

# Passport to Learning

## Morning

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## Time Plans



Travel  
UNIT

Welcome,



Pour yourself a cup of coffee, put your feet up, and take a little coffee break with me. Let's talk about Family Style Learning using simple Morning Time plans. Our family found the simplest way to homeschool was to learn as much as we could together as a family. We found the easiest way to do this was by setting time aside each morning to do our Bible, memory work, and humanities together. In our home, we called it family time; you may call it Morning Time, Circle Time, Table Time, Basket Time, or something similar.

Each morning, our family would gather at the table for breakfast and devotions. Then we would congregate on the couch and floor in our family room for our family-style lessons. I would read aloud to the kids while they drew something, built something, or created something with their hands. After discussing the book or chapter we read, we would work on memory work, read some poetry, learn a folk song or hymn, write in our journals, play a game (usually math-related), learn about an artist or composer, draw in our nature journals, discuss current or historical events, do some map work, maybe do a science experiment, and from time to time, read a little Shakespeare.

Did we cover all of these things each day? No way! After family devotions and read-aloud, we would do 2 or 3 of the things mentioned as a family before taking a break and moving on to independent work. In this resource, I have compiled for you our Morning Time Plans we did over the years. Each monthly plan suggests topics to read, discuss, memorize, learn, teach, observe, and do.

Use what you like and what appeals to your family. Skip the rest. Each month is "grab and go." Scripture, memory work, poetry, map work, and art prints are printer ready. Links are provided for geography, art, science, and music studies. All you need to do is collect picture books and chapter books to read (I share some of my favorites), print what you need, and start. For more ideas on how to use Morning Time Plans, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #130, "Simple Homeschool Solutions: Let's Get Loopy!"](#)

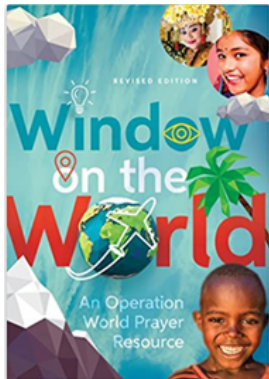
May the Lord bless your homeschooling adventures for His glory,

— Carrie —  
**DE FRANCISCO**



## Family Devotions

Start each day in prayer and worship. In this year's Morning Time Plans, you and your family will be "traveling the world." As you "travel," spend each week praying for missionaries around the world. Pray for the people and cultures around the world that do not know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Learn about different world religions and compare them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I recommend using the book, Window on the World: An Operation World Prayer Resource (WOW) by Operation World Resources and edited by Molly Wall and Jason Mandryk. From, October through May, I will suggest countries and cultures to read about from this book during your family devotional time.



## Map Work

Create a Map Work Binder for each child (or add these pages to their Memory Work Binder). Each month, print the maps to be learned and memorized. Print one blank map and one labeled map for each child. Place the blank map and labeled map back to back inside a sheet protector. Then place each sheet protector into the Map Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase Transparent Menu Covers. For younger students, print extra copies of the labeled maps to use as coloring sheets. Each day, trace with a dry-erase marker the labeled map. Once or twice a week, try to label the blank map. Once the country or continent is memorized, try drawing and labeling it from memory. Each week, pick a country to read about in Children's Atlas of God's World (CAofGW) by Froman or in The Travel Book Atlas (TB) by Lonely Planet. For example, if the monthly continent focus is South America, then pick 3-4 countries to read about that are located in South America. For more ideas on how to "travel the world" and do simple map work, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast Episode #69, "Passport to Learning."



## Read Aloud

This is the heart and soul of your family-style learning and morning time. It doesn't really matter which classics or picture books you read; the idea is to spend at least 20 minutes a day reading aloud to your children. However, it is a time (and sanity) saver to read to the entire family books that are related to the topics you are studying in history, science, art, and music. Each month, I suggest a few classics to read as well as give links for recommended picture books. Don't let my recommendations add extra stress to your planning. I often found I could go to the library at the beginning of the month with only a list of topics I wanted to cover, and I could find an abundance of picture books to check out. I personally made more work for myself trying to find the exact books recommended in teacher guides and packed curriculum. Start with the suggested books in each month's Morning Time Plans and then check out or purchase any other treasures you find along the way.

