

TABLOS

Game description

TABLOS is an instructive cards game aiming at learning the multiplication tables. It's intended for children who've already begun to study them (9-10 years old).

TABLOS is a real *game*, not an educational method. Its playful nature and rapid rhythm make it attractive even for older ones. It has been successfully tested from years by numerous teachers, children and teenagers.

TABLOS rules are easy to memorize, the material isn't expensive, the game doesn't require long preparation nor lots of space. If a card gets lost, one can continue to use the game, at least with the basic rules. This game isn't a seasonal must-have and won't be out of fashion that soon. The cards' size is standardized.

Rules

TABLOS is an 80 cards game giving the results of the times tables by 2 up to 9, each table giving the products from 1 to 10. The number of players can range from 2 to 6.

A dealer, designed at random, deals 7 cards each and turns up the first card of the stack. The winner will be the first player who gets rid of all his cards.

Each player on turn and clockwise can lay down a card *if it belongs to the same times table* as the one on the gaming table.

If the player doesn't have a card to play, he takes one from the stack. If this new card fits, he lays it down immediately. For instance, it's possible to lay 36 on 12 because the two cards belong to the table by 6. But it isn't allowed to put 36 on 49 because they don't belong to the same table, nor lay 36 on 3 since the table by 3 ends at 30.

The following suite could be a possibility: 18, 6, 20, 45, 81, 27, 12, 4... since each card has a common multiple with the preceding one. The tables by 1 and 10 aren't used, so one can't pretend that 2 and 3 go together because they belong to the table by 1.

At the moment he lays his card, the player has to say the multiplication: for 36 (s)he'll say '4 times 9 is 36' or '6 times 6 is 36'. If (s)he's wrong or if the card doesn't fit, the player takes the card back, draws a penalty card from the reserve and passes his/her turn.

If the card the player lays down is a square number, 25 for instance (5 x 5), the player has to declare it as well. If (s)he fails, (s)he has to draw a penalty card. *After a square the direction of play is inverted.*

If a player lays down the end of a table, that is a multiple of 10, the next player draws a card and passes their turn. These rules also prevail for the first card the dealer turns up.

If the players contest, they can refer to the little drawings on the side of the cards: those drawings can appear at 9 different levels according to the table(s) the card belongs to. The card 18 for instance, will show a sign at levels 2, 3, 6 and 9. So, in order to check if the card belongs to the same times table as the one on the table, it's enough to notice that they show a drawing *on the same level*.

TABLOS cards may also be used according to the rules of traditional card games and patience's.