

Team
Wadjet



Team
Ankh



Who is Mehen?

Mehen is a coiled snake god who protected the sun god, Ra, during their nightly journey through the underworld within his enormous coils.

A history of the game

The Mehen game was played in Egypt from the Predynastic Period until the Middle Kingdom, 5000 to 4000 years ago. The game recreates the nightly battle between the god and the enemies of the sun god, Ra. The example on the right was discovered by the Egypt Exploration Society in 1898 at the site of Diospolis Parva. It is a mystery how the game was played in Ancient Egypt but we have some ideas below – see if you can think of other ways to play Mehen.

You will need:

Scissors

Six flat sticks

Felt-tip pens

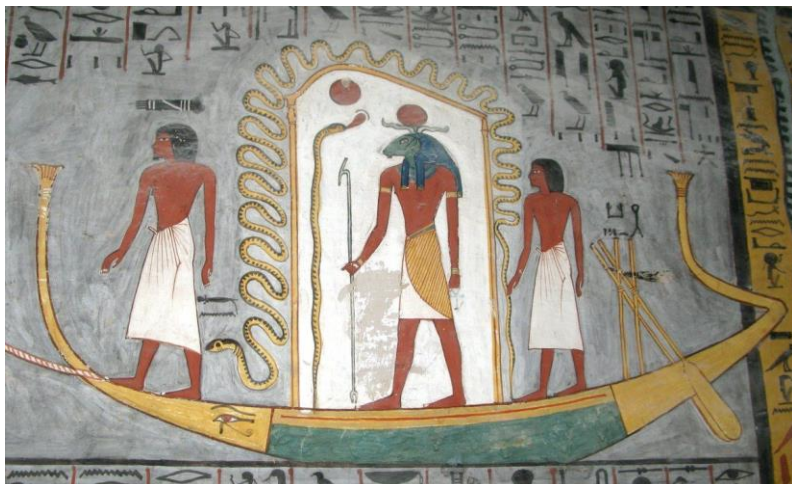
Making your Mehen game:

Cut out the counters below the Mehen board

Using the felt-tip pens, colour in one side of each stick

How to play:

1. Each player has four counters, either *ankh* or *wadjet*, and a lion counter.
2. Each player throws the sticks and counts how many coloured sticks are showing. The player with the highest number of coloured sticks showing goes first.
3. The first player throws the sticks again and can only put a counter on the board if just one coloured stick is showing. If more than one coloured stick is showing then you must miss your turn and let the next player try.
4. Continue this until all of your counters (except the lions) are on the first segment at the tip of the snake's tail, you can then throw sticks and move any counter the number of coloured sticks showing. You can choose which counter to move during any turn and there can be as many counters as you like on each segment of the snake's body.
5. When a counter reaches the snake's head at the centre of the board, turn the counter around and begin moving it back along the snake's body towards the tail.
6. When one of your counters completes the journey back you can place your lion counter on the snake's tail.
7. Move your lion counters along the snake body using the throw sticks – don't forget to move your remaining counters to the finish line too though! When your lion reaches the snake's head it can start moving back to the tail. On its return journey, your lion can eat up your opponent's counters if it lands on the same segment. Lions cannot eat other lions though.
8. The winner is the person whose lion has eaten the most counters.
9. Good luck!



Left: Mehen coiled around the boat of Ra in the tomb of Ramesses I (KV16), Valley of the Kings, West bank of Luxor, Egypt.