

# BACKGAMMON



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# Backgammon History

## A look at Backgammon History

Backgammon history can be traced back thousands of years to Mesopotamia. The name for this game is believed to come from the Middle English from around the middle sixteen hundreds. The words back which means back and gamen, which means game. The meaning they were aiming for was likely something along the lines of this is a game where you might have to go back. This, of course, was referring to when one of the pieces is sent back to the bar.

Backgammon history tells us that originally the game was played on flat surfaces like wood. It used stones as the pieces. Bits of wood or pottery were used for the dice. Recently excavations in Iran, which was formally known as Mesopotamia, found an old game of backgammon. The game, slightly different from the modern version was over three thousand years old.

When researching backgammon history it will be found that the game did not get its official set of rules until 1743 when a man named Edmund Hoyle decided to set them up. Early on a game that was deeply involved in gambling, the 1920s saw the advent of the doubling cube. This was used to increase the wagers on the games. Interestingly it seemed to also be in those you were better players.

Continuing to look into backgammon history shows that since those days the game has changed very little. It is a game that's popularity is up and down. Yet, it's also a game that has had world championships played since the 1960s; competitions are played between the United States and Europe.

Backgammon history and instruction are so popular that many books have been written on the subject. There are also books written on playing strategies. Backgammon is so popular that there are computer games available to play as well as websites to go to where you can meet and challenge other players at a similar skill level. This game is one of the most popular of the older games along with checkers.