

# DICE GAME SHUT THE BOX



This centuries old game is great for teaching kids basic addition and subtraction. It helps to build mental math skills and is really fun to play.

## OTHER NAMES

Blitz, Bakarar, Canoga, Klackers, Batten Down the Hatches, Kingoball, Trictrac, Cut Throat, Jackpot.

## NUMBER OF PLAYERS

1-4 players

## VARIATIONS AND SCORING

Some game boards only have numbers 1-9. Others have up to the number 12. There are many variations of game play and rules. Play usually happens in several rounds (3, 5, 7 -- whatever is agreed). Here are two common scoring options:

**Golf** - A player's score is the sum of the numbers remaining uncovered. The player with the lowest score wins.

**Missionary** - A player's score is the number of tiles remaining uncovered. For example, if 3 tiles remain, their score is 3. The player with the lowest score wins.

If you manage to "shut the box", you win instantly.

## HISTORY

The history of this game is not much more than vague folklore -- No one really knows when and where the game originated. It may have originated in Normandy, France around the 12th Century. It is believed to have been a popular game amongst fur trappers of the Hudson Bay Company in the 19th Century. It is said to have also been popular among sailors and fishermen.

## MATERIALS

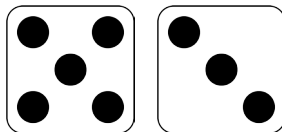
- Game board or set of cards (Ace-10). Ace will stand in as the number 1.
- A pair of dice

# DICE GAME SHUT THE BOX

## HOW TO PLAY

If playing with two or more people, decide which player will go first. This can be done by rolling the dice -- the highest number goes first.

The player rolls the dice and either adds the sum to make one number, keeps the numbers separate, or breaks them into three numbers. For example, if the player rolls a five and three:



This can be added to 8.  
The player closes the number 8.

OR

They can close the 5 and 3.

OR

They can close the number 5, 2, and 1

OR

They can close 4, 3, and 1

The player continues rolling the dice and closing numbers until they can't close any more tiles and their turn ends. They add up according to the preferred scoring style (see page 1), then it is the next player's turn. The player with the lowest score after a certain number of rounds wins.

If a player closes all tiles, they have “shut the box” and win outright. This is harder to do than you might think!

There are different ways of playing Shut the Box. Ask an adult to help you find and learn about options online by searching “How to Play Shut the Box” or “Shut the Box Game Variations”.

