

DARA

Gr.1-3 *GCO E*: Students will demonstrate spatial sense and apply geometric concepts, properties, and relationships. *GCO C*. Students will explore, recognize, represent, and apply patterns and relationships, both informally and formally.

This game from Nigeria requires two players or teams.

Materials

In Nigeria this game is played with stones or sticks in the ground.

- 2 kinds of counters, 12 for each player
- gameboard

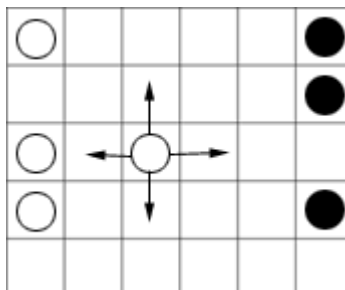
To Make the Game Board:

1. Using a pencil and a ruler, draw a 5-inch by 6-inch rectangle on the construction paper or cardboard.
2. Divide the rectangle into a grid of 5 rows and 6 columns. Each of the 30 squares will measure one inch.

To Play the Game:

In Nigeria, Dara games last far into the night, as long as the moon shines brightly. Players try to "eat" their enemy, just as a lion eats its prey.

1. Each player or team takes turns putting a counter on the squares of the board until all 24 counters are on the board.
2. Each player takes a turn moving a counter into an adjacent empty square. Counters may be moved up, down, or sideways, but not diagonally.



3. When a player gets three counters in a row, they get to remove one of their opponent's counters. This is known as "eating" the enemy.

Special Rules:

1. Players may not have more than three counters in a row at any time.
2. A row made when placing the counters on the board in Step One does not count.
3. Only one counter at a time may be removed from an opponent, even if more than one row is formed by a move.

Winning the Game:

Good Dara players in Africa are highly regarded. Champions travel from village to village, challenging the local players. Secrets for playing the game are passed from generation to generation.

- The game is won when your opponent can no longer make a row.

After:

Ask students to reflect and share the strategies they found helpful as they played the game. Were there any patterns that they observed that were helpful in choosing their moves? Did this game remind them of any other games that they have played?