



# Be Excellent At Maths with ...

## Ancient Egyptian Senet

A favourite Ancient Egyptian board game was called senet. The word “senet’ means “passing”. The game represented a struggle against evil forces that stopped a soul getting to the heavenly land of the god Osiris to live in eternal happiness. Ancient Egyptians took it seriously but today we can play for Fun with Maths and History.

A lovely board was found in the famous tomb of Tutankhamun. The exact rules were probably very complicated and are not really known but here is an easier way to play.



How to play. Make what you need:

your own board, counters and drop-sticks

The Rules:

The game is for 2 players (or teams)

The aim of the game is to get your pieces off the board before the other player. Players have 5 counters each.

- Put all counters on the left column of the board. Pyramids on the even numbers; sphinxes on the odd numbers.
- One at a time, players hold the drop-sticks then drop them on the table. The player who has the most decorated sides showing goes first. The other player chooses who plays with the sphinxes and who has the pyramids.
- Start with your counter that is on the lowest number. Drop the drop-sticks and use the table to work out how many places to move.
- The counters move up the left-hand side, down the middle and then up the right-hand side. Move the number of spaces that the table shows you can.
- If you land on an empty space or on one of your pieces that is lucky as you can stay there.
- But if your number of moves takes you to an opponent’s space.... you can’t go there! You have to stay where you are!
- Take turns to play.
- Before each drop of the drop-sticks the player must decide which counter-piece is going to be used on this turn and tell the opponent before making the drop.
- When a piece goes past the finish it is removed from the board.

*The first player to get all 5 counter-pieces off the board wins!!*

Sene

	10	11	30	
	9	12	29	
	8	13	28	
	7	14	27	
	6	15	26	
	5	16	25	
	4	17	24	
	3	18	23	
	2	19	22	
	1	20	21	

<i>Number of decorated faces showing</i>	<i>How many places</i>
0	5
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4

Senet

Drop-sticks –

Cut out and decorate one side only (lolly sticks can be used instead)



Counter - pieces

