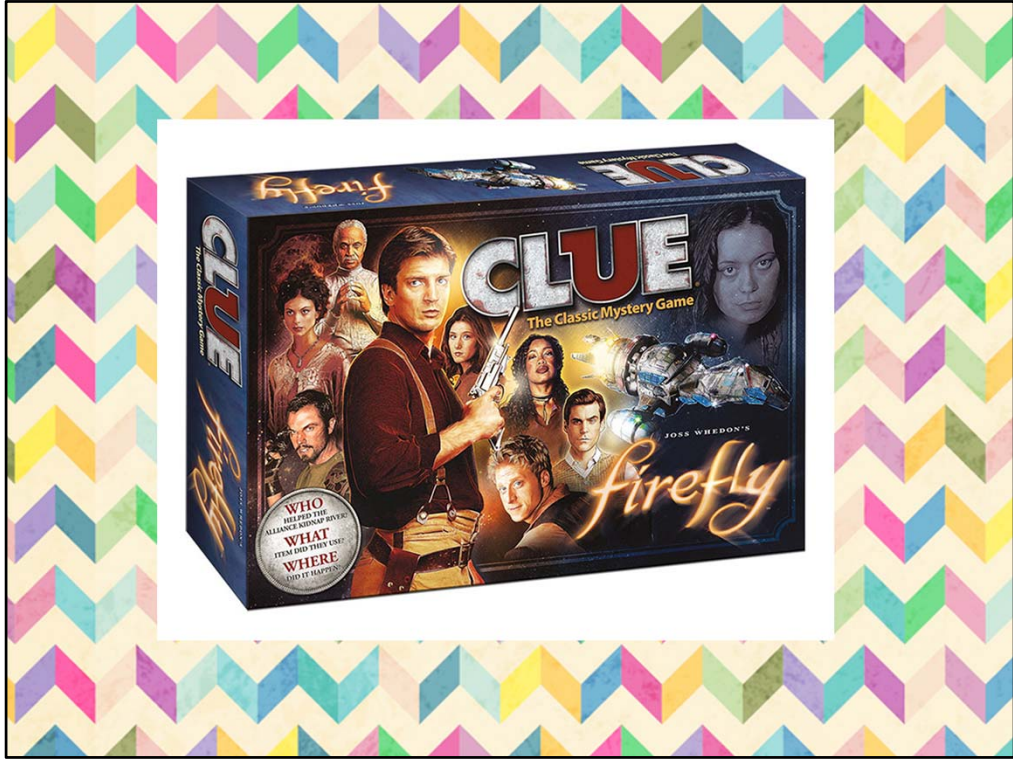






Board gaming has evolved. No longer is “Risk and Monopoly” synonymous with board gaming. And thank goodness for that. Board gaming has become cool or at least geek chic. Though there are cool versions of Risk now like this version with a Doctor Who theme.



Or this new awesome version of Clue with a Firefly twist.



The Board Gaming industry right now is super hot. People in 2013 spent 700 million dollars on the hobby market (this includes board games, trading card games, and other games). And in 2014 that number had reached 880 million dollars.

BBC News is writing articles about the resurgence of board games among teens and 20 year olds. There's blogs, podcasts, Youtube channels, and conventions all dedicated to the craft of board gaming. If you want to build a viable collection for you community immersing yourself in these resources will aid you.

Sources: <http://www.icv2.com/articles/news/28119.html>

<http://venturebeat.com/2014/08/18/north-american-hobby-game-market-hits-an-estimated-700m/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-21615083>

<http://icv2.com/articles/markets/view/32102/hobby-games-market-climbs-880-million>

February Voya 2016

MARY OSTRAND

# Tabletop Co-op

Partnerships for Tabletop Game Programs

Moving little plastic pieces around a board and rolling dice might conjure up bad memories of a seemingly unending game of Monopoly. Within the last twenty years, however, tabletop games have developed into something modern and different from the classic roll-and-move games of the past. ↪

An article in the British daily newspaper, the Guardian, described the recent trend as "The Golden Age of Boardgames" (Druffy), and the Green Bay Packers revealed that when the linemen are out on the football field, they can be found playing Settlers of Catan (Crank). In metropolitan areas, more and more "tabletop cafes" are opening and reaping the economic benefits of targeting niche audiences of boardgamers. Tabletop games offer librarians a chance to develop partnerships in the local community, bring a popular hobby into their library, and bring teens into the fold.

Tabletop game programs in libraries only need two things to work: space and people. Games cost money, however, and gaming audiences are not guaranteed to come to libraries. Public libraries are using partnerships to acquire games and draw new audiences into programs. Through partnerships with local game stores, game groups, tabletop conventions, and academic groups, public libraries are acquiring games and finding new places to promote tabletop gaming programs. These programs are creating communities of practice in libraries in which young board gamers are engaging in connected learning.

Based on interviews with potential partners, observations of tabletop programs, and my experience running tabletop programs in public libraries in and around Madison, Wisconsin, I have concluded that tabletop gaming works well in libraries. Here are ways that partnerships can help make tabletop gaming a successful program.

#### BENEFITS OF TABLETOP GAMING

It may feel daunting to start a tabletop gaming program. There is a steep learning curve that comes with the hobby, but the return is worth the investment. Two of the key benefits of tabletop gaming

programs are 1) the development of social connections and communities of practice, and 2) connected learning opportunities. Tabletop games offer many opportunities to be collaborative and to develop skills. I interviewed James, from Madison's local game store, who has helped at library board game events. He reflected on his experience of using board games to promote interactions: "The board game is an ice breaker, the library is a good neutral ground—it was a good social hub starter." As far as indicators, tabletop games can be an effective way to get young adult patrons interact through a common interest and to develop a learning community. Communities of practice exist when "newcomers start the periphery but gradually occupy a central role as they become 'old-timers' (Lave and Wenger). Communities of practice are also an opportunity for intergenerational teaching. Teens are constantly taught less by adults, but games give teens a chance to teach people older than them a thing or two. Many tabletop games are easy to learn and can have a passionate following of a fan. If a teen is an avid player of Magic: T

for the teen to teach the game to adults and turn them into players and followers. Tabletop gaming can quickly become a community of practice because the activity is easy to enter. A second grader may love the game Hey, That's My Fish but not lack people with whom to play. In a tabletop gaming program, if a second grader could be teaching the game to people twenty or more years older than him/her—and they can all have a good time.

Tabletop games can also provide a different way to promote materials. At some of the neighborhood libraries of the Madison Public Library System there are large Pokémon trading-card game programs. "Participating teens bring their friends, as this results in more use of library materials and awareness



February Voya 2016



And it is becoming a hobby that is funded by the people for the people. Last year a game on game on Kickstarter called Exploding Kittens raised 9 million dollars from fans making it one of the most funded Kickstarter campaigns in Kickstarter history.

BBC News is writing articles about the resurgence of board games among teens and 20 year olds. There's blogs, podcasts, Youtube channels, and conventions all dedicated to the craft of board gaming. If you want to build a viable collection for you community immersing yourself in these resources will aid you.

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<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-21615083>


<http://icv2.com/articles/markets/view/32102/hobby-games-market-climbs-880-million>

<http://www.delawareonline.com/story/money/small-business/2016/01/10/delaware-man-takes-chance-board-game-boom/78598922/>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/downers-grove/news/ct-dgr-fair-game-store-tl-0114-20160111-story.html>



copy powers  
Regain

Play this card as a copy of another Hero you played this turn. This card is both  and the color you copy.

5

TM & © 2012 Marvel & Fox. © 2012 DCI, Inc.

So why should you include board gaming into your programming?

- It promotes reading
- It promotes comprehensive skills
- It promotes team building
- It promotes cognitive learning

So why board games? Why should you be promoting them in your library. No matter what age your intended audience is adults, teens, or kids: board gaming is actively promoting your brain to grow, think, and explore the world.

**Board Game Collection**

Timestamp	Board Game	Genre of Game	Description of Board Game
10/1/2013 7:50:20	Star Wars: X-Wing Miniatures	Strategy	Star Wars: X-Wing Miniatures Game is a tactical ship-to-ship combat control of powerful Rebel X-wings and nimble Imperial TIE fighters. In fast-paced space combat. Featuring stunningly detailed and painted miniatures, the game recreates exciting Star Wars space combat throughout its seven-year crew, plan your maneuvers, and complete your mission! Whatever X-Wing facilitates fast and visceral gameplay that puts you in the cockpit. Each ship type has its own unique piloting dial, which is used to select each turn. After planning maneuvers, each ship's dial is revealed and skilled pilot). So whether you rush heading toward your enemy show fire, or dance away from him as you attempt to acquire a targeting lock throughout all the tense dogfighting action.
10/1/2014 11:06:47	Steam Park	Strategy	As owners of a fantastic steam park, you're to build gigantic, coal-powered amusement parks and make it the largest and most profitable in the neighborhood. Whatever decision you take, take it quickly! The less time you'll have to maintain your park. Thanks to a clever, original action-card system, Steam Park is as much a matter of being the best as of being the first. Plan, build, and develop a small town into a major metropolis. Use the residential, commercial, civic, and industrial areas, as well as special benefits and take advantage of the resources of nearby towns. Your end and end up with a greater population than any of your opponents. Sub each player tries to build up an economic engine and infrastructure that and eventually, become both profitable and encourage population growth. modify both your income and your reputation. As your income increases to purchase better and more valuable buildings, such as an interactive building. As your reputation increases, you'll gain more and more popularity of the game is the player with the largest population). During each game, unique goals that offer an additional population boost – and the build so you'll never play the same game twice!
1/31/2014 9:38:54	Suburbia	Tile Placing	In Tales of the Arabian Nights, you are the hero or heroine in a story those told by Scheherazade to her spellbound sultan! You will travel and fortune. You will learn stories and gain wisdom to share with others – what is your destiny? The next Tale is yours to tell! There is, of course, a winner in Tales of the Arabian Nights, but the point of the game is less to see who wins and more to enjoy the unfolding and telling of a great story! In this new edition of the groundbreaking storytelling game, you enter the lands of the Arabian Nights alongside Sindbad, Al Baba, and the other legendary heroes of the tales. Travel the world encountering imprisoned princesses, powerful efreets, evil viziers, and such marvels as the Magnetic Mountain and the fabled Elephant's Graveyard. Choose your actions carefully and the skills you possess will reward you: become beloved, wealthy, mighty – even become sultan of a great land.

