

Name _____

Battleship: A Strategic Naval Battle at Sea

Battleship is an engaging board game that simulates a thrilling naval battle between two players. In this reading passage, we will explore the rules and gameplay of Battleship, uncover its fascinating history, and dive into the strategies players use to outmaneuver their opponents on the high seas.



How to Play

Battleship is a two-player game where each player has their own hidden grid, referred to as the "ocean," and a fleet of ships to place on it. Here's how to play:

- **Setup:** Each player has two grids—an upper grid for tracking their own shots and a lower grid to hide their fleet. The fleets consist of five ships: one aircraft carrier (5 spaces long), one battleship (4 spaces long), one cruiser (3 spaces long), one submarine (3 spaces long), and one destroyer (2 spaces long). Players take turns positioning their ships on the lower grid.
- **Taking Shots:** Players alternate turns calling out coordinates to take shots at the opponent's grid. For example, "B-3" would indicate a shot at the intersection of column B and row 3. The opponent responds with "hit" if a ship segment is hit or "miss" if the shot misses all ships.
- **Hit and Miss Markers:** Players use different markers on their upper grids to track the results of their shots. Hits are marked with one marker, while misses are marked with another.
- **Sinking Ships:** When a player successfully hits all segments of an opponent's ship, they announce "sunk." The opponent then places a marker on the ship's silhouette on their lower grid to indicate the sunken ship.
- **Winning the Game:** The game continues until one player has successfully sunk all of the opponent's ships. The player who sinks the entire fleet first wins the game.

History of Battleship

The game of Battleship has its roots in various pen-and-paper games that simulate naval combat. The modern version of the game, as we know it today, was developed by Milton Bradley and first published as "BroadSides, the Game of Naval Strategy" in 1931. The game underwent further development and was released as "Battleship" in 1967.

Throughout its history, Battleship has maintained its popularity and has seen adaptations into various forms, including electronic versions and even a feature film. It is celebrated for its combination of strategic thinking, deduction, and suspenseful gameplay.