



Senet Egyptian Board Game

Senet was a very popular board game in ancient Egypt and archaeologists have found lots of Senet boards and counters in tombs.

You will need:

2 players, scissors, dice

Suitable for
Ages 8+



How to play:

Ask an adult to help you cut the Senet board and counters out of this sheet

The aim of the game is to move all of your counters off of the board before the other player

Time
Required:
1 hour

Put the counters in the starting position. One player puts their counters on the odd-numbered squares from 1 to 13. The other player puts their counters on the even number squares from 2 to 14.

Square 15 is the “House of Rebirth” – the starting square – and you must start each new counter from here.



Pick a player to start and roll the dice. You can pick any of your counters to begin with but you must start on the “House of Rebirth” square. Move your counter forward the number you rolled.



Take turns to throw the dice and move. You don't have to move the same counter each time. If you land on a square where the other player is, take their counter and put it on the “House of Rebirth” square.

Keep going until you have moved all of your counters off the board by landing on the final square – number 30.

If you land on a special square follow the instructions below:



15 “The House of Rebirth”- the starting square. Return to here when landing on the “House of Water”.



26 “The House of Happiness” – finish your move here, even if you throw enough to pass it.



27 “The House of Water” – if you land here you must go back to “The House of Rebirth”.



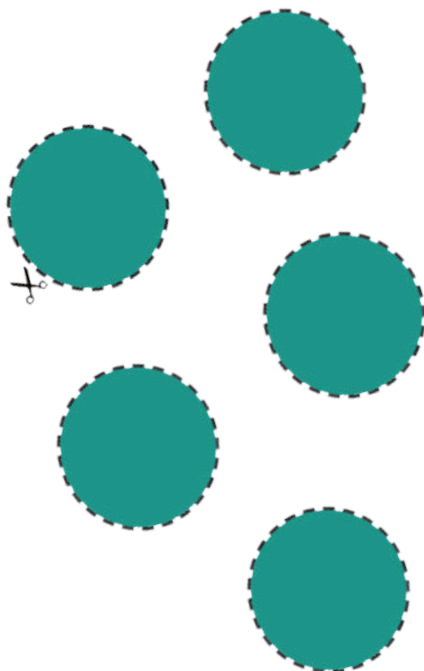
28 “The House of Three Truths” – if you are on this square you can only leave the board if you throw a 3.



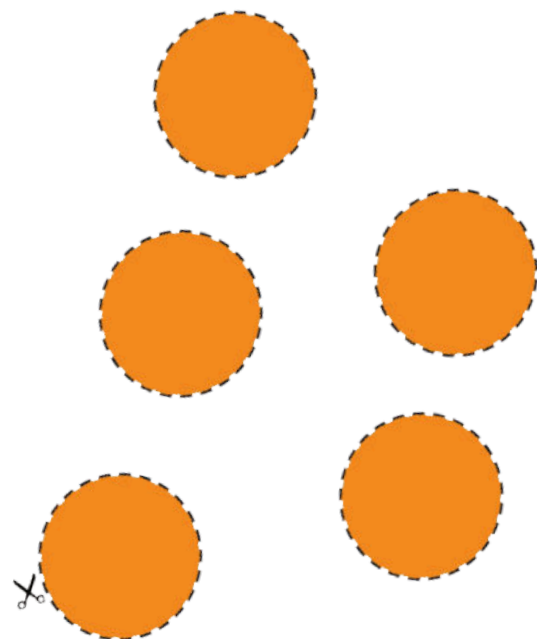
29 “The House of Re-Atoum” – if you are on this square you can only leave the board if you throw a 2.



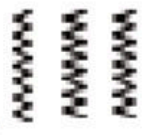



Cut out the board and counter below:

Player 1's counters



Player 2's counters



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	19	18	17	16	15 	14	13	12	11
21	22	23	24	25	26 	27 	28 	29 	30 





Extra Ideas:

- Ancient Egyptian Game: Mehen
- Ancient Egyptian Shabtis



We do not know what the exact rules of Senet were because they weren't written down. Why not see if you can think up your own version of the game too?