## Math Morning Time

Math and games were a consistent part of our morning time routine. While math was usually what my children did during their independent work or one-on-one with me later in the day, I did incorporate math during our morning time through picture books and/or games. Each month, recommended math picture books will be given to read aloud during your morning time. Over the years, I collected quality math picture books to include in our home library. There is an abundance of picture books that teach counting, shapes, and adding skills so I only purchased the ones my kids loved to read over and over again. Then each month, I would get from the library a ton more. New ones come out every year. Surprisingly, there are a ton of math picture books that teach higher-level math skills such as fractions, multiplication, division, probability, decimals, measurement, ratio and proportions, geometry, and even algebraic concepts. This year while "traveling the world" during Morning Time, I highly recommend using the [Count Your Way Through Country Series](#) by James Haskins. Listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #19 "Math Morning Time: Tame Those Math Tears and Fears."](#)

Check out my [Math Games PlayList](#) at my Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Help YouTube Channel. I share over a dozen simple math games you can play with a deck of cards or a pair of dice. There are games for all math levels, including algebra.



## Memory Work

Create a Memory Work Binder for each child. Each month, print the scripture memory verse, poem, song, maps, and/or passages suggested for memorization. Print one of each for each child. Place the memory work pages inside sheet protectors. Then place each sheet into the Memory Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase [Transparent Menu Covers](#). When you read, recite, or memorize verses, poems, or passages, they are easy to find and use. You can also use dry-erase markers to highlight or underline keywords. For more ideas on how to incorporate memory work into your days, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #116, Memory Work: A Podcast To Remember](#).

## Poetry

My kids did not enjoy poetry so I had to be intentional about including it. I did this by including at least one poem and one poet in our Morning Time Plans each month. Because this was not an area of interest for my children, I made sure I kept poetry time light and enjoyable. Keep it simple. Read the poem with your family and simply enjoy it. It's really that easy! If you want, ask your children to close their eyes while you are reading the poem. Then after, they can narrate what they pictured in their minds, or they can draw an illustration that goes with the poem. Ask what they liked about the poem and what they didn't like. Focus on a new vocabulary word heard in the poem. If you have time, print the poem and place it in your child's Memory Work Binder. Each day or each week, recite the poem and memorize it line by line. For fun, read the poem with different accents. With older kids, you can analyze the rhyming pattern (if there is one). Teens can look for literary devices in the poem such as personification, alliteration, similes, and onomatopoeia. If your child loves to write, then try creating a few original poems about the same topic or using the same rhyming scheme. I honestly think poetry should be read for enjoyment; it doesn't need to be over-analyzed. For more ideas on how to have fun with poetry, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #93, "Poetry Tea Time."](#)



## Nature Study

At the beginning of the year, let each child pick out a new drawing journal.

This will be his/her nature journal for the year. Each week, nature study suggestions and activities are given in the Monthly Morning Time Plans. Feel free to do some, all, or none of them. You can use the activities to supplement whatever you are already doing in science, or they can be your sole science "curriculum" for the year. In the Nature Study section of the Morning Time Plans, drawing, painting, and watercolor instructions, videos, and links are given. The primary objective of doing nature studies is to appreciate God's handiwork in creation, to improve observation skills, to inspire curiosity, and to get outside.

After spending time in nature and drawing something that piqued your child's interest, you can stop there. However, if you want to include more, give your child a verse, poem, or inspirational quote to copy next to his/her drawing. If your child is older, he/she can research the item drawn and write facts about it next to his/her drawing or they can spend time labeling the parts of their drawing. The goal is to observe and enjoy nature. For simple ways to incorporate Nature Studies in your week, listen to past Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast episode.

## Art Study

Print in color the masterpiece for the month. In our morning time plans, we scheduled two weeks for our art and artist study. If you would like to learn about the artist and his/her work once a week during the entire month, then search the internet for 2-3 other masterpieces by the artist to use. The first week, start with the masterpiece given in the Morning Time Plans. Then each of the following weeks, focus on a different masterpiece by the same artist. Use the same procedure described in the Morning Time Plans on the Art Study pages. Since we purposefully chose famous artists, it will be easy to research the artist on the internet and to find quality picture books at your local library about each artist to dig deeper into his/her life and works. I highly recommend building your own home library of artist picture books. Check out some of our favorite artist picture book series: [The Katie Books](#) by James Mayhew, [Anholt's Artists Books For Children](#) by Laurence Anholt, [Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists](#) by Mike Venezia, and [Smart About Art books](#). We also invested in many art and artist card games and board games to play during our Morning Time. It was a great way to review artists we have learned about and to introduce new artists not yet covered. For more information on how to do simple art studies, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #15: "Let's Talk Art Studies: What Are They and How To Start."](#)

