

GAT 110: Game History

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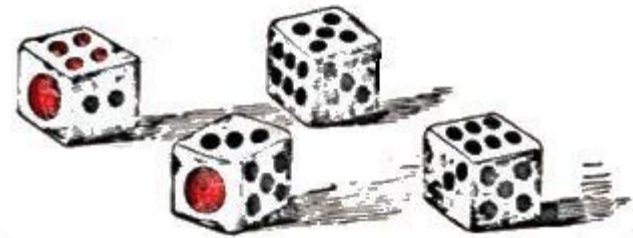
Dominoes

Dexterity and Pub Games

Dominoes



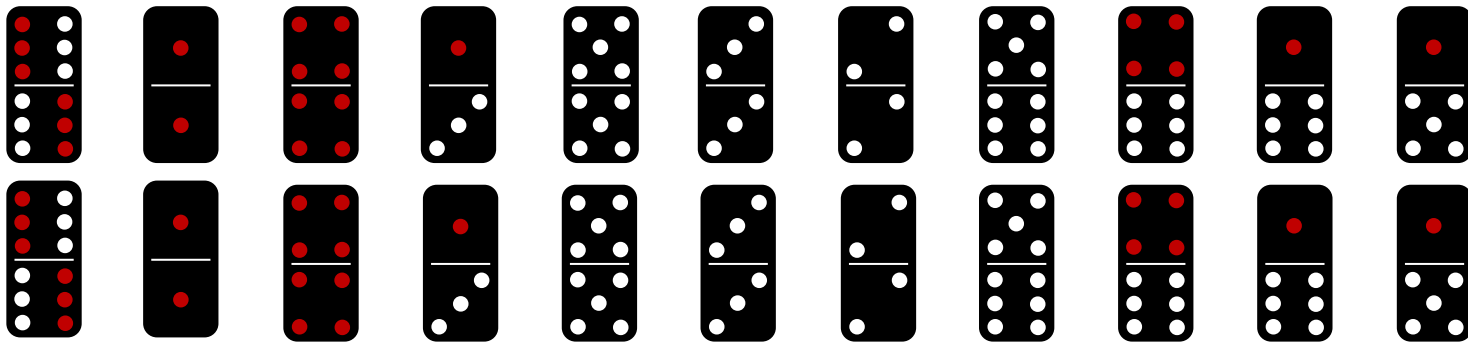
Origin of Dominoes



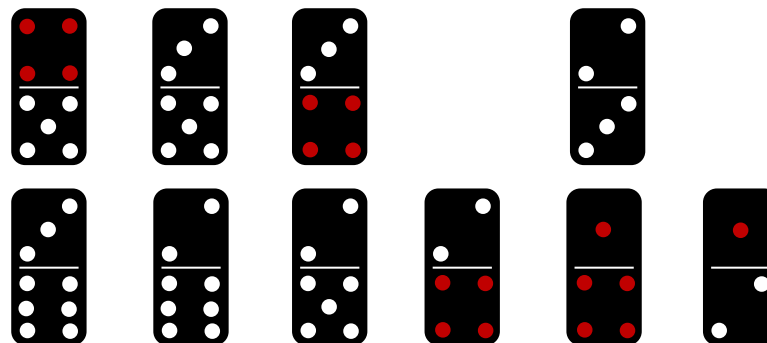
- Dominoes were invented in China
 - The oldest reference that we've found dates back to 1120 AD and the Chinese manuscript *Chi sz yin kau* in which the game was presented to Emperor Hwui Tsung for an imperial decision as to which of several forms of *T'ien-kiu* (Heavens and Nines) was to be considered orthodox.
 - Cubical dice were imported from India to China.
 - Chinese dominoes originally represented the combination of throws of 2 six-sided dice.
 - Chinese dominoes, known as *kwat p'ai* (bone tablets) are split into a military and civil series of dominoes, with the civil series having duplicates.
 - The dominoes have the same names/series designation as the rolls of the dice in the Chinese dice game *chak t'in kau* (Throwing Heaven and Earth)