**DC Comics Deck Building Game**

**010.** → **Specific Genre** – (000's = Card Games) 010 = Deck Building

**DCC** → **Name of Board Game** – First three letters of title. (If multiple titles have the same first three letters. Organizations can defer to year of publication.)

**2014** → **Year of publication** – If multiple expansions of a game have been released in a year a decimal point may be added to indicate an expansion.

*DC Comics Deck Building Game: Crisis Expansion*

**010.**

**DCC**

**2014.2** ←

*The Stars are Right*

**021.**

**Stx** → **Ignore prepositions such as The, And, and A** when writing down the first three letters of the game.

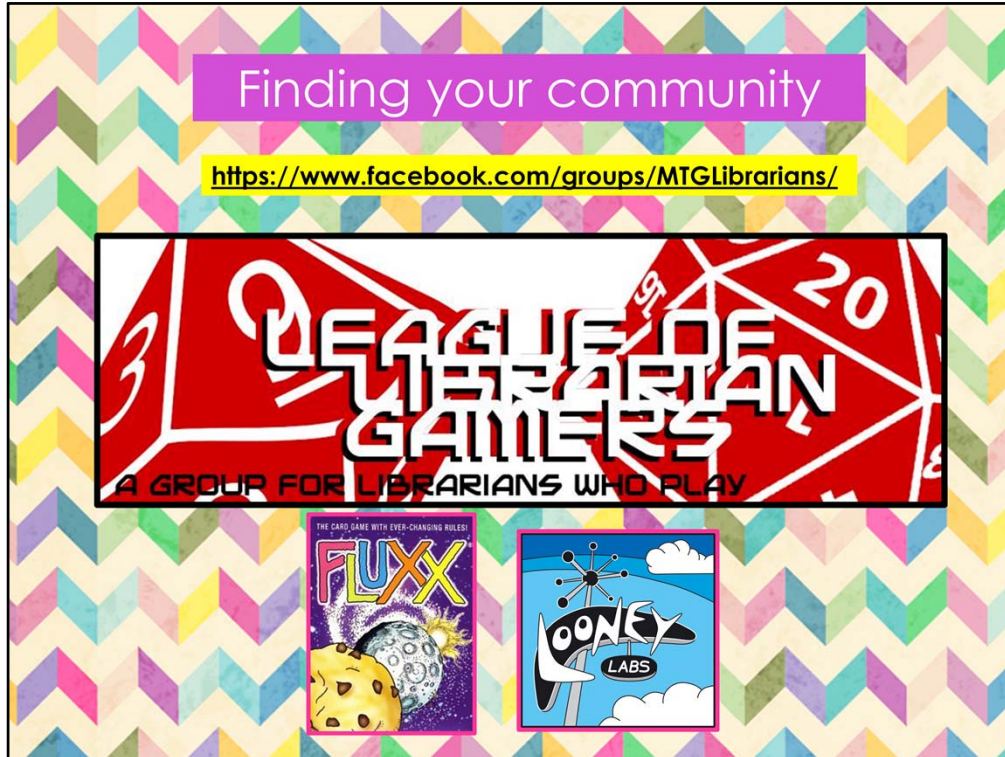
**2008**

**Card Games – 000's** (The game is played with cards and cards are the primary focal point of the game. There is no dice, tokens, or other physical mechanic used to progress the game besides the playing and using of cards. Gameplay and winning is dependent on cards not personal systems. No boards or mats are used that change or progress play. If boards or mats are used it is for aesthetic purposes and does not change game play.)

- **Deck Building – 010** (Each player starts with a certain pre-determined number of cards. Turns consist of asking or playing cards to grow the player's deck. Deck Builders can include mats or boards. However, the game could be played without a mat and still make sense. The board has no physical purpose in advancing the game and is purely aesthetic.)
  - o *DC Comics Deck Building Game: 010.DCC.2012*
  - o *DC Comics Deck Building Game: Heroes Unite: 010.DCC.2014*
  - o *DC Comics Deck Building Game: Crisis Expansion: 010.DCC.2014.2*

Why do I know so much. Why should you listen to anything crazy I have to say. Because I have a huge problem, an addiction to board gaming. This is my current collection. I have a over 250 board games. I have had to devote an entire room in my house to shelves just for the board games. I have cataloged it into spreadsheets and have even started my own board game classification system because it was becoming too much.





You're here today because either you have a board game programming at your library and want to expand upon your selection or because you are hopeful to start a new program at your library. Regardless I want to share some resources that might aid you.

First you need to find your community wither that's online or a physical location. The League of Librarian Gamers is a great facebook group open to all. It has librarian gamers from across the country. They post about their programs, questions they have about board games, and suggestions for getting donations to your library. It was through them that I first thought about trying my hand at getting board game donations. I wrote to a few board game companies and I did get lucky with one donation from Loony Labs. They donated many card games including Fluxx, a family friendly card game, to the library.

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MTGLibrarians/>**



If you are lucky enough to live in a city or near a big city, I would suggest patronizing your local comic book or board game store.

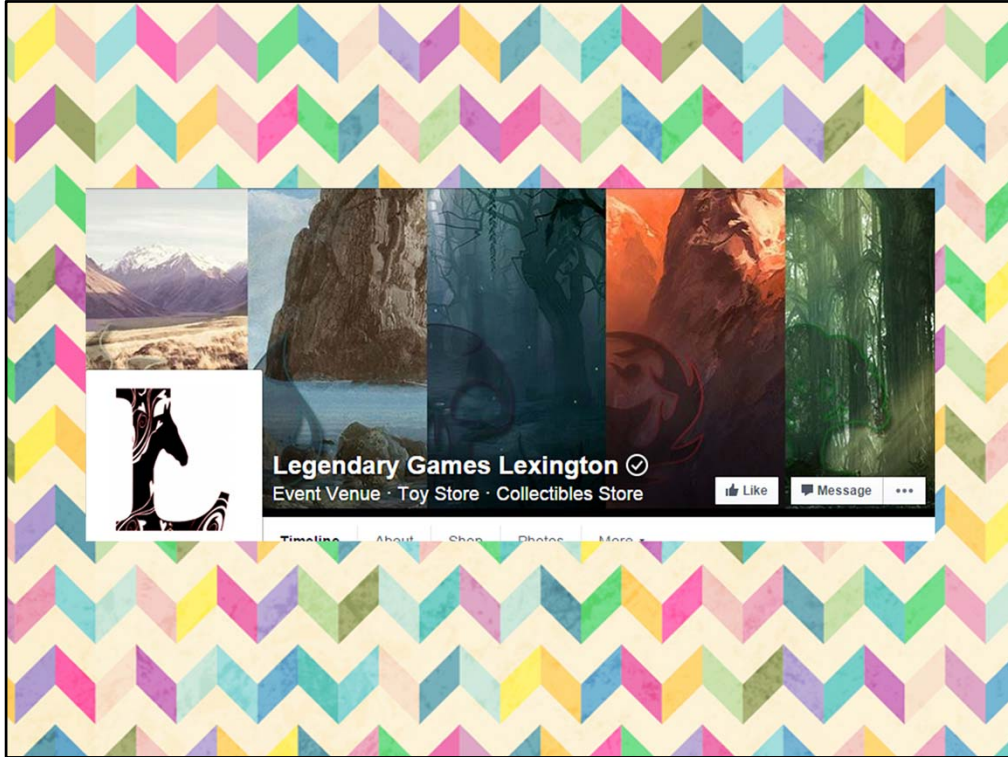
I really like Collectibles, Etc. in Lexington. They are primarily a comic book store but they have a serviceable board game aisle. It also is very friendly and inviting. A+ Comics and games in Lexington also has a very good selection of new board games and vintage games of the past. They are also the place you want to go to buy trading card games. Their Magic the Gathering collection is really great.

If you need a store more north of Lexington Something 2 Do is an excellent board game and hobby shop located in Louisville.

<http://something2dogames.com/>

<http://www.apluscomics.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/collectibles.etc>



And one of the newest game stores that has opened in Lexington in the last year is Legendary Games on North Ashland. They are located a few steps away from breakout games in Lexington. They are very friendly and have great tournaments if you are interested in participating in something like that. Their back room for tournaments is huge and you definitely will not feel claustrophobic here.



And if you don't mind driving. Richmond, Kentucky has an amazing board game café. Café Meeples is awesome. I highly suggest this to anyone that wants to immerse themselves more in the board game culture. What may you ask is a board game café? Well they have amazing food and a free to play board game collection of over a 100 titles. This is going to be an easy way to play test many of the games before you buy permanent copies for the library. You can go here order a drink and spend hours going through their collection for no cost to you. It lets you evaluate game titles for your community. Because at the end of the day only you will know if your teens will even want to open the box.

