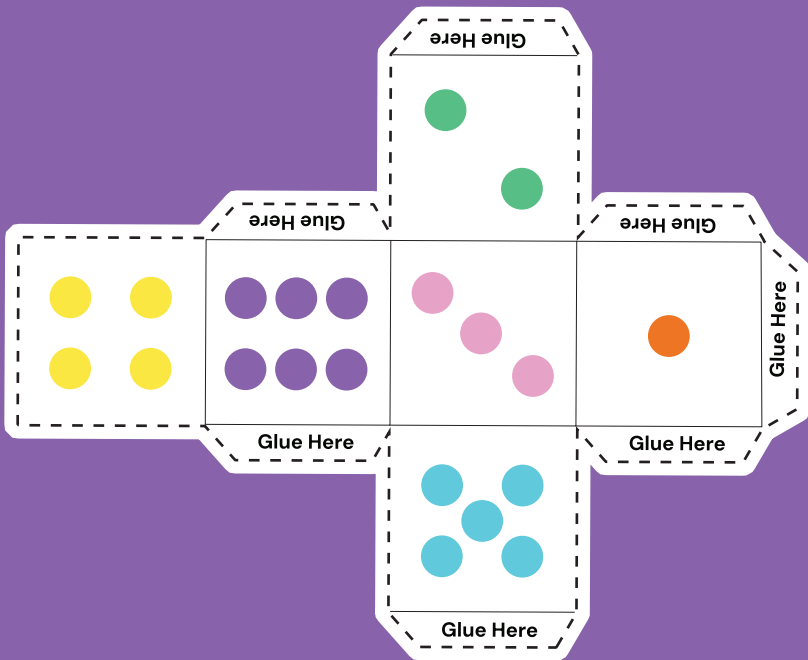
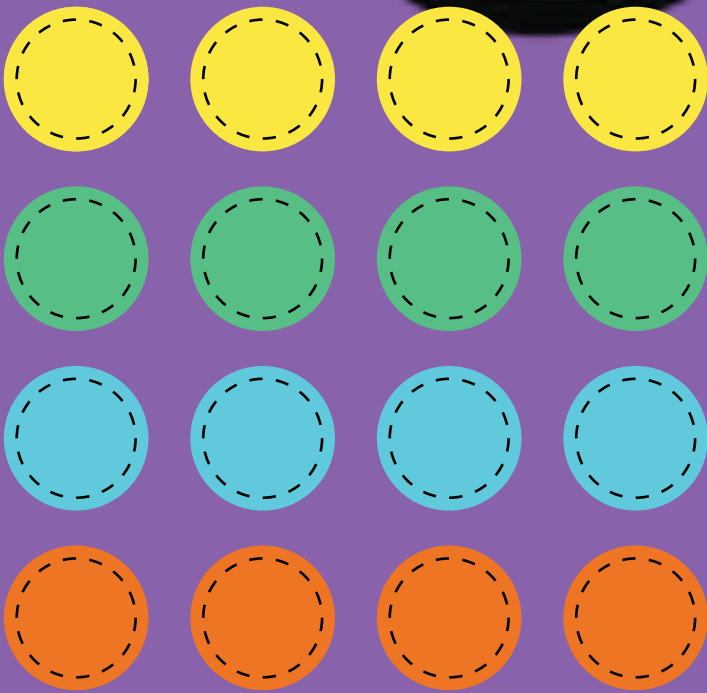
Did you Know?

The name congkak comes from the Malay and Bahasa Indonesia word for sea snails!



Game pieces & Die

Punch out the game pieces and die to start playing the board games in this book!



Long dice (*pasa*) are used for traditional Indian games like *chaupar* and *pachisi*. Unlike the six-sided dice we use today, *pasa* have only four faces. You can see examples in the The Pursuit of Thrills section of the exhibition.

Did You Know?



ABOUT THIS OBJECT

Oblong dice
India, Golconda, 18th century
Ivory
Asian Civilisations Museum, 2016-00031-004

About this exhibition

Games have long brought people together through joy, challenge, and shared imagination. Across Asia, they have taken many forms – from the quick, rhythmic play of mahjong and congkak to the contemplative strategy of go and chess – reflecting diverse values and beliefs across cultures.

Some games crossed borders and took on new meanings; others embodied artistic ideals or trained the mind. Many are works of remarkable beauty and craftsmanship. Spanning centuries and media – from ancient game pieces to artificial intelligence – this exhibition invites you to explore how play, in all its forms, is a vital and enduring part of life.

Programmes

Stay tuned for exhibition-related programmes and activities.

Connect with us on socials or visit go.gov.sg/acmpeatix or visit go.gov.sg/acmwhatson for more information on talks and programmes organised in conjunction with the exhibition.



Enjoyed this activity trail? Share your thoughts with us by scanning this QR code.

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