Chinese Dominoes

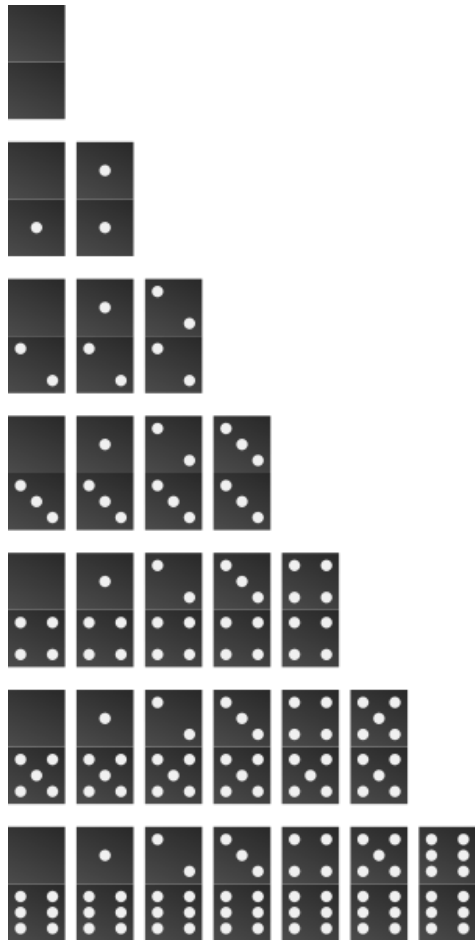
Civilian Suit



Military Suit



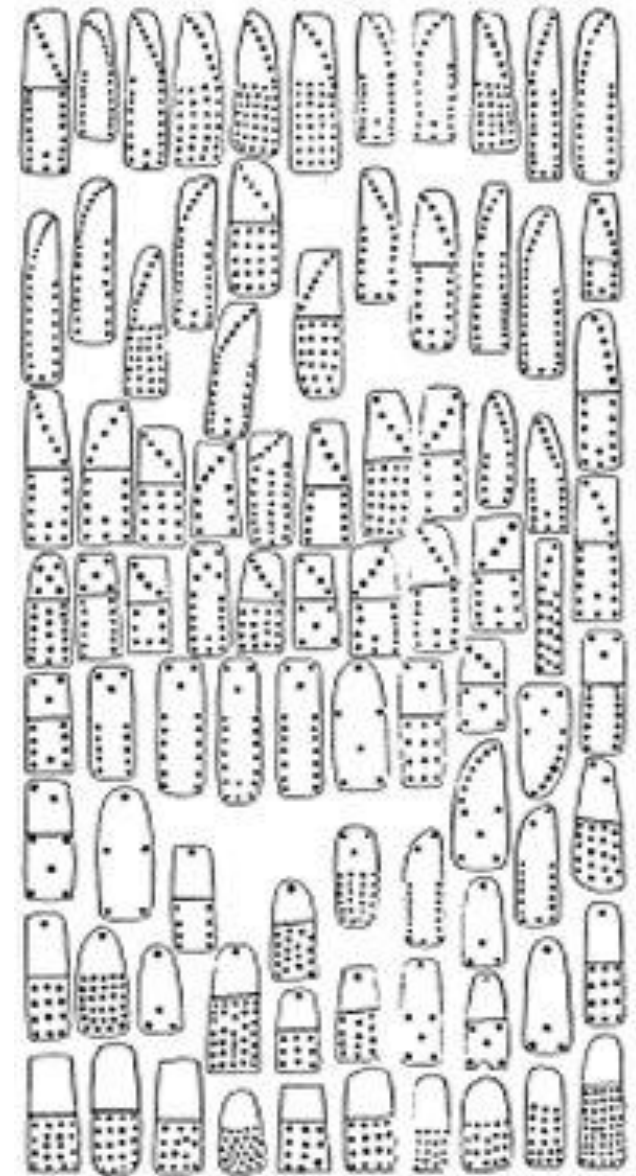
Migration of Dominoes



- Dominoes first came to Europe through Italy in the early 18th Century.
- They lost their series designation, added blanks, and removed duplicates.
- Probably named for the black and white domino mask worn in Venetian Carnival, which in turn was named for the black hood with white interior worn by French clergy during winter.
- Dominoes are traditionally made of bone, ivory, or wood. Thus the draw pile is often called the “woodpile” or “boneyard”.

