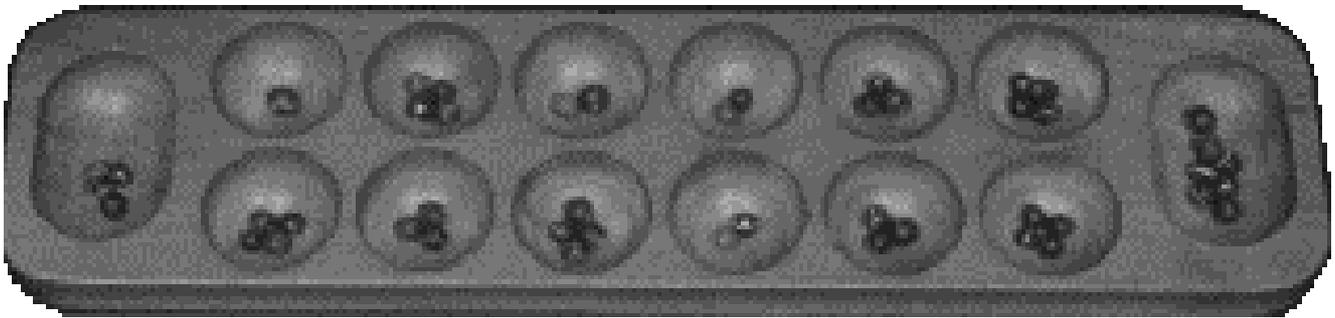


Oware

Oware is a type of game that is played all across Africa. It is from the Mancala class of games, which are played with beads on normally wooden boards with rows of cups. This variant is the one played in the market places in Lome, Ghana, and other parts of West Africa. It is rumoured that it was to be played by kings to prove their strategic skills on accession to the throne in Ghana.

Draw a board on paper, get some counters and start playing !



Rules

The board consists of twelve cups or compartments, 6 on each player's side, and a reservoir at either end to hold captured pieces. Before starting the game, the 12 compartments must each hold 4 counters. These could be dried peas or beans of convenient size. The first player removes all of the beans from one of the cups on their side and places them anti-clockwise, one-by-one, into the next 4 cups. An emptied cup is always skipped over and left empty until the next turn.

The aim of the game is to capture pieces in the opponent's cups. Captures can be made when the last bean sown falls into a cup on the opponents side that already holds one or two pieces. The captured pieces are placed in the reservoir to the right of the player in turn. The game ends when all the cups on one player's side are empty and it is their turn. The player who holds the most pieces at the end is the winner.

Check out this site for lots of information and links:
<http://www.wizzy.com/owari/>