

#FAMILY-TIME

Best Board Games

It's time to refresh your game stash!



It makes sense that the popularity of board games for kids went through the roof during quarantine and in the early days of the pandemic - families were looking for a way to pass the time while they were stuck at home. But even as the world has opened up again, game night has stuck around, as parents and kids have re-discovered the joys and rewards of rolling the dice and shuffling the deck. When the family gathers around the table to play a board game, kids benefit in big ways. The screen-free time helps little ones develop critical-thinking and logical-reasoning skills, learn to work as part of a team and practice things like patience and turn taking - all while creating fun memories. If it's time to refresh your game stash, check out our top picks and get ready to for a fun family game night.

Mattel Scrabble Board Game

Scrabble is one of the premium board games that both children and adults love. The game is suitable for children aged ten years and above and can be played by two to four players. This educational board game is interactive and helps improve your mental skills, as well as vocabulary. If you love languages, this game is for you.

Hasbro Mouse Trap Board Game

The mouse-catching board game is designed for children aged six years and older. The colourful game comes with marble, pawns, die, cheese wedge, contraption parts, and a rubber band. It is an exciting game and can be played by two or four players. Children can improve their decision-making, cause and effect, and construction skills by engaging in this game. The motive is to collect the wedges and win before your opponents do.

Monopoly Ultimate Banking

Bring home Monopoly and challenge your friends to this ultimate board game. The best part of the game is that both children and adults can play it together. It is designed attractively and includes a banking unit, cards, dice, plastic tokens, and houses that are used as the game progresses. Players can buy, rent, and sell properties, and sometimes may have to go to jail - but it's all part of the game!

Creative's Millennium Snakes & Ladders and Ludo

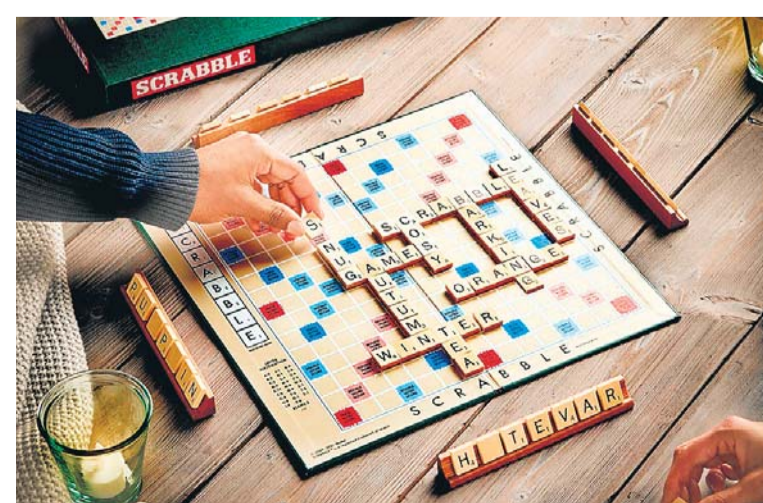
You can get this two-in-one game set with the two most popular games: Snakes and Ladders and Ludo. Both are simple yet exciting games to play and are designed to be colourful and creative. The box includes two dice and 16 bright counters. Playing them regularly improves observation, concentration, and hand-eye coordination skills.

Sea Samurais

Sea Samurais is a unique educational board game that focuses on teaching children about ocean pollution. Play together in this fast-paced, cooperative board game and clean the ocean of different kinds of waste before time runs out. This unique Indian board game is the first of its kind where children learn about ocean pollution while playing and having fun. The best part is that the game is cooperative which means that everyone plays against the board and either all lose or all win the board game. This style of gameplay is quite different and unique.

KitkiSamrat Board Game

KitkiSamrat is a competitive, strategy board game based on the real history of India. The game is designed by a company called Kitki based in India. The board game is both educational and fun! This family board game can be enjoyed by both kids and adults and is a great way to teach children about Indian history.