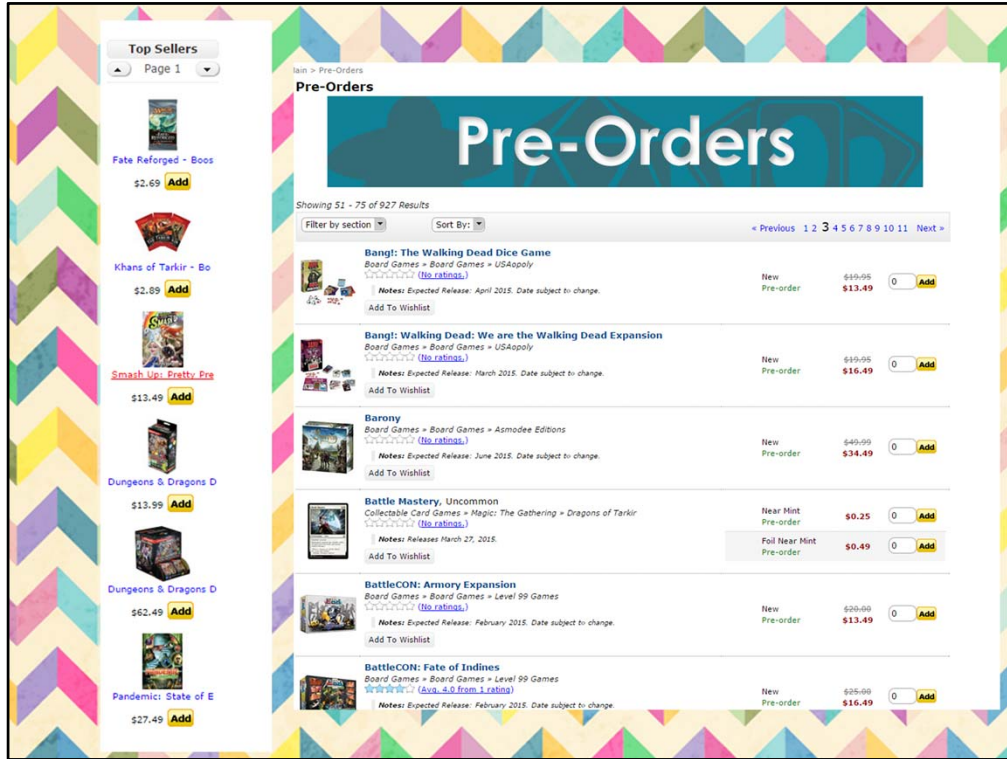
I also love to patronize this place because they are very involved in the local community. They have been sponsors in the past for the board game room this year at the Lexington Comic Book Convention. I don't know if any of you got to go there but they put together a great spread of board games and entertainment.



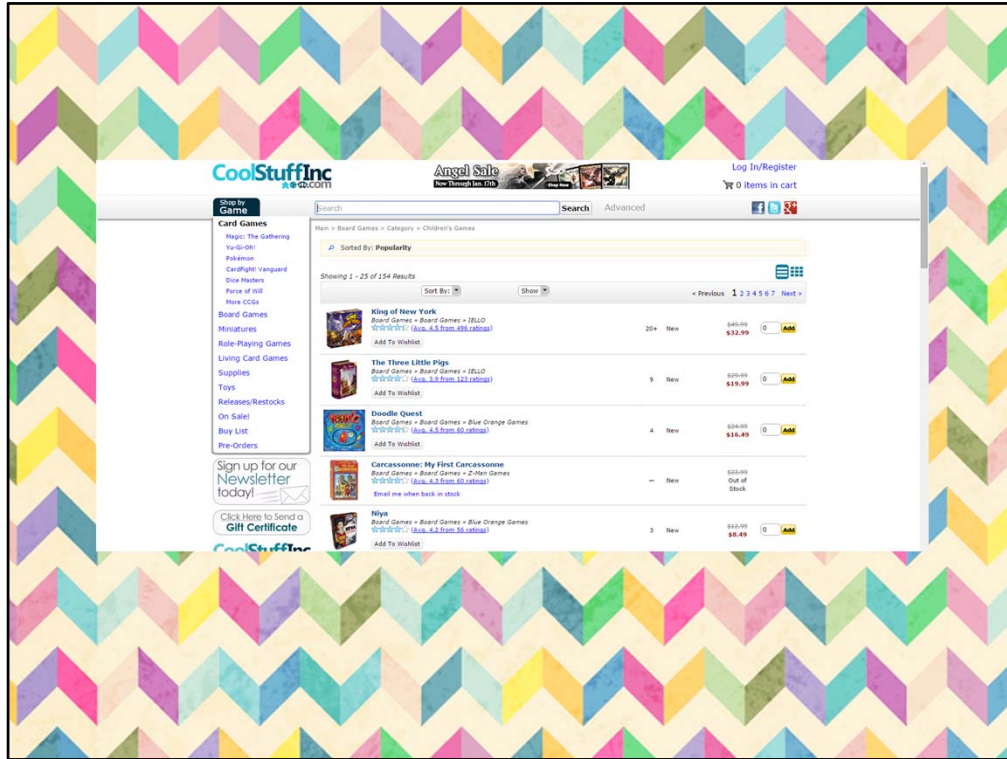
But wait what if I can't get to an awesome board game store. I live in a rural community or I don't have a lot of money to spend on board games and need the cheapest prices I can find. I would say a majority of my board games come from amazon, you will not find prices anywhere cheaper. While I do love to patronize my local board game stores sometimes Amazon is still a great option. I also really like Cool Suff Inc.com they are based out of Florida and all their merchandise ships really fast. I also like patronizing them since their site is really geared to the board game industry.

Websites where to buy

<http://www.coolstuffinc.com/>



Coolstuffinc.com; They have a fantastic preorders section that will let you look at everything that will be released soon. They also have a top sellers sidebar that allows you to see what is the most popular games being bought. This can lead you down a rabbit hole to find new games you haven't previously thought about buying.



Coolstuffinc also has a great page that is dedicated to just children’s games. It can be especially difficult to find board games appropriate for younger children. This is a great place to start off, to read reviews, product descriptions, and get an idea about how to expand your collection. They don’t sell candy land, they sell new and interesting games you may have never heard and it may be hard to narrow down what is best for your children but it makes it easier.

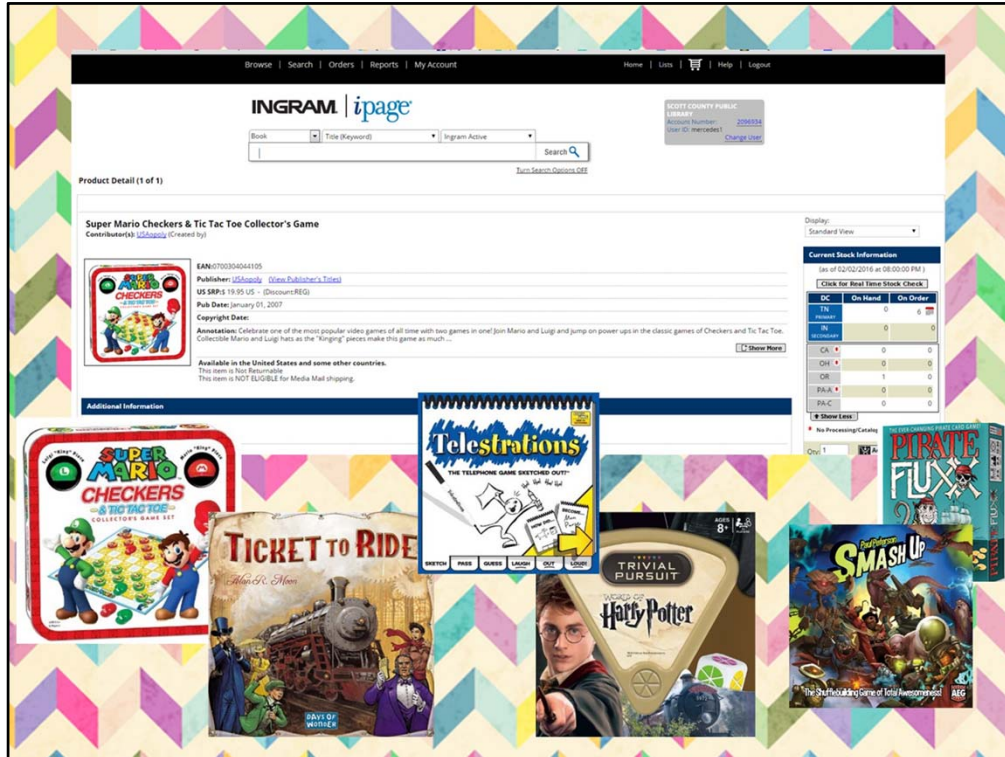


Speaking of family friendly and children's board games. This is Mercedes top ten board games for elementary school children. It can be really hard to find games that younger children will enjoy and these are titles that stretch that 6 to 12 year old age gap. If you want more information about these titles feel free to email me.

[mercedes@scottplib.org](mailto:mercedes@scottplib.org)

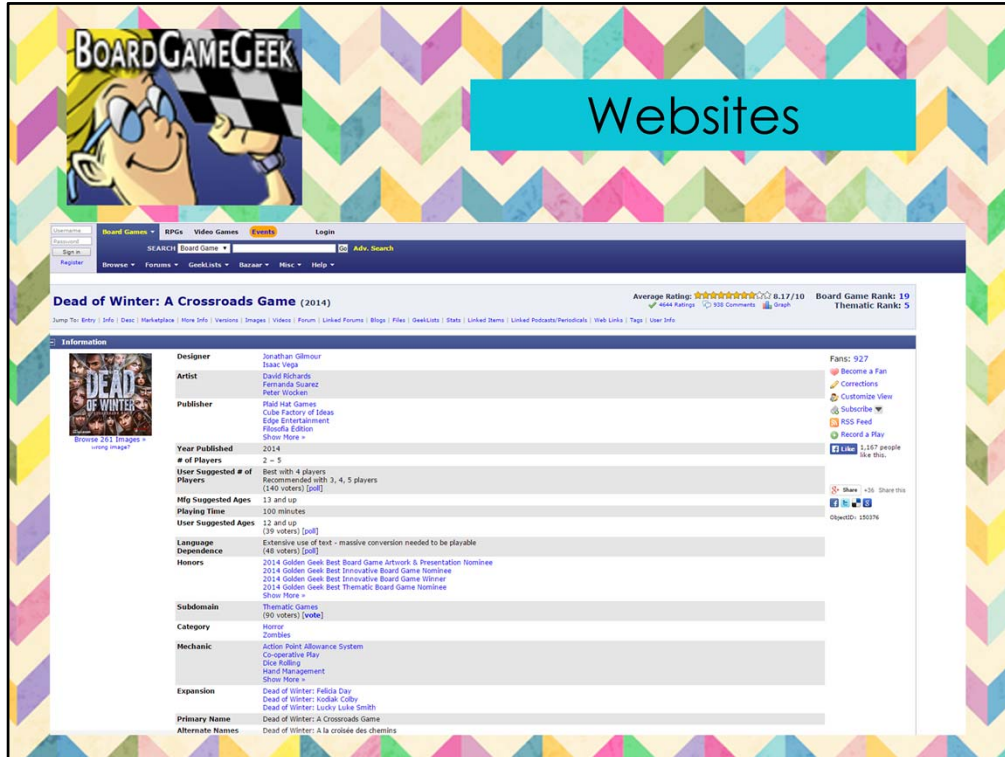
- 1) Tell Tale
- 2) Aquarius
- 3) Oz Fluxx
- 4) Magic Labyrinth
- 5) Dixit
- 6) Qwirkle
- 7) Hedbanz
- 8) Star Wars Operation





There is one more website that you should be aware of for ordering. Did you know that you can order board games from Ingram? Well if you library already today ordering through Ingram and have an account this may be a great way to go about ordering board games for your library. Most of the board game titles they offer come with that 40% discount. You could buy these 6 games for 100 dollars with your discount. Six games for 100 dollars!