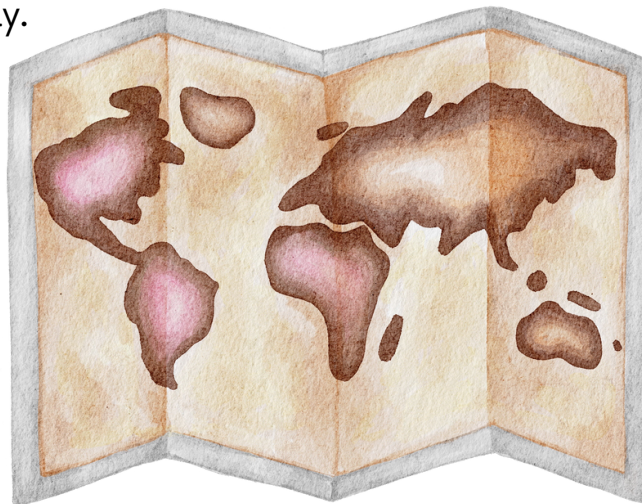
## Music Study

In this year's Morning Time Plans, I combined Composer Studies with Folk and Hymn Studies. You can learn a lot about a culture or time period by singing, listening to, and learning American folk songs and folk songs from around the world. In addition, traditional church hymns are full of biblical truths, doctrine, and bible verses. While listening to, singing, and discussing lyrics of traditional hymns, your family will be learning about God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In September and December, I include a composer study. During the remaining months, your family will learn a new folk song or hymn related to the places and cultures discussed that month.

For a composer study, create a playlist of the composer of the month. Start with the musical piece or symphony listed in the Monthly Morning Time Plan. Spend one week learning about the composer, his or her life, the musical era of his/her work, and one or two musical pieces suggested in the plans. Use your playlist throughout the month. Use it as background music when playing, drawing, cooking, eating, driving, cleaning, and resting. The idea is to infuse your family's day with beautiful music. Just listen and enjoy. Eventually, your children will begin to recognize the composer's style or the style of a particular musical era.

For a folk song or hymn study, print the folk song or hymn for each child and place it in his/her Memory Work Binder. Each morning, start with family devotions and worship by singing the hymn together. For fun, listen to and sing the suggested folk song from another country during Morning Time or throughout the day.



# March Morning Time Plans



Travel  
Asia (Part 2)

Carrie De Francisco  
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## Scripture

Pray for India, Russia, Sri Lanka, and Turkey in the WOW book. Throughout the month, read Ephesians 6. Focus on the memory verse: Ephesians 6:10-11.

## Map Work

Learn and memorize Western Asian Countries & Capitals. Older students should draw and label West Asia from memory. Read about West Asia (60-69) from CAofGW or visit [Kids World Travel](#) website.

## Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize "[The Tyger](#)" by William Blake.

## Art Study

Study the painting, "[Surprised](#)" and learn about the artist, Henri Rousseau.

## Music Study

Listen to and learn the hymn, "[Let There Be Peace on Earth](#)" written by Jill Jackson.

## Nature Study

Learn about Mangrove Forests and animals that live there.

## Math Work

Read [Mathematicians are People Too](#) by Reimer and [Rajah's Rice](#) by Barry. Read [Count Your Way Through India](#) and [Count Your Way Through Russia](#) by Jim Haskins (out of print)

## Read Aloud

Read [A Hungry Coat: A Tale From Turkey](#) by Demi, [St. Francis of Assisi](#) by Demi, [The Elephant's Friend and Other Tales from Ancient India](#), [Anklet for a Princess: A Cinderella Story from India](#) by Metha, [Festival of Colors](#) by Sehgal, Asian themed picture books and/or one of the following chapter books: [No Greater Love](#) by Mother Theresa or [Just So Stories](#) by Kipling.

## Cultural Connections

In the kitchen, make Golden Cinnamon Milk (Sri Lanka), Naan Bread (India), Baklava (Turkey), and Borcht (Russia). Then play Nerenchi, Kuka, and P'yanitsa (Russian War). Learn how to play [Chess](#), which originated in India as a battle simulator.



Artist: Henri Rousseau

1844-1910

"Surprise"

Oil on canvas



## Week One

- 1). Print in color or view it [online](#).
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the art work from memory.
- 4). Turn the painting face up again. While they are looking at it, ask them to describe it and to pick out details they didn't mention.
- 5). Discuss the painting. What is it? What do you notice? What do they like about it?

