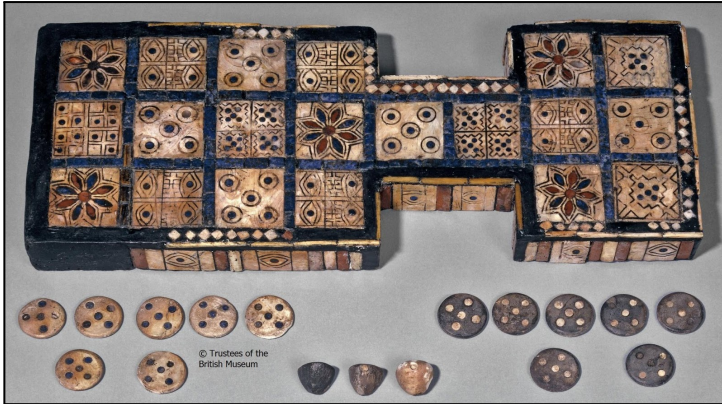


Royal Game of Ur

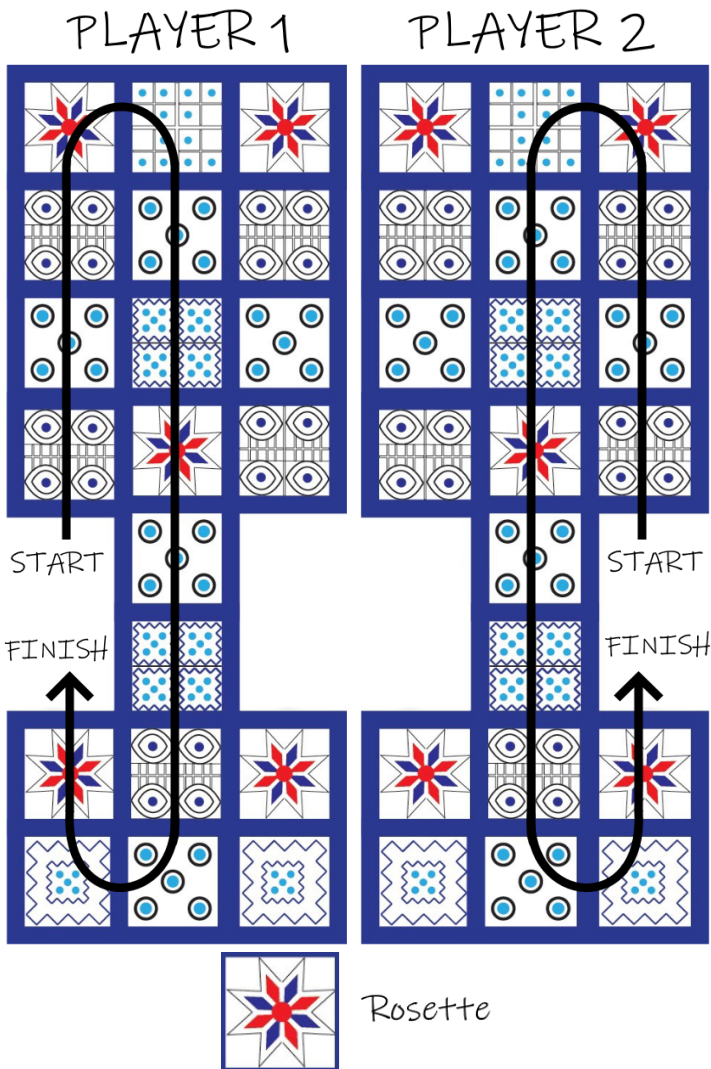
“The oldest complete board game ever discovered was found in the 1920s by Sir Leonard Woolley inside the Royal tombs at the ancient Sumerian city of Ur in Mesopotamia. Ur of the Chaldees is mentioned in the Bible and the tombs were built more than 5000 years ago. The name of the game isn't known and so it has become known as 'The Royal Game of Ur'.”



How to Play

The goal is to get all of your **seven** pawns out to FINISH first. Place all pawns off the board at START.

1. Roll the dice to figure out who goes first. The higher number has the light pawns and starts the game.
2. Pieces move along the paths shown on the other side.
3. Roll **four** dice. Then move an existing piece on the board, or a new piece onto the board from START, by the sum of white corners pointing up on the dice.
 - a. A pawn cannot be moved if it would land on the same square with a friendly pawn.
 - b. If you land on a square occupied by the other player, kick their pawn off the board.
 - c. The rosette is safe. It cannot be moved to if it is already occupied.
 - d. If you cannot make a move, or roll a zero, you forfeit your turn. If you can move, you must.
4. If your pawn lands on a rosette, you **may** take an extra turn.
5. A pawn can only move to FINISH on an exact throw.



“The Royal Game of Ur was popular in the Bronze Age across ancient Sumer and Babylon and boards for it have been found on many excavations. Four game boards bearing a very close resemblance to the Royal Game of Ur were found in the tomb of Tutankhamun in Egypt, who ruled circa 1330 BC.

At the height of its popularity, the game acquired spiritual significance, and events in the game were believed to reflect a player's future and convey messages from deities. The Royal Game of Ur remained popular until late antiquity.

Like modern Backgammon, Royal Game of Ur combines elements of both strategy and luck.”