I plan on utilizing Ingram when I buy for our new teen department. We will have a shelf of board games the teens can play in the library and using Ingram will make my money go further.



www.boardgamegeek.com

And if you have never heard of a game before and want to learn more about it after finding it on a website a great resource is boardgamegeek.com

This website will give you information on the publisher, game description, how many people can play it, how long it will take to play the game and whole host of other information. Another important component to this website is the ability to read user reviews and also post questions on a discussion board located on every board game page. This website will also link you to videos that will demonstrate walkthroughs

The Board Game Family Game Ratings	
★★★★★	Caleb
★★★★★	Brooke
★★★★★	Jaden
★★★★★	Trevor
★★★★★	Mom
★★★★★	Dad
★★★★★	Average

You also need to find resources to help you figure out what games to buy. Board gaming is much more complicated than monopoly. Many of the designer games are titles you have never heard of. Having a strong knowledge of the market and new releases for board games will better prepare you to take chances in purchases.

Blogs:

The Board Game Family is an excellent blog especially if you are purchasing board games for children and tween programs. They do fun video reviews and videos about how to play new games. They have a rating system and every member in the family is allowed to rate the game. So maybe the adults like some games better than the kids or visa versa. If your looking for kid friendly games or family friendly games this blog is great.



“ Father Geek believes games are an excellent medium to teach children (and adults) important social and cognitive skills. The game becomes the medium of the lesson and the game play the teacher. By participating in the games with children, parents and educators can further support the skills being taught, share in a positive experience, and obtain a deeper personal connection with all those involved.” <http://fathergeek.com/>

This is a great blog site to also find family friendly games. This blog also lists games by age level, has Father Approved or Child Approved ratings, and recommends games for the holiday season.



I slay the dragon has great video tutorials about how to play board games. They also have an interview section where they talk with the creators of board games. They also have a solid news section with up to date information about board games, board game conferences, and community happenings.

<http://islaythedragon.com/>



## Table Top

Probably the most well known board game review and play through video series on the internet. Into their third season that they crowd funded over a 1 million dollars in under a week for.

You can watch all three seasons on youtube for free. Every week Will Wheaton has on a plethora of his famous friends to play a new board game. This is less a review of board games and more of a tutorial about how the mechanics of a board game actually play. If you are scared of some of the more intricate board games this is a great show that explains everything. Also they bleep all curse words in the show and there are a few family friendly episodes. Including a Catan Junior episode that Will plays with actual nine year olds.

And there will be a new season. Season 4 coming in 2016. All three previous seasons can be streamed now.

<http://geekandsundry.com/shows/tabletop/>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7atuZxmT956cWFGxqSyRdn6GWhBxiAwE>



### Shut up and Sit Down

<http://www.shutupandsitdown.com/>

Quintin Smith and Paul Dean have “the” best board game review videos and podcasts. Their reviews explain the mechanics of the game and playability. While they don’t play a full game of it in their review they give enough basics for you to understand how it works. They also most humorous board game review videos as well. They’re also from New Zealand so if you can’ understand their accents you might have to watch a video more than once.

### Dice Tower

Tom Vassel is another huge name in board game reviews. When Tom Vassel reviews a game on his website, it will be sold out within the next hour on amazon. Lots of people agree enthusiastically with Tom Vassel. His reviews are geared toward more mechanics and his opinion of the game. His reviews are more serious than Shut and Sit Downs he provides lists of the top 100 games of all time. This includes the top 100 games as voted by the population that frequent his site.

<http://www.dicetower.com/>

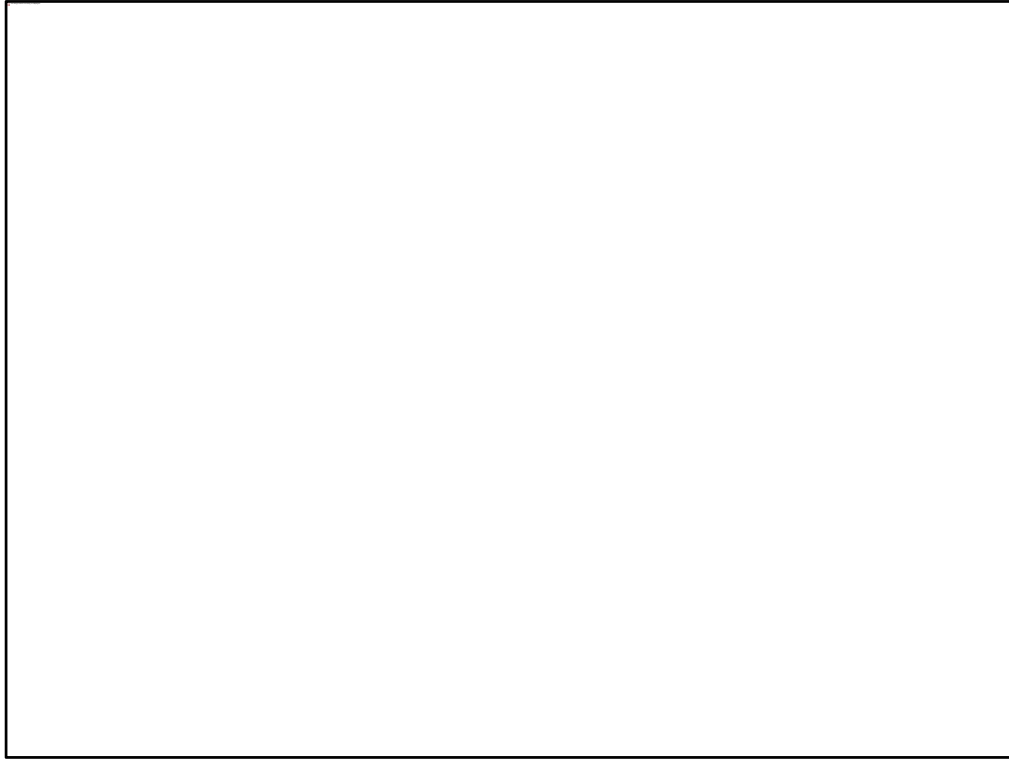


## Gen con

The Big Daddy of all Board Gaming Conventions. The biggest board gaming convention! Gen Con is the longest running and best attending gaming convention in the world! And it's only in Indiana. This year it will be between August 4<sup>th</sup> through August 7<sup>th</sup> . If you want a real board game immersion, this is the place to go. This is where they debut hundreds of new board games every year.

<http://www.gencon.com/>





If you can't make GenCon. There are other conventions closer to home. Lexicon is in it's second year. It is a board gaming convention located in Lexington. It's also way more affordable than Gencon. 30 bucks for a 3 day pass will get you access to their board game library. This is another great way to test out board games before you buy them. What's really great about going to a convention and browsing a board game library is they always have volunteers there. So if there is a game that you want to learn how to play, there is a good chance someone will be there to show you how.

<http://lexicongaming.com/2015/>

Tournaments

[Settlers of Catan](#)

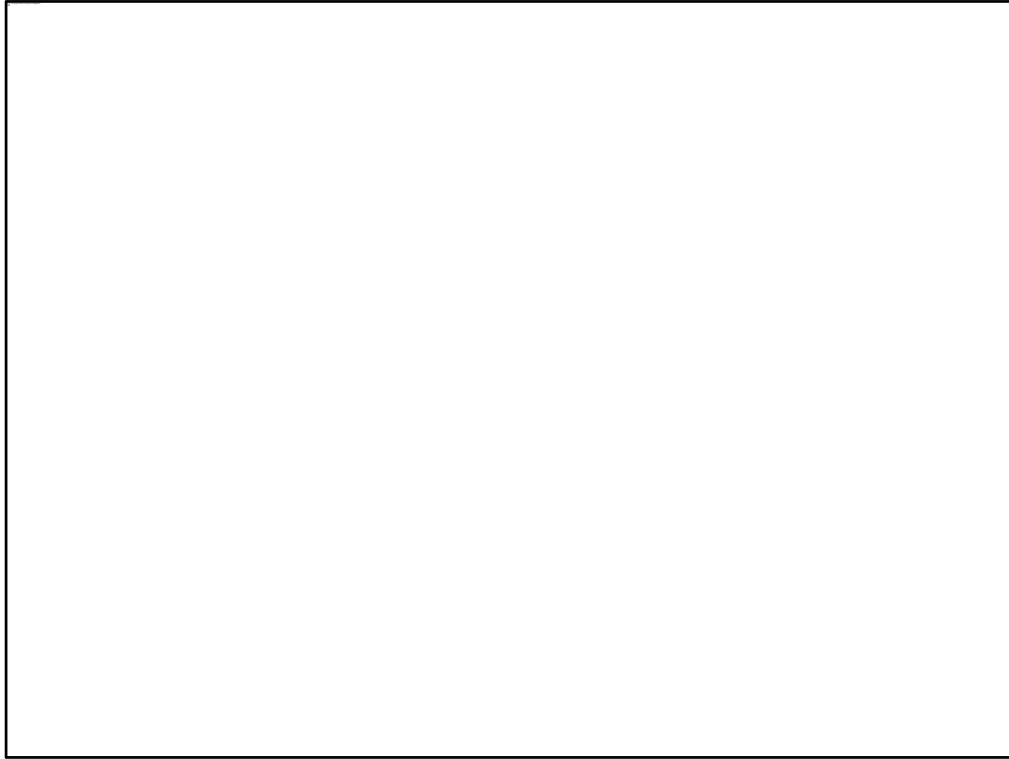
[Marvel Dice Masters](#)