Inuit Dominoes

- Carved of ivory, a set is called *ma zú a lát*, meaning “standing upright side by side”
- This set of Inuit dominoes in the US National Museum was described by Lucien Turner, who conducted an expedition for the Smithsonian Institution in 1884.



Esquimaux Dominoes.
Cm. No. 3099, U. S. N. M.

Domino Games

Western Domino Game Types

- Most domino games fall into one of two types:
 - **Block Games**
 - Objective is to empty your hand first. All dominoes are distributed.
 - **Draw Games**
 - Objective is to score the most points during play, usually by summing the open ends. Players start with a hand of dominoes and draw more during play.
- In most games, the common line of play proceeds from by matching either end of a starting tile while doubles allow/require branching in some games.
- In train game variants, each player has their own line of play.

Domino Games You Should Know

- Basic block game
- Fools (multiple of 5 scores, draw game)
 - This is the most common version of Dominoes in the US.
 - This is the version implemented on MSN Games.
- Mexican Train
- Chicken Foot



Mahjong



Origins of Mahjong



- Around 1610, the Chinese document *Yeh-tzu Pu* describes Matiao, an almost certain direct ancestor of the game.
 - Matiao was a trick-taking game for four players, played with four-suited money cards. Three of the four matiao suits resemble the three suits of mah-jongg. Coins correspond to Dots; Coin Strings correspond to Bams; Coin String Myriads correspond to Craks. The deck composition and game play is quite different.
- Game first came into general awareness around the late 1880's.
- Three origin theories:
 - Mahjong probably originated in the provinces near Shanghai because no records of mahjong are found in any other part of China before 1900.
 - A rival theory credits one or more inventors in Ningpo with the act of transposing playing cards used for the game of Matiao onto ivory and bamboo about 1870 or 1880 as this is the area where playing cards were first recreated in ivory tablets.
 - No specific origin – the Chinese term “P'ai” means “playing rectangle” and material doesn't matter. Many P'ai games through history have been played on both tiles and cards and could mean the game evolved gradually over time.

The Rise & Fall of Mahjong



- In 1920, Joseph Park Babcock introduced the game to the US in 1920, when he renamed it to Mah-Jongg¹ and published a book that simplified and standardized the rules, *Rules of Mah-Jongg*.
- In 1922, Parker Brothers tried a test market of the game with disappointing results from Babcock's US agent.
- In 1923, seeing the fad pick up steam, Parker Brothers rejoined the market selling sets from \$2.50 to \$150!
- By 1923, ranked 6th in value of exports from Shanghai at \$1,505,000 (or \$14.3M in today's dollars). The popularity was so immense that one American factory had on file unfilled orders for thousands of mahjong sets.
- In 1923, the Department of Commerce reported that large quantities of bone were being exported from Kansas City and Chicago to China in order to turn out more sets of mahjong.
- In 1924, the fad began to cool, and by 1929 the game had almost entirely faded from public awareness in the US.

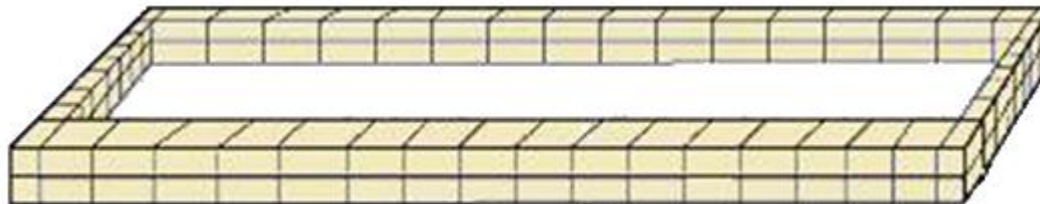
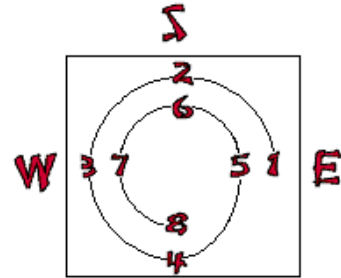
1. Original Chinese names were *chung fa*, *que ma que*, *ma que*, or *mah cheuk*. It was not called "mahjong" by the Chinese who played it.