## Week Two

- 1). Learn about the French artist, Henri Rousseau.
- 2). Look at several jungle paintings created by Rousseau. Even though he never traveled to a jungle, it was his favorite thing to paint. What similarities do you notice in the jungle paintings? Which one do you like best?
- 3). Rousseau was a self-taught painter during the Post-Impressionist Era that was centered in France. Post-Impressionism was more of a period of painting rather than a style or movement. It was a time when many artists went their own way and developed their own style such as Pointillism.



# Surprise



# Cuisine Spotlight: India

Naan bread is soft and puffy, with beautiful brown blisters made in a cast iron skillet.

## Naan Bread

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 2 1/4 tsp of active dry yeast
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon oil
- some oil for greasing the skillet
- 3 tablespoons melted butter



### DIRECTIONS

1. In a small bowl, add the sugar, warm water, and yeast together. Stir to combine well. The yeast should be activated when it becomes foamy, about 10 minutes.
2. Pour the flour on to a flat surface and make a well in the middle.
3. Add the yeast mixture, yogurt, salt and oil, knead the dough until the surface becomes smooth and shiny, about 10 minutes. Cover the dough with a damp cloth and let it rise in a warm place. The dough should double in size, about 1 hour.
4. Divide the dough into 8 equal portions. Roll the dough to a 8" circle using a rolling pin.
5. Heat up a skillet over high heat and lightly grease the surface with some oil. Place the dough on the skillet. When it puffs up and bubbles and burnt spots appear, flip it over and cook the other side. Repeat with each dough round.



## Cuisine Spotlight: Sri Lanka

### Golden Cinnamon Milk

#### INGREDIENTS: Golden Spice Mix

- 3 tablespoons ground turmeric
- 1 1/2 tablespoons ground ginger (2 Tbsp for spicier)
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 to 1 1/2 teaspoons ground black pepper

#### INGREDIENTS: Golden Milk

- 2 cups of favorite plant-based milk
- 4 teaspoons maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon golden milk spice mix
- extra cinnamon to sprinkle on top.



#### DIRECTIONS

1. Add all of the spices to a jar and shake vigorously until well-mixed.
2. Add 1 tablespoon of the spice mix to a small pot, with 2 cups of milk and maple syrup. Whisk very well and turn the heat to medium-low.
3. Heat milk till it starts to form bubbles along the edges. Whisk continuously for 3-4 minutes until heated. Do not let it boil! The milk will look brown in the beginning but after it thoroughly heats through, all that turmeric will turn it a beautiful golden color.
4. Pour in mugs and serve immediately! Add sweetener if you want.



# Cuisine Spotlight: Turkey

Baklava is a super tasty dessert originating in Turkey.

## Baklava

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound (4 cups) chopped walnuts (Greek) or Pistachios (Turkey)
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 package (16 ounces, 14x9-inch sheets) of frozen phyllo dough, thawed
- 1 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup honey



### DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Coat a 13x9-in. baking dish with cooking spray. Combine nuts and cinnamon.
2. Unroll phyllo dough. Layer 2 sheets of phyllo in a prepared pan; brush with butter. Repeat with 6 more sheets of phyllo, brushing every other 1 with butter.
3. Sprinkle 1/2 cup nut mixture; drizzle with 2 tablespoons honey. Add 2 more phyllo sheets, brushing with butter. Repeat 6 more times. Top with remaining phyllo sheets, brushing every other 1 with butter.
4. Using a sharp knife, score the surface to make 24 squares. Bake until golden brown and crisp, 25-30 minutes. Cool on a wire rack 1 hour before serving.



## Cuisine Spotlight: Russia

Although borscht is important in Russian and Polish cuisines, Ukraine is frequently cited as its place of origin. Borsch (beetroot soup) is a traditional Ukrainian daily meal. In Ukraine, it is a symbol of unity.

### Crock Pot Borscht

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 3 medium beets, peeled and grated
- 2-3 Tbsp olive oil
- 8 cups chicken broth + 2 cups water
- 3 medium Yukon potatoes, peeled, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 2 carrots, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 can white cannellini beans with their juice
- 2 bay leaves
- 2-3 Tbsp white vinegar
- 1 tsp sea salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1 large garlic clove, pressed



#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Saute beets in olive oil till soft (10 minutes). Add carrots and garlic. Saute for an additional 5 minutes. Transfer to crock pot.
2. Add the rest of the ingredients.
3. Cook for 4-6 hours.