[Ticket to Ride](#)

[Heroclix](#)

[D&D Attack Wing](#)

[Lost Legacy](#)

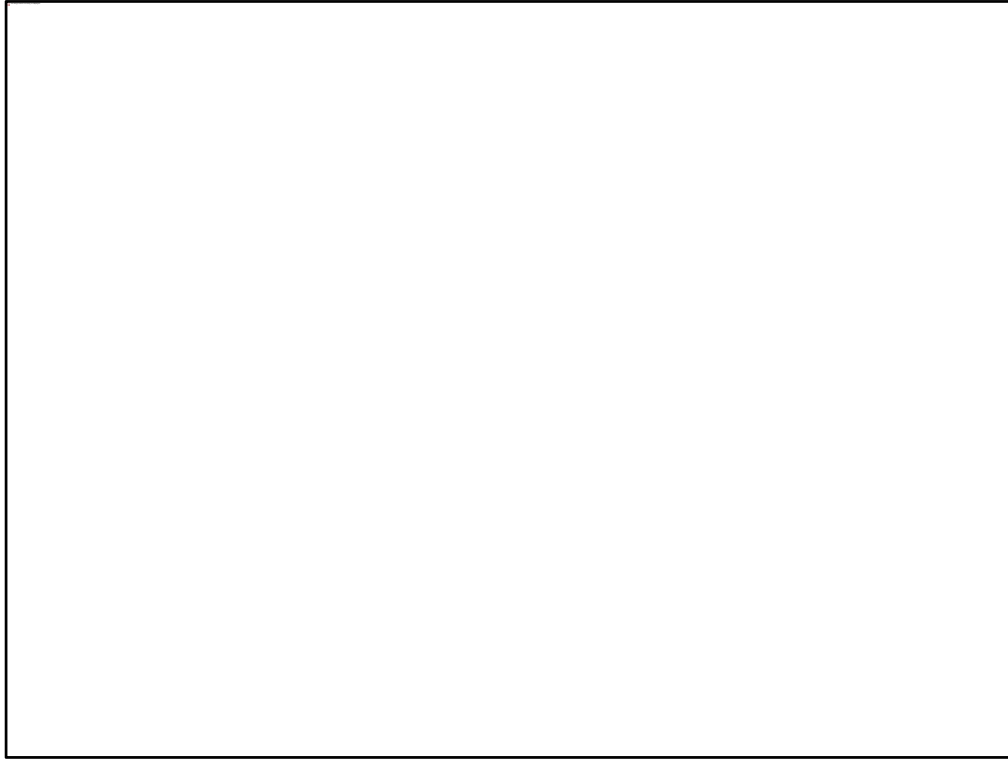


### Ala's International Game Day

They had 1257 libraries register for the event all across the world. They also provided a map of where these game days were being held. ALA does a fabulous job with making sure the board game companies support the local libraries that decide to participate in this event. They provide a press kit for posters and other promotional materials. I decided to make my own poster for the library since I wanted to focus on a few specific events my library decided to hold.

So we held our first ever Magic the Gathering Tournament. I had 10 people total sign up for the Magic Tournament and I had 28 people come to the Game Day. I had tables assigned for the Magic Tournament that were labeled. The rest of the tables I sectioned off for gaming. I brought in over a 100 board games from my collection for the game day. I had family friendly games along with games aimed at adults. And 28 people in total was good number for my library.

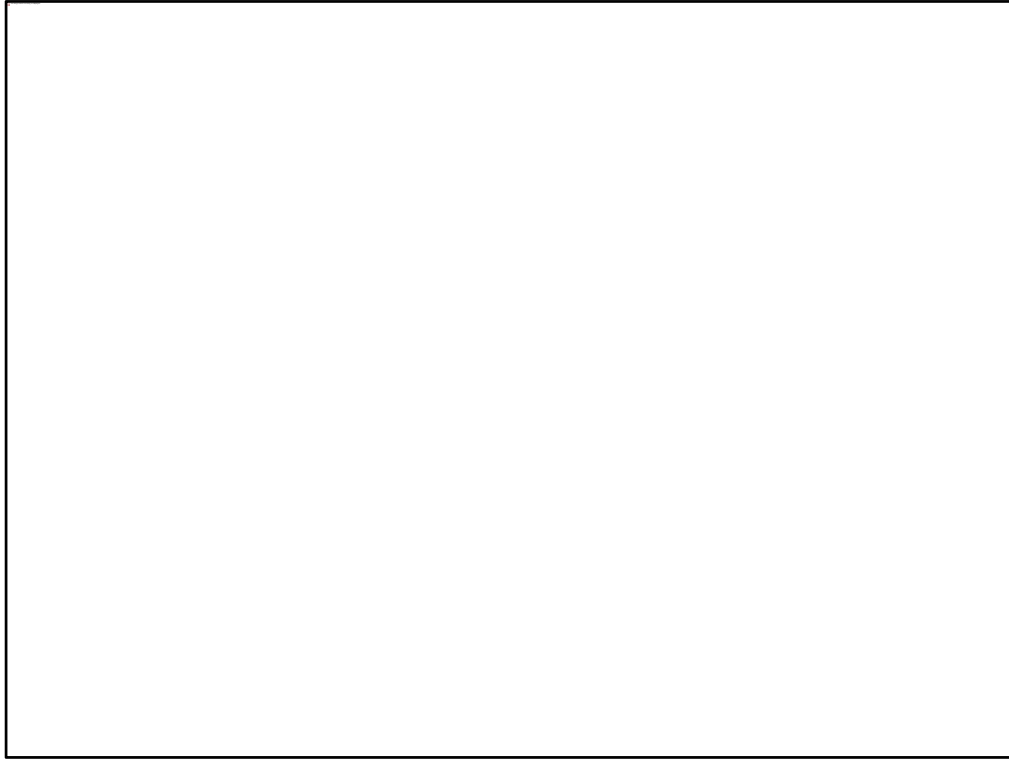
<http://igd.ala.org/>



By participating in this event our library received some great donations from board game companies. ALA is the one that actually contacts and coordinates all the board game donations so you only have to go through them. They had a very simple form that I filled out asking what kind of donations I would like to receive. I asked for anything they wanted to give me. I didn't end up putting any of these games into the libraries personal collection I used them instead for prizes for the magic tournament I did. I also put away several of these donations for other programs. I'm always trying to figure out how I can do these programs without using any money.

I spent no money on our ALA International Game Day Program at the library. I used left over water bottles that had been donated from a previous program, I used left over candy from a Halloween party we had, I personally created Magic the Gathering mats I was able to give away to all the participants, and then I had the donations from ALA that I was able to give away as prizes to the winners of the tournament.

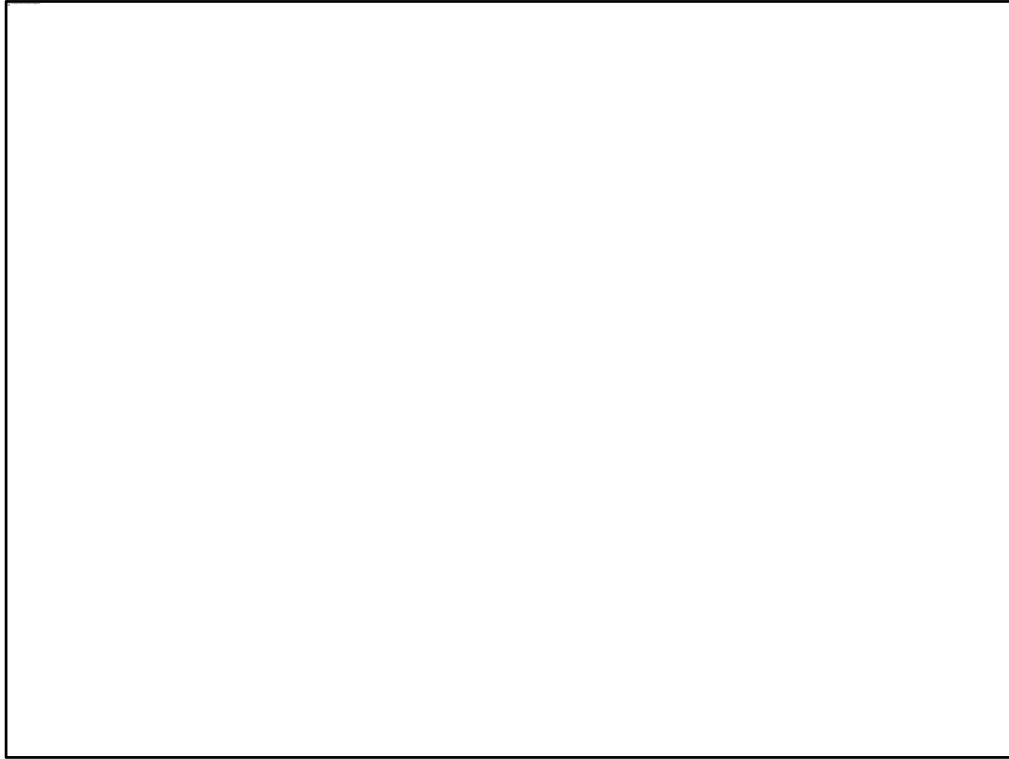
There is no date yet for the 2016 ALA International Game Day but usually by July they have the registration open.



Another game that is international is tabletop day sponsored by geek and sundry the genius minds behind the tabletop videos.  
Tabletop day sponsored by geek and sundry

TableTop Day 2014 was celebrated in 80 countries, over all 7 continents, and had over 3,000 events in total.

<http://tabletopday.com/>



Board gaming and book club with board games.

Need the brochures for my teen event and the middle school event.