Order of Play

Round		Hand	Seating position
1	East	1	East
		2	South
		3	West
		4	North
2	South	5	East
		6	South
		7	West
		8	North
3	West	9	East
		10	South
		11	West
		12	North
4	North	13	East
		14	South
		15	West
		16	North

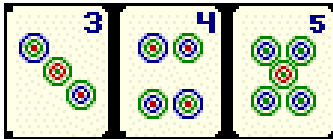
Kong Wall

- The Kong Wall is a 4-sided box with 36 tiles on each side, stacked 2 high by 18 wide.
- Breaking the Wall
 - This determines where to start drawing tiles from. East Wind player rolls two dice and counts counterclockwise around the Wall sides, counting his own part of the wall as 1, South's as 2, West's as 3, etc.
 - That player that sits in front of that wall section also throws the dice, and starting at the right hand end of his part of the Wall, he counts the thrown total along, and when he comes to the last 2 tiles, he breaks the wall with a gap at this point This is now the breaking point, where tiles will be drawn from.

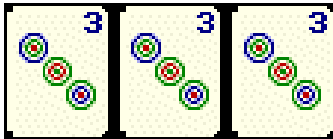


Scoring Combinations

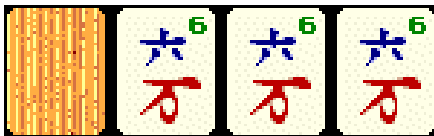
- Chow: Sequence of Three Suited Tiles



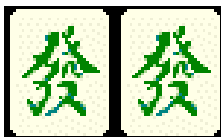
- Pung: Three of a Kind



- Kong: Four of a Kind



- Pair: Two of a Kind



Scoring

Hand Composition	Score
4 Chows	2 points
4 Pungs or Kongs	6 points
1 Dragon Pung or Kong	2 points
A pair of Dragon Pung	6 points
Pung/Kong of Winds that matches the round or seat	2 points
Flowers/Seasons tile	1 point each
Win by self-drawn	1 point

