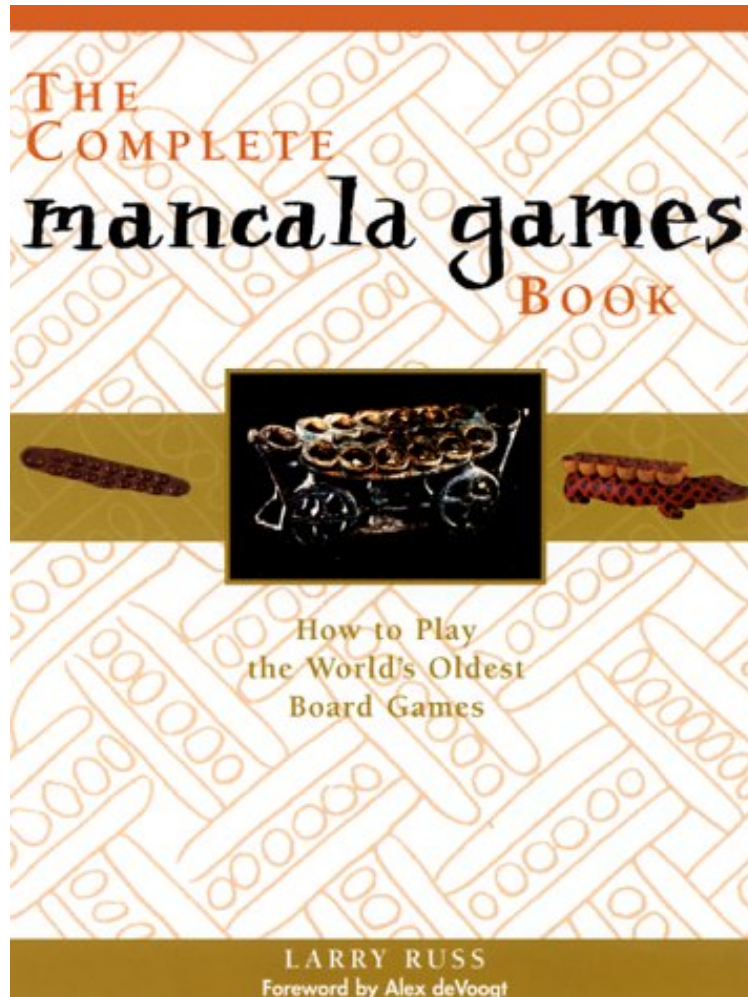


(Library ebook) The Complete Mancala Games Book: How To Play the World's Oldest Board Games

# The Complete Mancala Games Book: How To Play the World's Oldest Board Games

Larry Russ

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**Larry Russ : The Complete Mancala Games Book: How To Play the World's Oldest Board Games** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Mancala Games Book: How To Play the World's Oldest Board Games:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. thanksBy B MCIt's hard to find good instructions for this game. This book is very good, as good as can be without traveling to Africa for lessons.32 of 32 people found the following review helpful. Sowing seedsBy Lee HachadoorianA few years ago I was at a friend's game night, and one of the guests pulled out a mancala set, at the same time putting the game down as "mindless". I took issue with her characterization and went on to beat her soundly, so I guess for her the game was mindless.A couple of years later I

read about Russ' book in the excellent book *New Rules for Classic Games*. Since it was out of print, I immediately went looking for it in used book stores and on used book websites. I couldn't find it anywhere. Finally, this new edition came out. I immediately bought a copy, and I haven't been disappointed. The most interesting thing to find out is that the rules most mancala sets come with, which some people consider childishly simple and which do have a strong first move advantage, are not even found in this book. Different mancala games feature different rules for movement, capture, and objective, and most mancala sets come with a set of rules combining the simplest features from each of these categories, resulting in a shallow, boring game. *Mancala Games* goes a long way toward rectifying that. Not one game, but many different games played on similar boards (think of all the games you can play on a rectangular grid), mancala games vary from children's games to adult games of astonishing complexity. Some are better than others--you won't like every game in this book, but you'll definitely have hours of fun trying them all out before you settle on a few favorites. The author includes strategy tips for a few of the games, usually when introducing a group of games with a fundamentally different style of play, but for the most part the book is just a catalog of rules. The only reason I didn't give it five stars (and without any competing titles, I'd recommend it to game buffs in any event), is that the games could be catalogued better. Each game could have a standard heading that included the style of capture, the objective, a complexity rating, etc. Or this information could be captured in a table at the end of the book that matrixed each game with its key features. Also every game is given its own heading, so that a game's description is frequently followed by two or three other games with descriptions that read "This game is played by the So-and-so people of Such-and-such country by the rules just given for the last game." Several entries could profitably be collapsed into one entry, and a rules-and-variations approach (like that found in many games compendiums) would make it easier to see how games are related to each other. Nonetheless, the rules as they are presented are quite clear. This book is an absolute must for board game fans and families. 14 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Superb game of intellect

By Enrique Munoz Ramirez I've read the older copy, and if this is anything like the original, then every Mancala player should get it. Not too hard to learn the basics, and really easy to get into the harder stragadies. The game itself provides hours of fun. I learned this game from my Philipino friends, and eventually learned 9 different games using the same board. (I'm so good, I beat the philipino grandfathers who has been playing this game for years) The variations are endless. Give it whirl.

Mancala has been played for thousands of years. The *Complete Mancala Games Book* contains descriptions and clearly written rules for both the most popular two-row Mancala games and the rarer three- and four-row versions.

About the Author Larry Russ, Ph.D., is Dean of Undergraduate Academics at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ. Alexander J. DeVoogt, Ph.D., lives in the Netherlands.