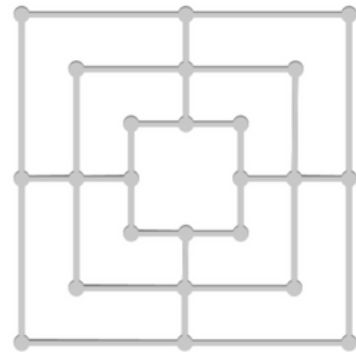
\*\*Traditional served with a dollop of sour cream on top.

# Nerenchi Game

Nerenchi is an ancient strategy game played in Sri Lanka. Like Twelve Men's Morris Game, it is an alignment and elimination game.

## You will need:

- game board (next page)
- 12 counters for each player of two different kinds (pepples, stones, buttons, beans, etc)



## DIRECTIONS:

The object of the game is to get three in a row called a Nerechi.

**First Phase of the Game:** Players alternate turns placing one of their pieces on an empty space. If a Nerechi is formed (3 in a row), the player takes another turn. When 22 pieces are on the board, this phase of the game ends.

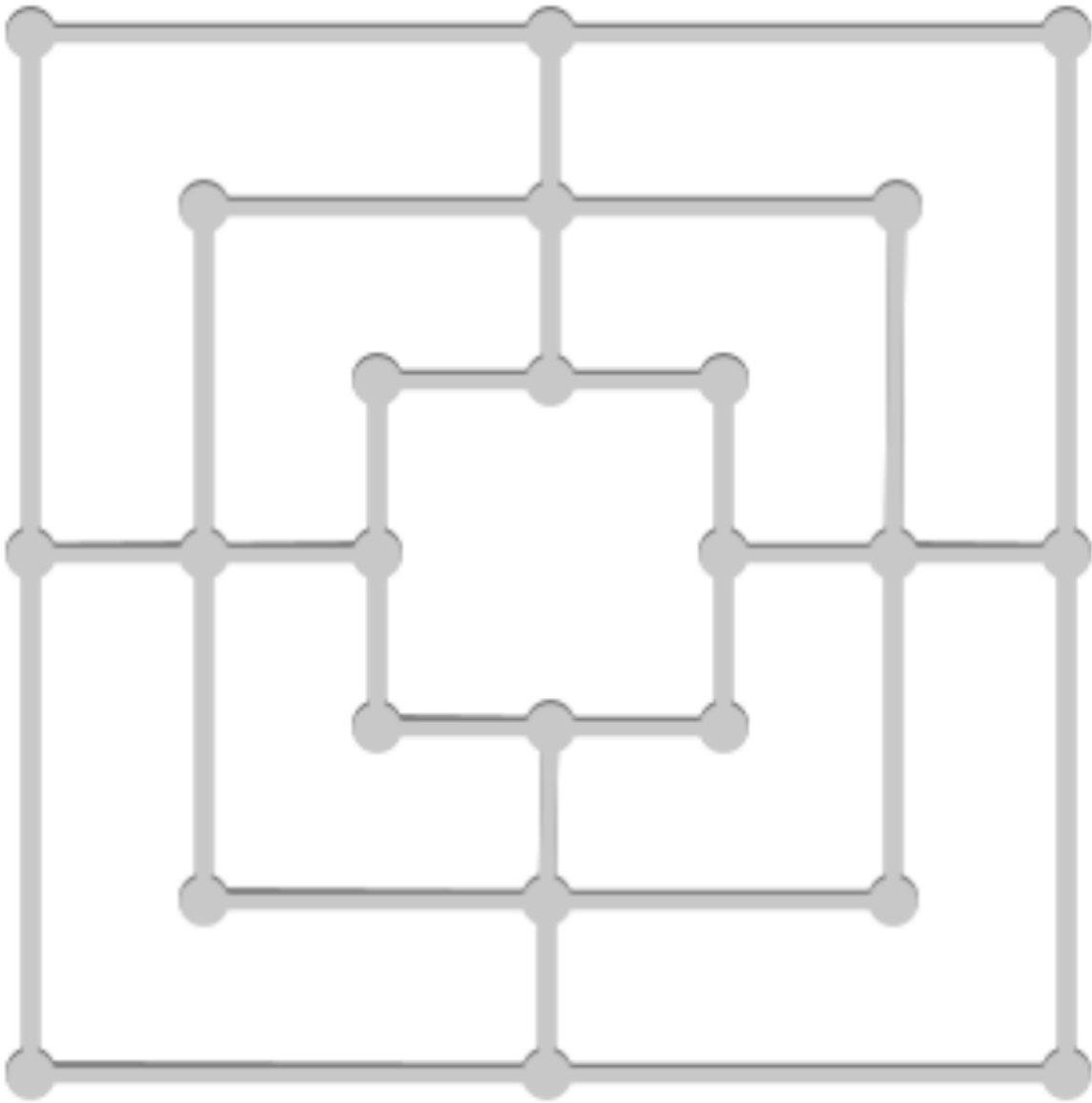
**Second Phase of the Game:** Players take turns moving a piece along a line to an empty space on the board. Pieces may not jump other pieces. When a player creates a line of three in this phase, the player removes one of the opponent's pieces and receives another turn.