Dexterity Games

Marbles



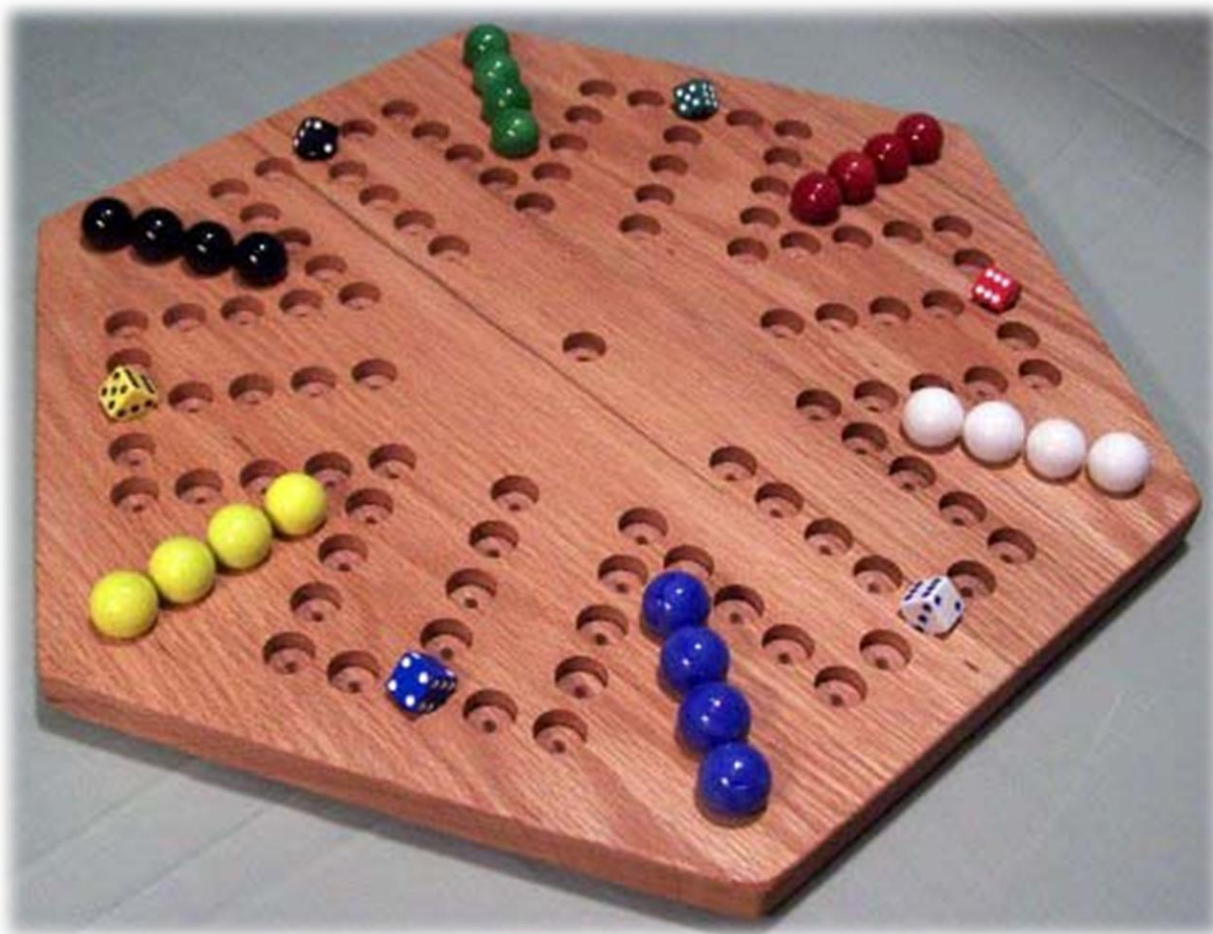
- The term “marbles” describes both the toy (small spherical balls of metal, clay, stone, glass, or plastic) and a variety of games played with marbles.
- Marbles were independently invented by many civilizations:
 - Egyptian marbles of rounded semi-precious stones were buried with an Egyptian child at Nagada c.3000 BCE.
 - Harappan, or Indus Valley, Civilization in Pakistan between 3300-1900 BCE.
 - American Indian mound builders
- German glassblower patented a device called marble scissors in 1846.
- Ceramic marbles entered mass production in 1870.
- World's largest manufacturer of playing marbles today is Vacor de Mexico, who makes 90% of the world's marbles (over 12 million each day).