Brochure I did for teen board games and books

Talk bout Walking Dead, Hunger Games, and Diary of a Wimpy Kid Book Clubs

**XCOM: The Board Game**

+

The Fifth Wave

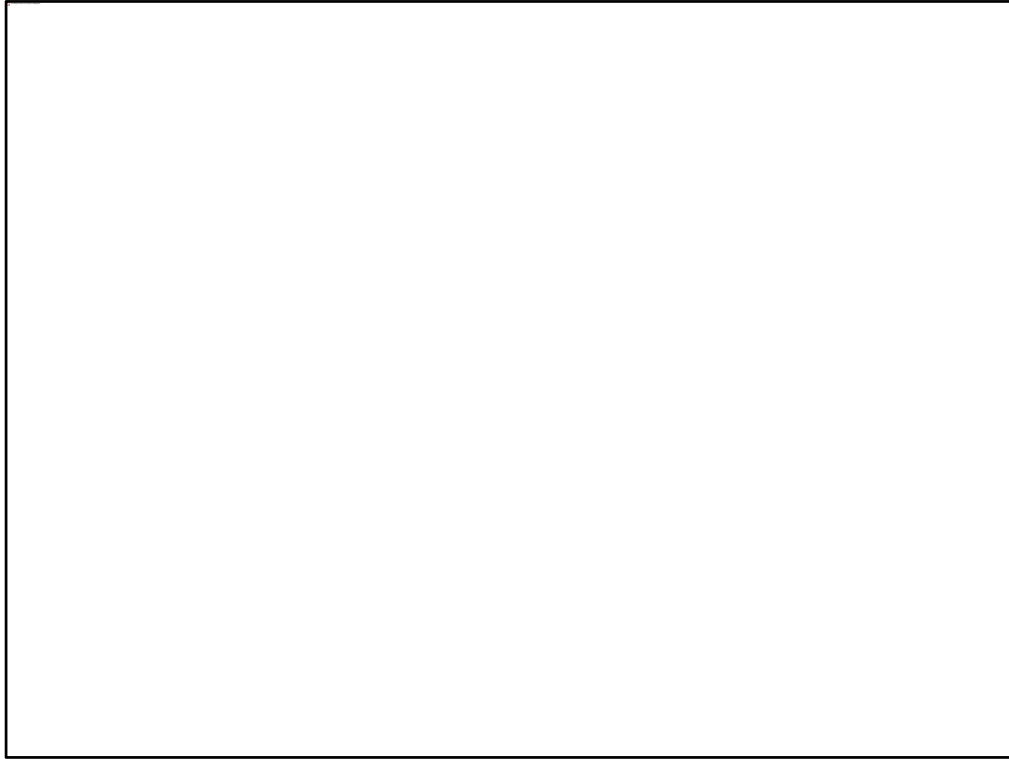
Board game with an alien invasion theme

**Pandemic**

+

Love is the Drug

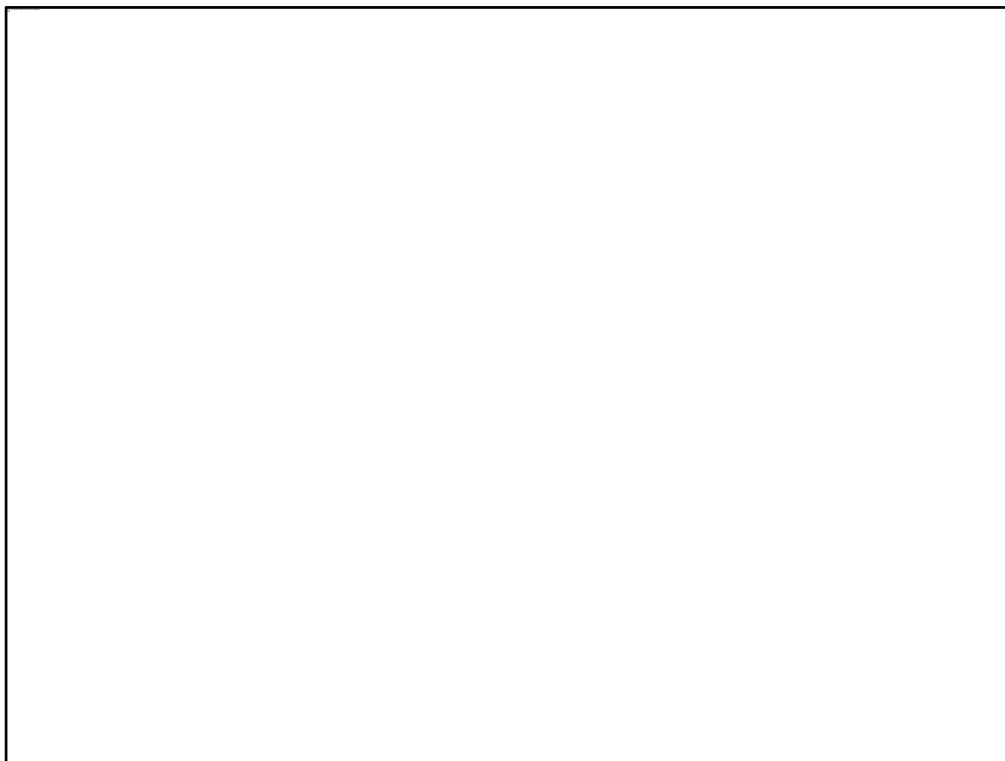
A Deadly Virus taking over the world



**Zombie Dice, Zombie 15, Last Night on Earth**

+

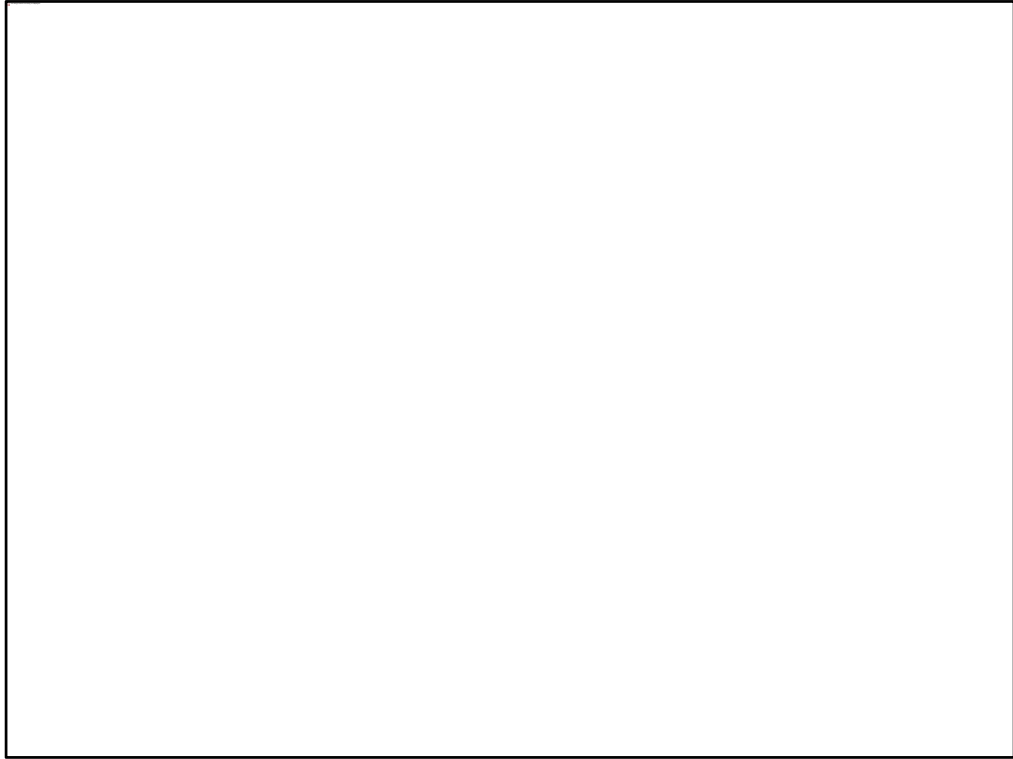
Rot & Ruin, Enclave (I still think their zombies!), The Walking Dead Comics