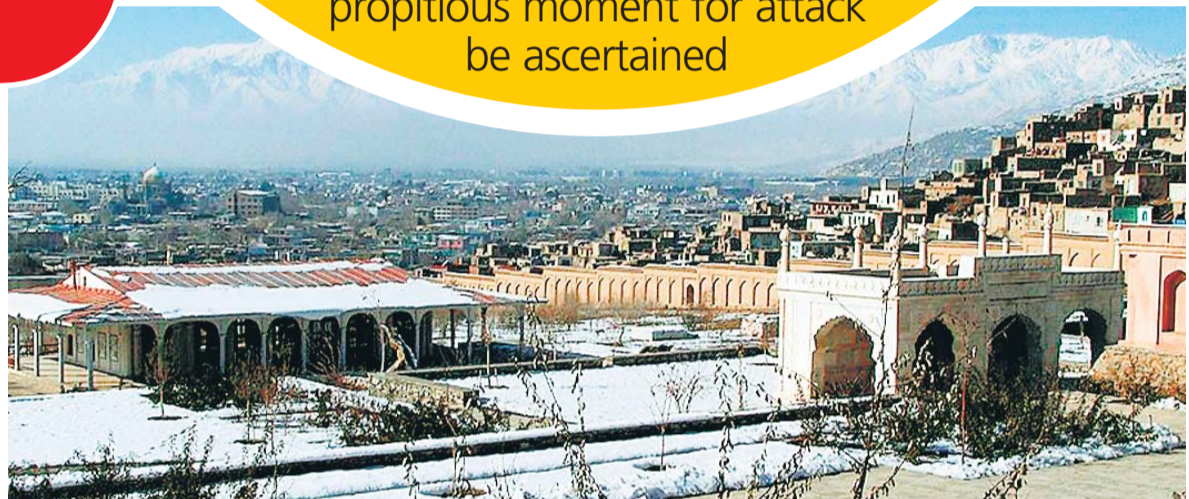


Bird's Eye View of the Taj Mahal at Agra.

Monsieur the Astrologer

The majority of Asiatics are so infatuated in favour of being guided by the signs of the heavens, that according to their phraseology, no circumstance can happen below, which is not written above. In every enterprise they consult their astrologers. When two armies have completed every preparation for battle, no consideration can induce the generals to commence the engagement until the Sahet be performed; that is, until the propitious moment for attack be ascertained

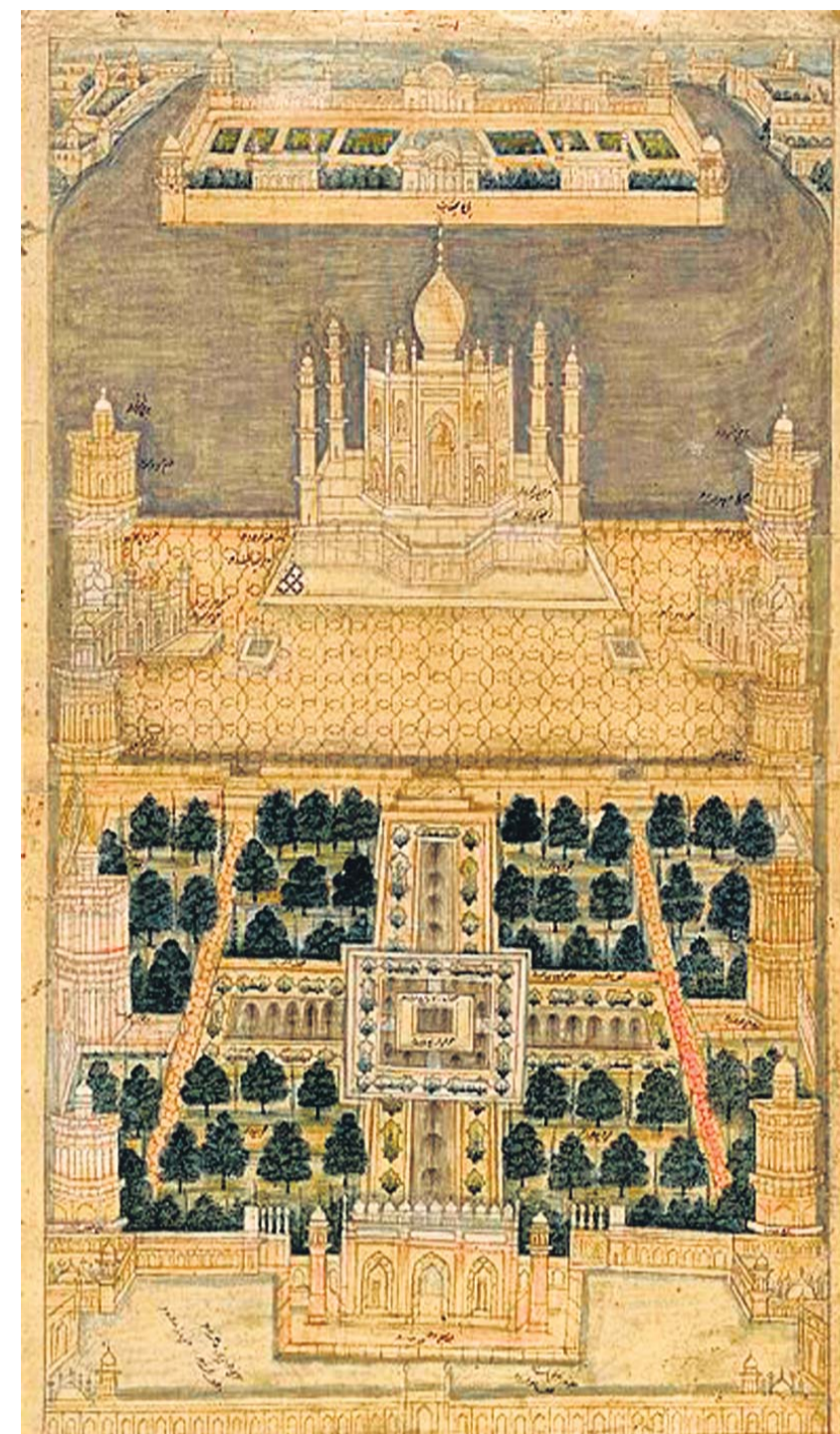
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Bird's Eye View of the Taj Mahal at Agra.

