

KTL Board Game Collection

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In addition to books, DVDs, magazines, music, and other more traditional library materials, the Kirkland Town Library has a collection of board games that patrons can borrow for a week. The collection contains some games you may be curious about but would like to try before making the financial investment. They are also great fun to try when guests come to visit or to bring with you on a weekend trip. Here are just some of the games you can borrow from the KTL.

I never learned to play **chess** but after watching “The Queen’s Gambit,” I am intrigued. At the KTL, you can borrow a chess set along with a step-by-step guide that teaches you how to play. Although the book is marketed for kids, it very clearly explains the basics of beginning, middle, and end game, and offers offensive and defensive strategies.

Chunky Monkey Business is a fast-paced word game for 3-8 players ages 10 and up. One player reads a card while others try to decide what word fills in the blank. For example, if you were given the phrase “dude ____ dressing,” what word would fit in the middle? If you guessed “ranch,” get yourself some cowboy boots and a salad because you’re the winner.

One of our boxes includes three fun and fast-paced card games: **Blink**, **Quiddler**, and **Taco vs Burrito**. In Blink, two players race to find a card that matches the shape, count, or color on their cards to either one of two discard piles. Quiddler is almost like Scrabble but uses cards. You can play it alone or with up to seven friends. Taco vs Burrito was created by a kid so you already know it’s easy-to-learn, moves quickly, and is tons of fun.

Telestrations is similar to a homemade game we used to play as a family but we called it “Pictionary Telephone.” That’s actually a pretty good way to describe it: it combines drawing with passing along messages from player to player. One player writes a sentence and then passes their notepad around the circle to another player who draws an illustration. Then, that drawing gets passed onto the next player who has to write a sentence that describes the picture. In the end, you compare the original sentence to the final version and, just like the game Telephone, everyone is laughing.

Codenames is a party game for small or large crowds of people ages 10 and up. In the game, two spymasters know the secret identities of 25 different agents but their teammates only know their codenames. To win, your team must contact all of your agents before the other team does. Meanwhile, you have to watch out for the assassin!

Five Crowns is one of my favorite card games and it comes in a set along with **Exploding Kittens** and **Mille Bornes**. Five Crowns is just like rummy but with more cards and more points to win (or lose). Don’t let the name of Exploding Kittens scare you off. In this card game, try not to draw an Exploding Kitten; if you do, you lose. Mille Bournes is a card game based on the premise of a road race. The winning player reaches the target distance first while avoiding hazards along the route.

The Amazing Labyrinth is a strategic game for 2-4 players ages 7 and up. Players must make their way through a maze to the treasure. Other players can move pieces of the route, adding walls and blocking passages, making the journey more difficult. One great thing about this game is that it takes about 20-30 minutes for two players to finish, the perfect amount of time.

Catan is a popular board game but if you're not ready to invest more than \$50, borrow it from the KTL and give it a try first. The hexagonal game tiles fit together to form a fictional island that players must develop with resources, developing settlements, and eventually achieving victory.

We have two versions of **Ticket to Ride**: the adult version for ages 8 and up and a junior version for kids. Both are a cross-country train adventure in which players collect and play matching train cards to claim railway routes connecting cities throughout North America. The rules are easy to learn and the art on the cards and game board is amazing.

Stop by the KTL to see the rest of the game collection. You can borrow one for a week and then bring it back and try another. Have fun!