The player who reduces the opponent to two (or no) pieces wins.





# Nerechi Template



## Kuka: Indian Game

Originally played with small stones, this traditional Indian game also known as 5 Stones is similar to Jacks.

### DIRECTIONS:

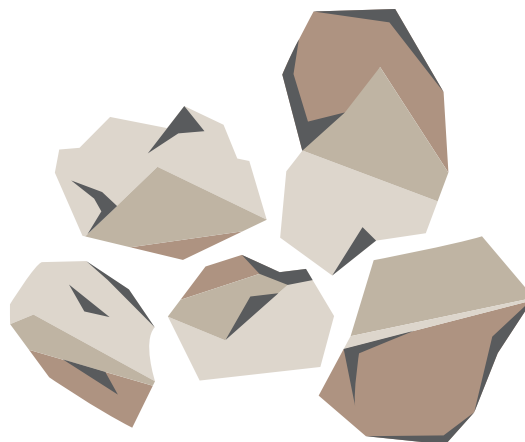
Gather 5 or 7 small stones or pebbles.

Hold all seven pieces in one hand. Drop them onto the surface, trying to spread them out so that the pieces aren't touching.

Pick one of the pieces up and toss it in the air, grabbing another piece from the surface with the same hand before catching the original piece before it falls back to the surface.

Still holding two pieces, throw one up in the air, grab another from the table, and catch the air-bound piece again. Continue until you hold all seven in your hand.

Obviously, the game gets harder the more pieces you hold in your hand. If at any time one of the pieces falls out of your hand, the air-bound piece falls back onto the surface, or any of the pieces not being grabbed are touched or moved, play passes to the next player.

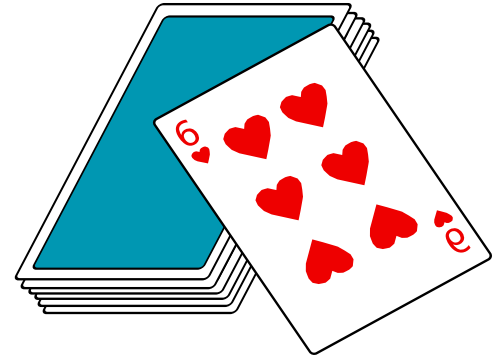


## P'yanitsa

P'yanitsa is a version of the card game War and a favorite among Russian children.

### You will need:

- deck of cards
- 2 players or 2 teams



### DIRECTIONS:

There are two variations to this game. In the first version, the player with all the cards wins, and in the second version, the player with no cards wins. Decide before playing each game which version you want to play. The game is played with 36 cards. Use the A-K-Q-J-10-9-8-7-6 of each suit. Remove the other cards from play. In P'yanitsa, aces are the highest-ranking card, with the exception that sixes beat aces.

1. Cards are shuffled and dealt face down to the two players. Cards remain face down and are placed in a pile in front of each player.
2. Each player turns up the top card from their pile and places it in the center of the table. The highest-ranking card takes the cards unless an ace and a six are played. In that case, the six wins. The person that wins the cards places the cards face down at the bottom of their pile, and these cards become part of their playing deck.
3. If a tie occurs, each player turns over another card face up on the card they just played. The high card wins that round and all the cards in the center of the table
4. The game continues until one player has all the cards and the other player has none.





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JANUARY: Mexico & Central America

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APRIL: Asia and Middle East

MAY: Australia, New Zealand & Oceania

SUMMER: Africa & Antarctica



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