

How to play dara

This game from Nigeria requires two players or teams. It is played with stones or sticks in the ground.



An example of a DARA game board

Make the game board by either using chalk (as above) or a stick to draw it out on soil or sand. The game board should be 5 x 6 squares.

Find some counters – which could be stones, pebbles, shells, sticks etc. Each side needs 12 counters of the same type, which are different to the other team's counters.

How to play

1. Each team takes turns to place a counter anywhere on the game board until all counters have been put there. A team's counters must not be placed three in a row at this point.
2. Each team takes turns to move a counter into an adjacent empty square. The counters cannot be moved diagonally but can be moved up, down or sideways. The aim is to make three counters sit in a row (but not a diagonal one).
3. When a team manages to make three counters in a row, they can remove one of their opponent's counters. A team can only remove one counter from their opponent in any one go, even if more than one row of three counters is created in a move.
4. The game is over when a team is unable to make three in a row with their counters. When this happens, their opponent wins.