World Octopus Day

As the name suggests, World Octopus Day celebrates one of the most distinctive creatures living on the planet today: the octopus. This eight-legged, mysterious creature from under the sea has always been one that brings with it a load of fascination for its intelligence, mobility, and beauty. Octopuses are worthy of appreciation for a number of reasons. First of all, they are one of the earth's great survivors. Indeed, despite their relatively short lifespan, octopus fossils date back more than 300 million years, meaning that they pre-date even dinosaurs.



Gardens being prepared (Babumama).

#PHOTOGRAPHY

Essential Elements to a Good Photo

Photography is a visual art, and as with most art forms, there are no rigid rules or formulas that guarantee a captivating image. However, there are certain key elements that often contribute to an image's impact and appeal.

Below are a few tips that help contribute to a "good" photo.



A Good Photo is Technically Correct

No matter how much emphasis we place on the artistic language of photography, a good photographic work in the modern day

must first and foremost be technically correct. Here, technical correctness refers to proper focusing, exposure, colour, post-processing, etc.

A Good Photo is Creative

A good work must be the photographer's own creativity, not a simple imitation. Repetitive imitation can be a good learning tool but cannot be called creative work.

A Good Photo Highlights a Theme

A photograph is meant to convey the intention of the photographer, and such language must have a theme. A cluttered composition is like a conversation in a

bustling market, making it difficult for one's attention to concentrate. Therefore, the composition must be concise. However, simplicity is a means, not an end.

A Good Photo Has Impact

Good photography must grab people's attention and leave a lasting impression. In this age of an unlimited supply of beautiful images on the internet, this is especially important. Otherwise, our images will not attract anyone's

attention and can only be enjoyed by a small group of close friends. How can we give our photographs more impact? We must use every trick we have: composition, light and shadow, colour, moment, emotion, story, and most importantly imagination.

A Good Photo Resonates

The language of photography is the exchange of information between the photographer and the viewer. Since it is a communication, a commonly understood language must be used; otherwise, it is like talking to a brick wall. The most important commonality between the photographer and the viewer is our humanity. A good photographer will make full use of this common language of humanity to create resonance. A good photograph should tell a story, be it a landscape or wildlife photograph. What kind of story? A human story, even though there is no human in

the image. Stories related to humans can effectively evoke resonance from the viewers. As a result, the story told by the photographer becomes the story interpreted or imagined by the viewers. This way, the vitality of the work continues to live on in the minds of the viewers. Not only stories, but humans are also emotional beings. Our work should convey emotions: things like joy, sorrow, or grief. One of the most profound emotions in human nature is love or longing for love. By capturing the love, we can touch the viewers' hearts and create a deep resonance.

A Good Photo is a Record of Time

Photography emerged for history, exists for history, and can become worthless when divorced from history. While we pursue the artistic and personal aspects of photography, we often stray from the original purpose of photography being a tool for recording reality. We distance ourselves from life, relinquish experience, and head straight for an imagined paradise, striving to capture a sensational image with the least time and effort. At the same time, the instant gratification of the web pushes us to cater to popular aesthetic tastes, to obtain instant approval and the accompanying financial benefits. Historical events are not limited to the human realm alone. Our natural world and the field of science and technology are writing new chapters every day, and it is the photographer's responsibility to capture and present them to the world. Our works will then acquire a historical value in accordance with the historical events.