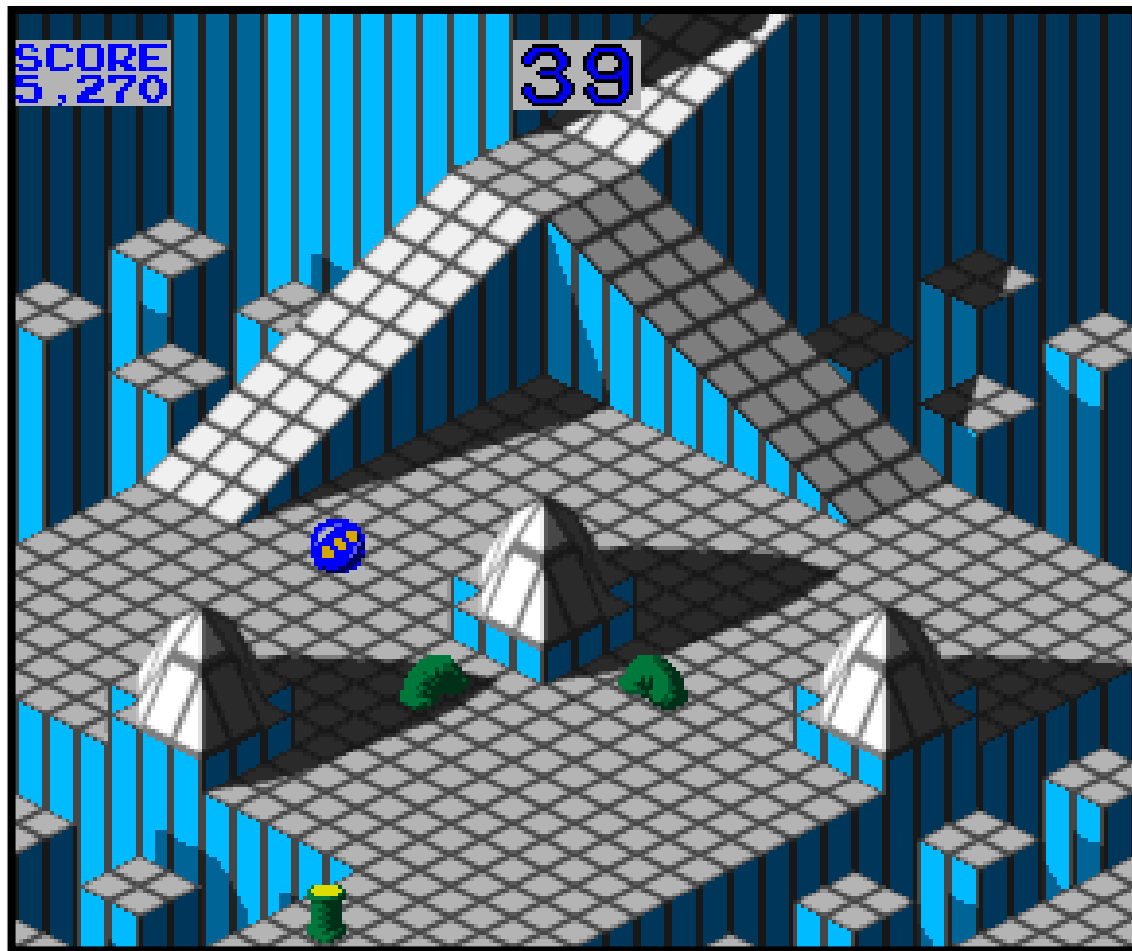
Chinese Checkers (Stern-Halma)



Aggravation (Pachisi descendant)



Marble Madness (Atari 1984)



Marble Blast Ultra (Garage Games 2006)

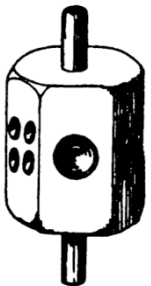


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Tops



- Tops are as ancient as our oldest known games.
 - Clay tops found in Ur dating from c.3500 BCE
 - Ceramic spinners found in Troy c.3000 BCE
 - Wood-carved whip tops in Egypt 2000-1400 BCE
 - Whip tops from China dated to 1250 BCE
 - Fired clay spun tops from Thebes, Greece 1250 BCE
- Tops are a mechanism used in some games.
 - Since the church frowned on the use of dice, the TEETOTUM became the randomizer of choice for Victorian Era board games
 - Teetotum can be made with a dowel drilled through a die or a cardboard disk/hexagon/octagon.
 - The Checkered Game of Life, for example...



Pitching/Coin Pushing Games

- Shove Ha'penny
 - Smaller offshoot of Shovelboard (traced back to at least 1522 where it was banned from play by Henry VIII – by everyone except himself in 1532)
 - Originally played with Edward IV groats (coin type).
 - Also known as Shove Groat or Slype Groat
- Pitch Penny/Toad in the Hole
 - Played at least as early as 1744 when it was mentioned in a children's book as Chuck Farthing.
 - Toad in the Hole is the same game, but with a dedicated table.

Pitching Games



1843

- Quoits
 - Quoits is a family of ring toss games that most likely originated in ancient Greece by poorer people that could not afford a discus. They turned horseshoes into rings that could be tossed like a discus.
 - In the first few centuries AD, the game transitioned to one of accuracy by throwing at a stake in the ground
 - Not until the 19th Century is the game documented in any way. First official rules defined in the April 1881 edition of *The Field* by a group of pubs in Northern England.
- Horseshoes
 - Unclear which came first: Horseshoes or Quoits.
 - Some speculate that Roman officers played Quoits while poorer soldiers made do with unshaped horseshoes.
 - First world championship of horseshoe pitching held in 1910 in Bronson, Kansas.
- Skittles
 - Skittles is a family of pitching games not unlike bowling that were often played in pubs.
 - Ever heard the expression “beer and skittles”?

