



## Mehen – the Snake Game!



Mehen was played in Ancient Egypt over 5,000 years ago. Make your own Mehen board and play the game yourself!

You will need:

Scissors, four lolly sticks, coloured pencils

Time  
Required:  
1 hour

Suitable for  
Ages 8+

### How to make your Mehen game:

- Cut out the snake board and the counters (at the bottom of this sheet).
- On the back of each counter, draw the same symbol as on the front.
- Colour in your snake board.
- Colour in one side of each of your lolly sticks; you will use these to work out how many spaces to move on each go.



### How to use your counting sticks:

Throw the sticks into the air. When they land, count how many coloured sides are showing. This number is the number of spaces you can move. If no coloured sides are showing, you miss your go and it is your opponent's turn.



## How to use your counting sticks:

- Each player has 4 counters and a 'lion' counter which all have the same symbol on them.
- The youngest player throws the sticks first. If they throw a '1', they put a counter into the first space on the board. If they throw any other number, they miss their go.
- It is now the other player's turn. They must also throw a '1' to start. If they throw any other number, they miss their go and play returns to the first player.
- Keep going – taking turns – until all of your own counters (except the lion) are on the first square on the board.
- Once all of your own counters (except the lion) are on the board, you can start moving them around towards the snake's head. You can pick which counter to move on each go. Any number of counters can be on the same space at any time.
- When one of your counters has made it back, you can start your lion counter.



- Move your lion counter around the snake towards the head like all your other counters, but on the way back, your lion can eat up any of your opponent's counters that are in its path! To eat an opponent's counter, your lion must land on the same square. Lions cannot eat each other!

**The winner is the person whose lion has eaten the most counters!**

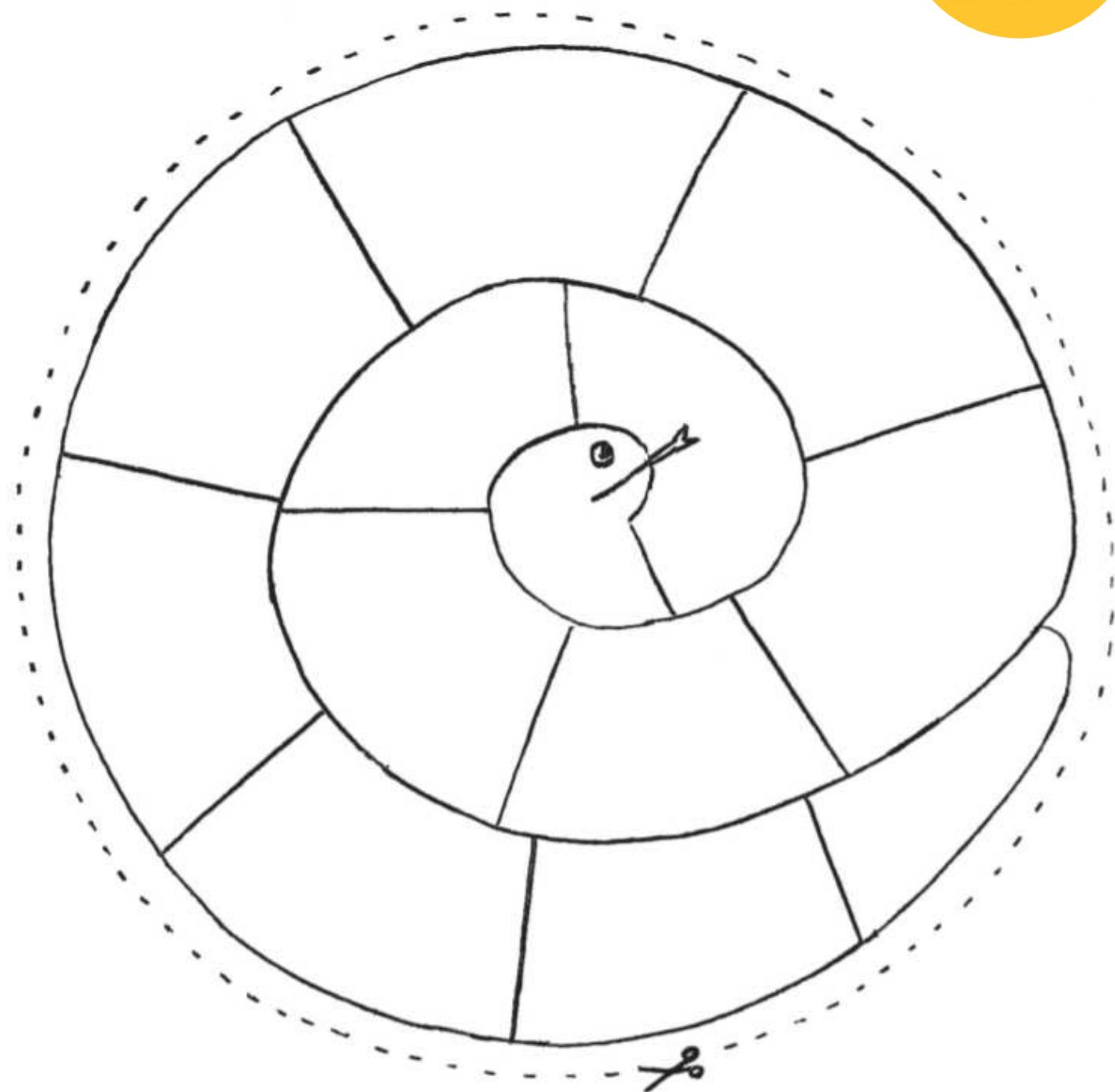
**Cut out the board and counter below:**

Counters for  
Player 1



Counters for  
Player 2





### Extra Ideas from the YAC Website:

- Ancient Egyptian Game: Senet
- Ancient Egyptian Shabtis

