



Amusing Facts About

The Mancala Game For Children

The word *mancala* is from the Arabic word "manqala," derived from the verb "naqala," which indicates "to move".



The names of some of the oldest *mancala* boards discovered in Egypt are Al-Qurna, Luxor, and Karnak.



There are more than 200 different variations of the *mancala* game played throughout Africa.



The name of the game varies according to the part of the country it is played in. In Malawi, it is called *bao*, and in some locations in the country, it goes by the names *oware*, *ayo*, *omweso*, *enkeshui*, *wari*, *kiuthi*, *mefuhva*, or *aweeet*.



The number of pieces utilized in the game has a strong symbolic meaning. Typically, 48 pieces are used, a traditionally sacred number in most West African communities.



Each place has its own set of rules governing who is permitted to participate. It is regarded as a man's game in some places and a woman's game in others.



References

1. History of *mancala*; University of Maryland
2. *Mancala*; Savannah African Art Museum