Bowling Games

- Bowling games first originated in Egypt and the Roman Empire.
 - Bowling objects were discovered in a child's tomb in ancient Egypt dating from 3200 BCE.
 - The game played by Roman Legionnaires evolved into the Italian game Bocce.
 - Originally consisted of throwing stone objects as close as possible to other stone objects.
- Ancient form of bowling was played in Germany in 200 BCE according to German historicist William Pehle.
 - Played during festivals, where stones were thrown at nine wooden sticks, which were called kegles. Bowlers in Germany are also known as keglers.
- Bowling appeared in England around 1100.
 - In 1366, the game (and quoits) was so popular that Edward III forbade soldiers from playing the game so they would spend more time on archery.
- First standardized rules for the modern 10-pin game were established in New York City on September 9, 1895.

Billiards



- Billiards (or cue sports) evolved from bowling games.
 - King Louis XI (1461-1483) of France had the first known indoor billiard table.
 - In 1588, the Duke of Norfolk, owned a "billyard bord coered with a greene cloth... three billyard sticks and 11 balls of yvery".
- Billiards emerged in the 16th century
 - First mention of the word "billiard" is in Edmund Spenser's *Mother Hubberd's Tale* in 1591, where he speaks of "all thriftles games that may be found ... with dice, with cards, with balliards".
 - Word origin from the French word *billart* or *billette*, meaning "stick" or from French *bille*, meaning "ball".
 - "Cue" itself came from *queue*, the French word for a tail. This refers to the early practice of using the tail of the mace to strike the ball when it lay against a rail cushion. Modern cues were developed around 1800.
- Three main divisions of billiards:
 - Carom Billiards (games played on tables without pockets)
 - Pool (pocket billiards games)
 - Snooker (distinguished by a larger table and cultural differences)

Carroms

- Carroms are a group of table dexterity games not unlike billiards played with fingers and wooden discs that seem to have emerged in the mid-1800s in India.
 - Played on a square board with corner pockets
 - All pieces start on the board
- Crokinole
 - Earliest known Crokinole board made by Eckhardt Wettlaufer in 1876 in Ontario Canada.
 - Board is round with a gutter and pegs surrounding a central target hole.
 - Goal is to get discs of your color into the central target or as close as possible.



Pub Games



- Most all of the game types we have discussed made their way into pubs including:
 - Board Games: Backgammon, Draughts, Nine Men's Morris, etc.
 - Card Games: Whist, CRIBBAGE, etc.
 - Domino Games
 - Dice Games: Hazard, SHUT THE BOX, etc.
 - Dexterity Games: Skittles, Bowls, Quoits, Billiards, DARTS
- Modern pub games include trivia games, pinballs, arcade games, and bar top game machines (like uWink...).

Modern Dexterity Games

- Dexterity board games have risen in popularity over the last 60 years.
 - **Pick-up Sticks/Spellicans/Mikado/Jackstraws**
 - Originated in 12th Century China as a divinatory device
 - Spread to Korea, Japan, and Haida Indians of British Columbia
 - **Twister**
 - 1966 patent by Charles Foley & Neil Rabens
 - Popularized by Johnny Carson & Eva Gabor on *The Tonight Show* (May 1966)
 - Milton Bradley accused by competitors of selling “sex in a box”
 - **Perfection**
 - Dexterity and pattern recognition game
 - Published in 1973 by Milton Bradley

Modern Dexterity Games

▫ Jenga

- Derived from the Swahili word meaning “to build”
- Designed by Leslie Scott and published in 1983
- Based on an older West African public domain game.

▫ Villa Paletti

- Designed by Bill Payne and published in 2001
- Winner of the 2002 Spiele de Jahres (Game of the Year) award, a prestigious German award



Next Lecture

Next Lecture

- Carnival/Machine Games
 - Carnival Games
 - Circuses
 - Pinball
 - Gambling Machines