

Patch's Toy Chest

Searching for the Perfect Gift?

Let's face it...we all experience a little panic or indecision about what gifts to buy as the holiday season sneaks up on us. It can be difficult finding the perfect gift for in-laws, teachers, friends, nieces and nephews, siblings and even your own kids. And it seems like some people already own every possible item on the planet. Does dad really need another tie? Grandma already has three robes and slippers to match. Your best friend, the shopaholic, buys everything she wants herself. So what's left to buy? Well, if you need a little help or just a great suggestion on a good gift idea, try perusing the game aisle at your favorite store. You'll find party games such as 5 Second Rule and Buzzword, family games such as Farkle, dice games such as Word Shout and card games such as SWAP!

Giving someone a board game is giving them more than a *thing*, it's giving them the experience of having fun and interacting with others. It's also a gift that keeps on giving. They'll grow out of that sweater, that scarf will fall out of style, the electronic doohickey will be made obsolete in a few months when a newer model comes out, but a board game stays true and can be played over and over again with family members, friends, neighbors, classmates and more! Each time you play is a different experience, but each experience is fun. Board games also make excellent charity gifts, giving children and families in need the valuable gift of fun together.

There are many other reasons that giving games for the holidays is a great idea. Board games are generally inexpensive, which makes it easy to buy a few for the people on your list. The smaller games, such as card games and dice games like Toss Up, also make great stocking stuffers! The larger board games often come in nice square boxes which are easy to wrap, and let's face it, most toys out there are odd-shaped and difficult to wrap, so it's a plus when the gift is in a box! Also, when you are gathered together with family and friends opening gifts together, chances are good that you'll be asked to play the first game when they open your gift. Then you get to join in the fun!

No matter who is on your holiday shopping list, a board game is bound to be a good gift idea. There's something in the game aisle for everyone...just take a quick look and something will catch your eye. Happy shopping and happy holidays!