**Love Letter**

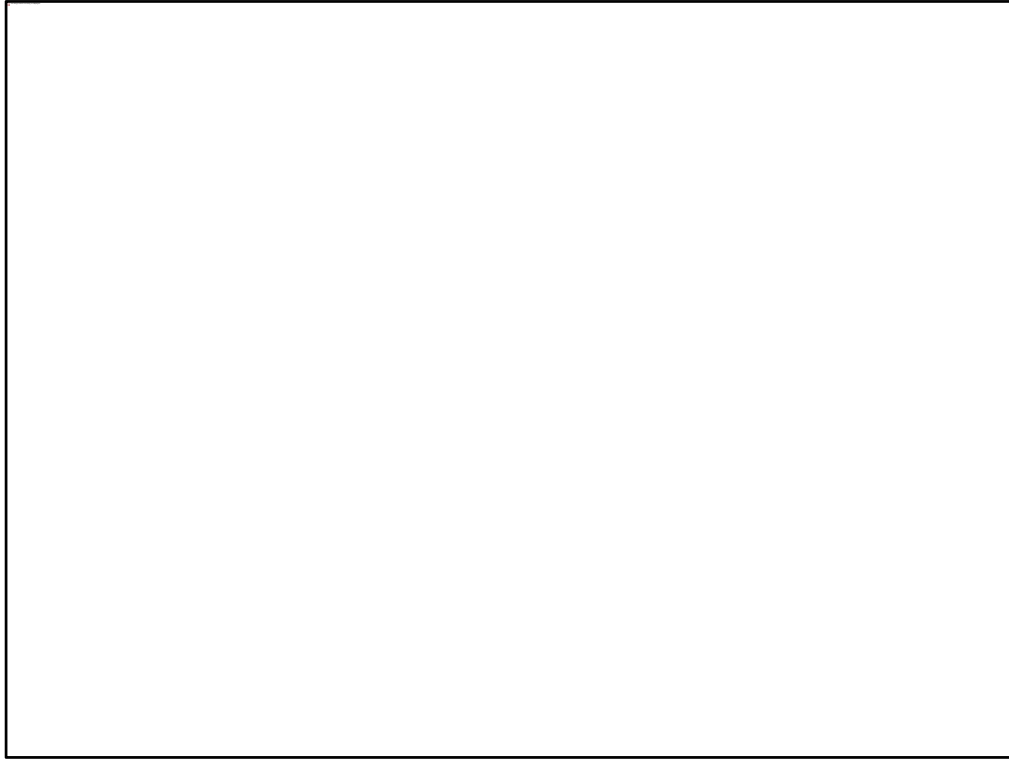
+

Cinder, Kill Me Softly

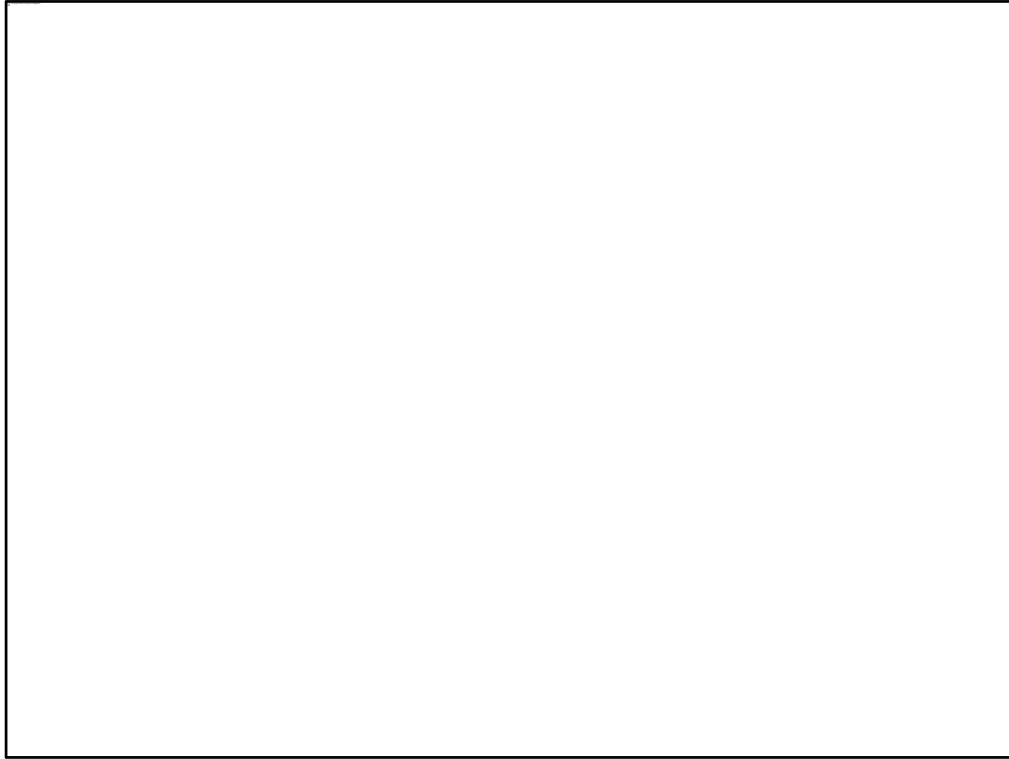


Tales of the Arabian Nights.

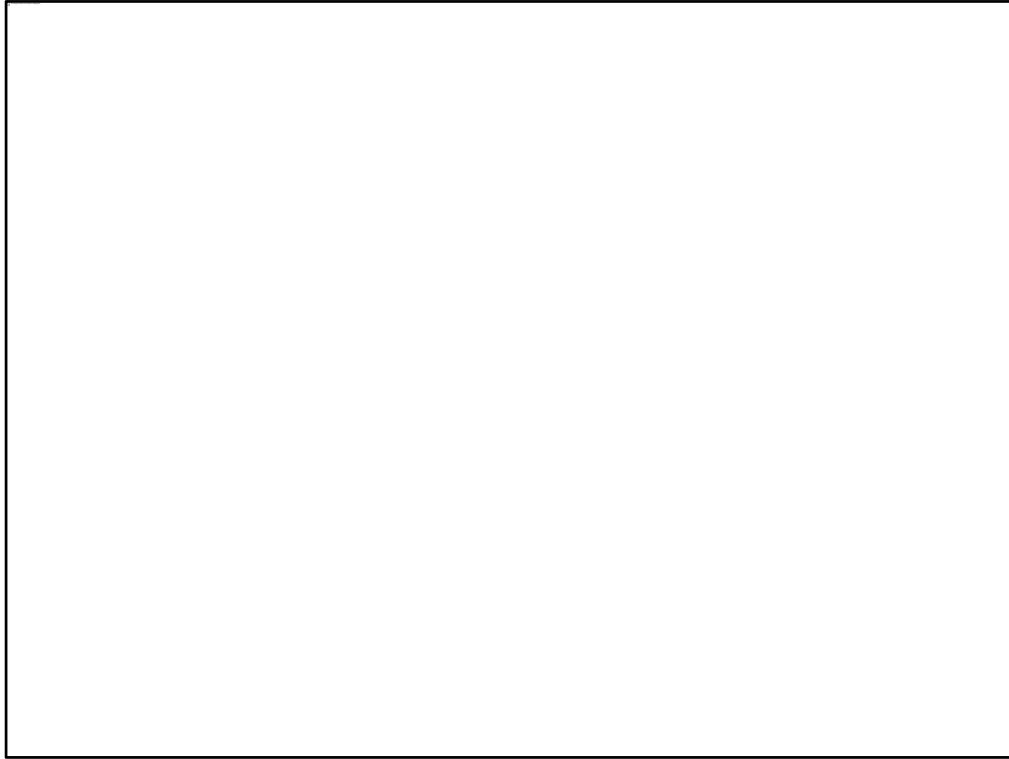




I also did a Middle school book talk where I used board games as an ice breaker. There are tons of board games out there that have some kind of game component. Especially if they are super popular books. Diary of a wimpy kid has a ton of board games that are based upon the book. If you are doing book talks or book clubs, using a board game as part of the program is a great way to get the kids attention but still relate it back to literacy.



And its not just kids books that have board game components. You can even introduce this into adult book clubs. One of my favorite kick starter purchases this past year has been the **Marrying Mr. Darcy Card Game**. It is a great little card game where you are trying to wed the most eligible man or else become a spinster and die alone.



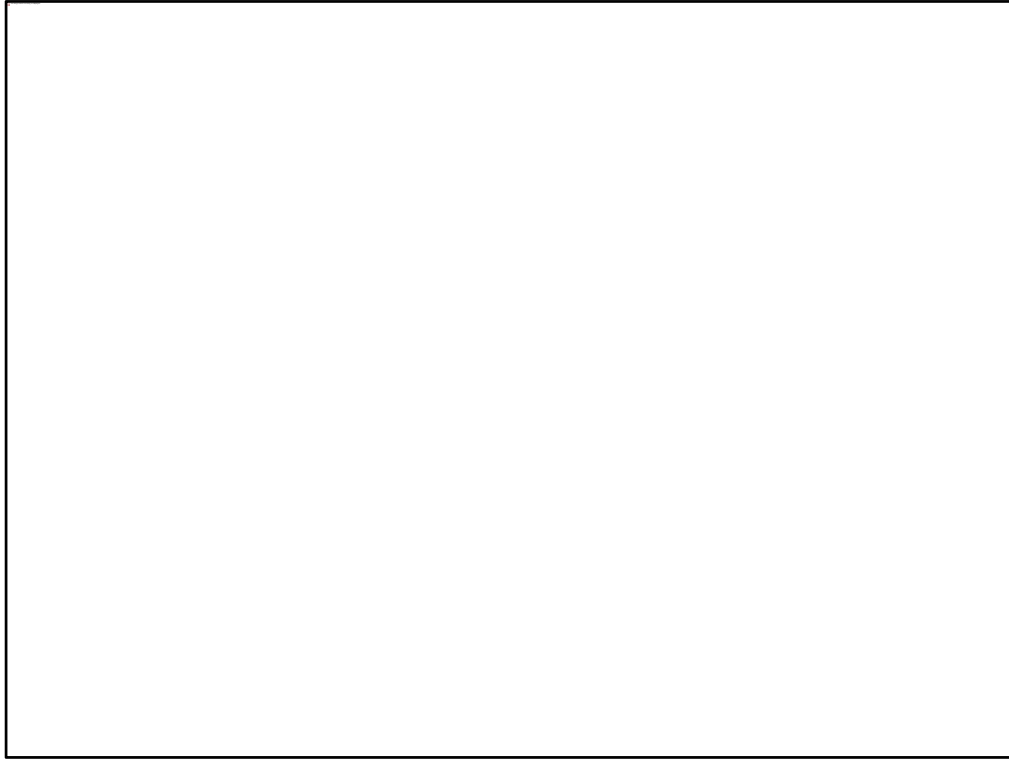
SRP 2016- Fitness

There are board games you can use to promote movement.

Rampage or Terror in Meeple City (because of copyright issues)

Twister – Giant board

Quelf- Lots of silly cards that are going to make you get out of your seat and run around

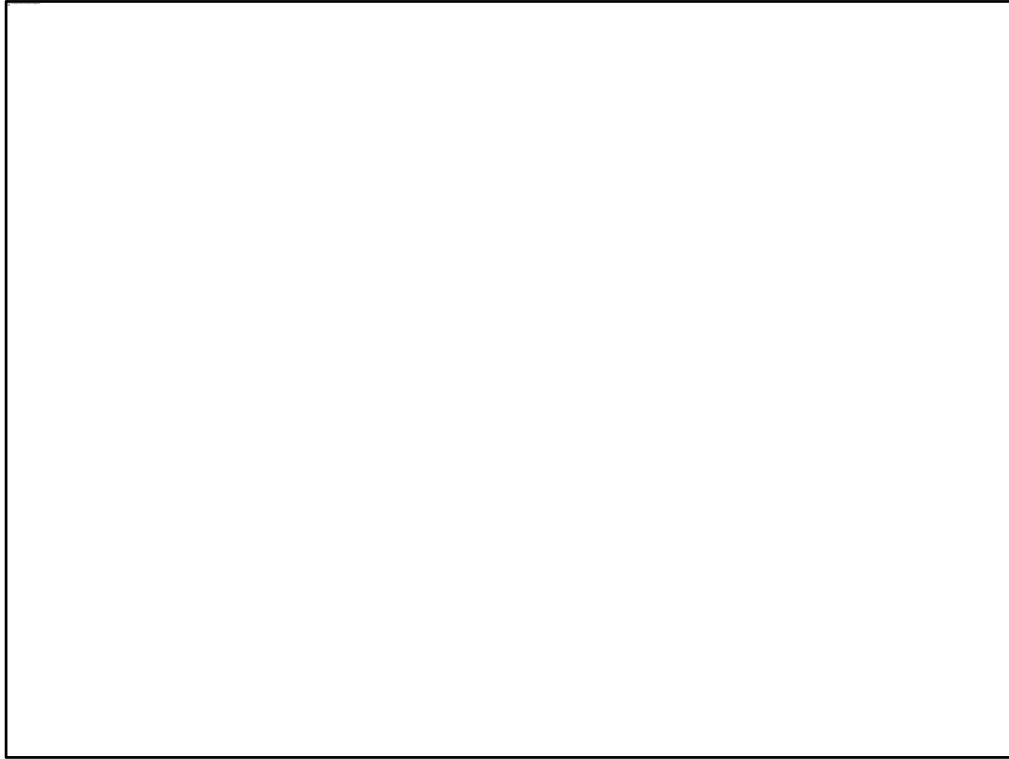


And this year's summer reading doesn't just apply to physical fitness but also mental fitness. And board games are amazing to increasing your mental capability. Think about starting a Chess club.