#FRANCOIS BERNIER



Humayun's Tomb, Delhi, India.

with every project common and extraordinary.

In the original Astrologie Judiciaire, the Arabic word 'sahet', meaning 'moment' or 'hour'.

Now it happened that the Kings principal astrologer fell into the water and was drowned. This melancholy accident caused a great sensation at court, and proved injurious to the reputation of these professors in divination. The man who had thus lost his life always performed the Sahet for the King and the Omrahs; and the people naturally wondered that an astrologer of such extensive experience, and who had for many years predicted happy incidents for others, should be taken by the sad catastrophe by which he was himself overwhelmed

which was universally known and repeated : Chah-Abas [Sh'h Abbas], the great King of Persia, having given orders that a small piece of ground within the seraglio should be prepared for a garden, the master-gardener intended to plant there several fruit-trees on a given day; but the astrologer, assuming an air of vast consequence, declared that unless the time of planting were regulated by the Sahet, it was impossible that the trees should thrive. Chah-Abas having acquiesced in the propriety of the remark, the astrologer took his instruments, turned over the pages of his books, made his calculations and concluded that, by reason of this or that conjunction of the planets, it was necessary to plant the trees before the expiration of another hour. The gardener, who thought of nothing less than an appeal to the stars, was absent when this wise determination was formed; but persons were soon procured to accomplish the work: holes were dug, and all the trees put into the ground, the King placing them himself, that it

their dependence, and their absolute need of these pretended soothsayers.

The astrologers were much displeased with these and similar observations, and particularly with the following anecdote,



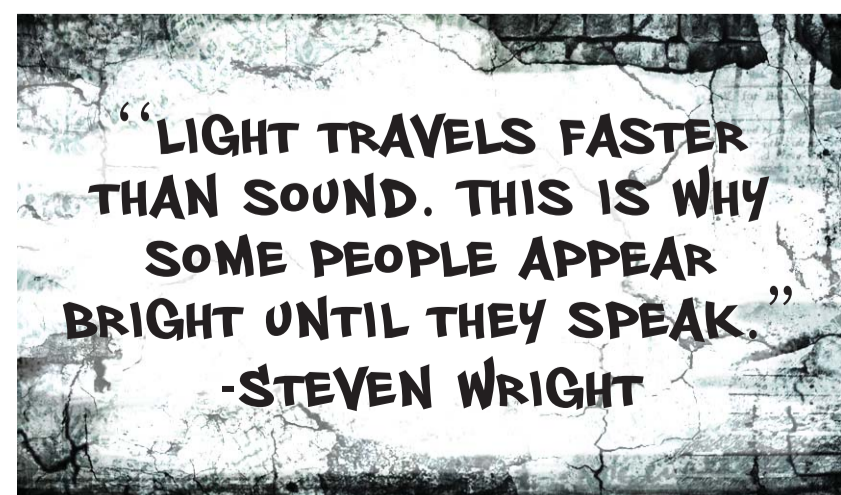
'How is it,' cried the Monarch indignantly, 'that you have presumed to tear up trees planted by my own hands; trees put into the ground after the solemn performance of the Sahet? We cannot now hope to repair the mischief. The stars had marked the hour for planting, and no fruit can henceforth grow in the garden.'

might be said they were all planted by the hand of Chah-Abas. The gardener, returning at his usual hour in the afternoon, was greatly surprised to see his labour anticipated; but observing that the trees were not ranged according to the order he had originally designed that an apricot, for example, was placed in the soil intended for an apple-tree, and a pear-tree in that prepared for an almond he pulled up the premature plantation, and laid down the trees for that night on the ground, covering the roots with earth. In an instant the astrologer was apprised of the gardener's proceedings, and he was equally expeditious in complaining to Chah-Abas, who, on his part, sent immediately for the culprit. 'How is it,' cried the Monarch indignantly, 'that you have presumed to tear up trees planted by my own hands; trees put into the ground after the solemn performance of the Sahet? We cannot now hope to repair the mischief. The stars had marked the hour for planting, and no fruit can henceforth grow in the garden.' The honest rustic had taken liberal potations of Schiras wine, and looking askance at the astrologer, observed after an oath



Tomb of Jahangir and gardens.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman