

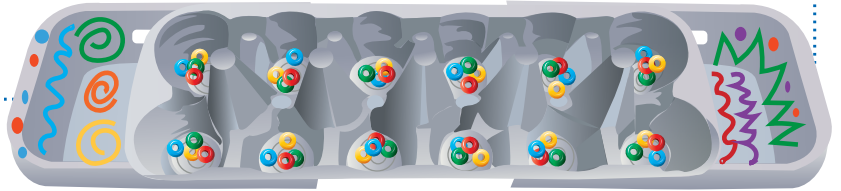


# How to Play Bao

Bao is a popular board game in Kenya and other parts of Africa. Also known as mancala, it's one of the oldest games in the world. There are many variations of bao and many different ways to play. This month's kit had steps for building your own bao board. Print these rules for a common 2-player version of the game.

## SETUP

Set the board between two players so they each have a side with six cups. Each player has a *store*, which is the large cup on the end to the right of the player. Place four beads in each of the small cups, but not in the stores. Decide who goes first.



## RULES

- 1 The first player picks up all the beads from any cup on their side of the board. Moving counterclockwise, the player drops one bead into the next cup, then the next cup, and so on until the beads run out.
- 2 When a player reaches the end of the row, they drop a bead into their store. The player then continues moving and dropping beads in the cups in the other player's row. When moving, do not deposit beads into the other player's store.
- 3 If the last bead is dropped in a cup with beads already in it, the player picks those beads up and continues dropping beads one at a time.
- 4 If the last bead drops in an empty cup on a player's own side, any beads in the opposite cup on the other player's side are captured and placed in the store. It's then the other player's turn. If a player's turn ends in an empty cup on the other player's side, no beads are captured and it's the other player's turn.
- 5 If a player's turn ends with the last bead dropping into the store, the player can pick any cup with beads on their side and start a new turn.
- 6 The game ends when all six cups on one side of the board are empty. The player who still has beads on their side gets to capture all those beads and put them in their store.

Count all the beads in each store. Whoever has the most beads wins!