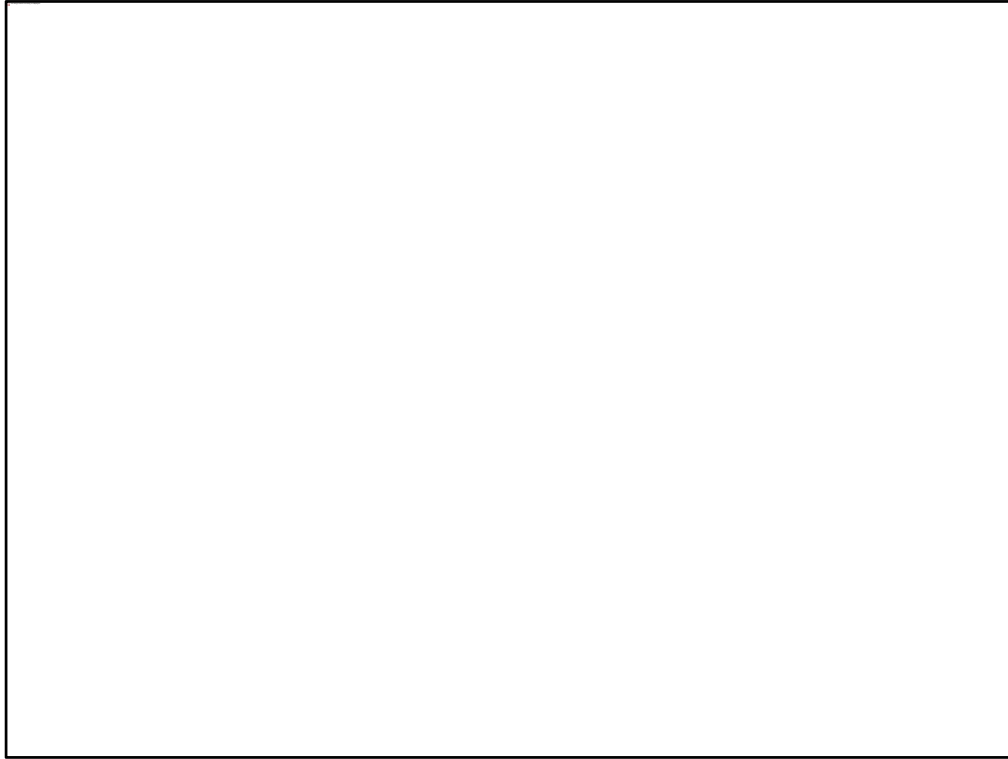
Chess is known to

- It exercises both the right and left side of your brain
- It increases your creativity and originality
- It can raise your IQ
- It improves your memory
- It assists your concentration
- It helps your foresight
- It can help to prevent Alzheimer's

<http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/15-fun-board-games-that-exercise-your-brain-and-make-you-smarter.html>

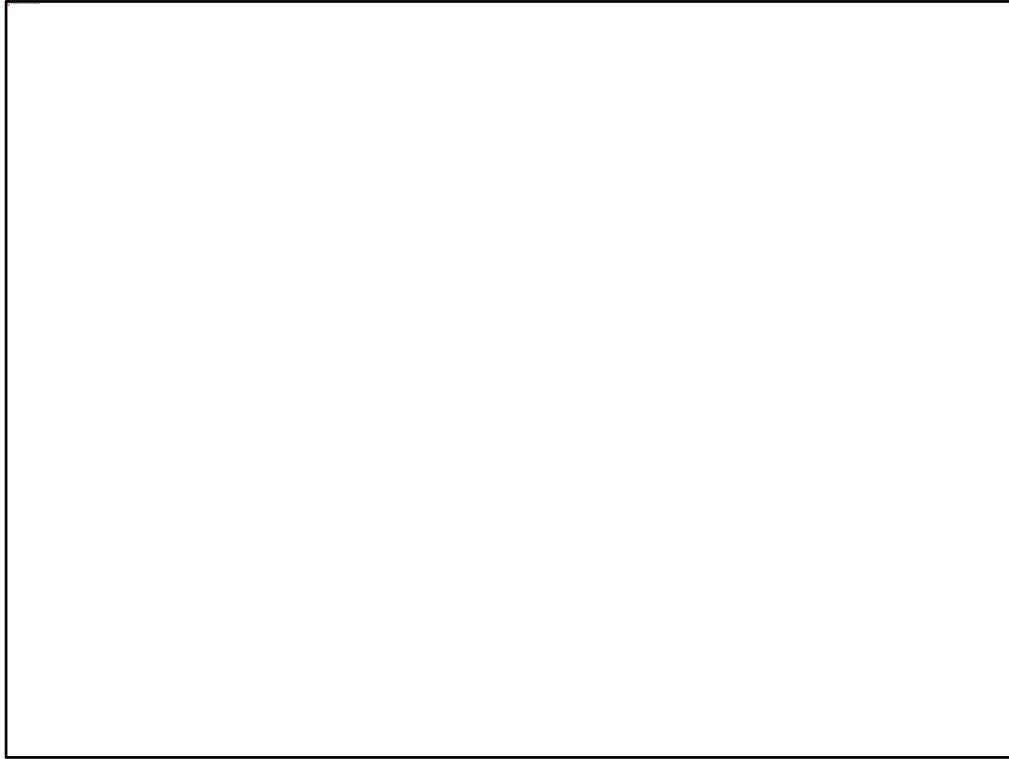


Or if you don't want to have a chess club. Think about starting a Brain Floss Club; gaming afternoons. Pick games like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, Scrabble, Pick games that involve strategies, cooperation, and and or use Mercedes top ten favorite games of 2015 list.



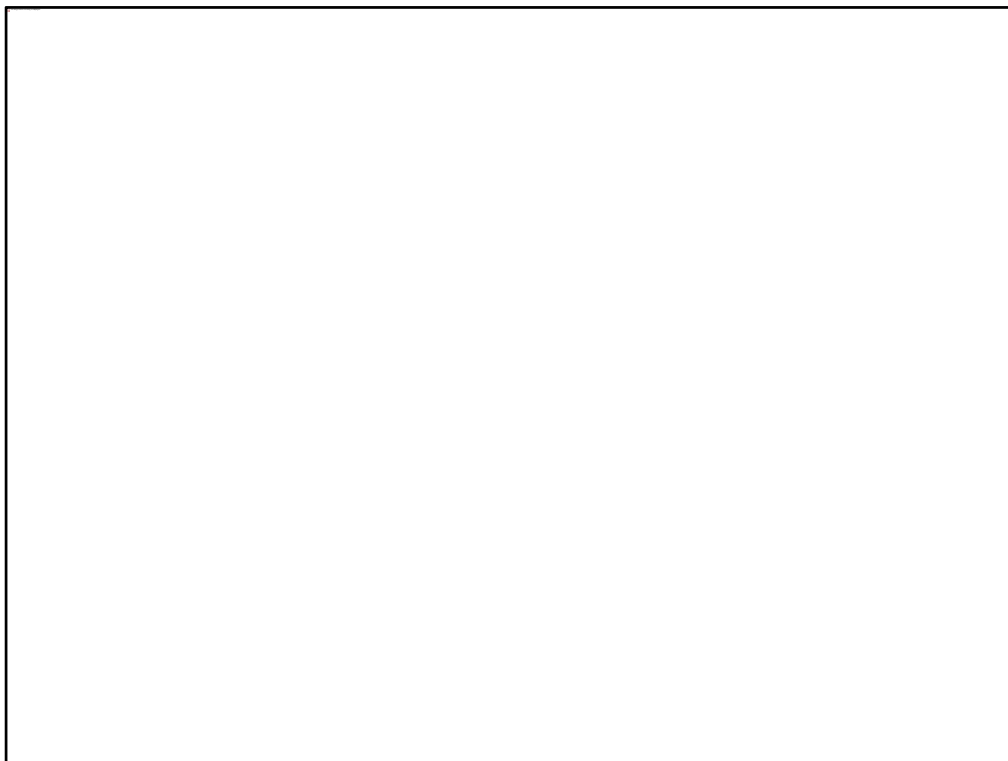
These are newer games that I have played in the last year and I loved. May be more appropriate for an adult or teen basis because of complicated rules and warp holes that destroy ships! While these may be some of my favorite games in the last year, you should always remember who your audience is when purchasing for the library. Shadow hunters is a great game that can be played with up to eight people. It ends up being a popular party game because it plays like a more complicated version of mafia. My kids love mafia so this is a great game for them. I have some kids that love tickets to ride so Trains is a great game for them because it's a mashup of ticket to ride and a deck builder. Always be willing to try new games just make sure to evaluate the game based on your user base.

- 1) Quarriors
- 2) Trains
- 3) Shadow Hunters
- 4) Garvevell
- 5) Smashup
- 6) Splendor
- 7) Sushi go
- 8) Sheriff of Nottingham
- 9) King of New York
- 10) Five Tribes



All Ages Game Day at the library

With the success of our ALA International Game Day my library is allowing me to do once a month all ages game program at our library. I will hold a Magic tournament and have a board game library for people to use.





# Thank you for attending!

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