

While you certainly can't go wrong with Monopoly, this winter is the perfect opportunity to try out a new family board game. Today's tabletop games can be just as engaging as their digital counterparts, requiring kids to move, draw, build, strategize and most, importantly, enjoy themselves. Best of all, unlike Monopoly, they don't require a full night (or longer!) to complete.

Many game options are available, so we tapped an expert—Dominic Crapuchettes, a professional board game designer and founder of Maryland-based North Star Games—for his top picks for off-screen family fun. Discover his game recommendations.

Happy Salmon will get your heart pumping as you run around the room to match cards with the other players. When you find a match, you celebrate together by performing the action on your card (high five, fist bump, etc.), then you throw the card on the ground and look for your next match. The first player to go through their 12 cards wins. Happy Salmon works great across several generations and is sure to put a smile on everyone's face. *2 minutes, ages 6+, four to six players (or up to 12 people with two copies)*

Monster Match is a speed game. Every round, two dice are rolled showing a number and a body part (arms, legs, or eyes). Players quickly scan the 10 monster cards on the table to find one that matches what is showing on the dice. Hundreds of speed games are on the market, but Monster Match is unique because multiple players can get a match each round. This allows younger kids to participate and have fun. *10 minutes, ages 6+, two to six players*

Beasts of Balance is a cooperative game where players work together to build a tower of animals without any of them falling. The beautifully sculpted animals interact with a downloadable app, which keeps score for you and displays an interactive ecosystem of the animals you've played. Beasts of Balance sells



Family GAME

for \$100, but the unique experience it provides is worth every penny. *10-20 minutes, Ages 7+, one to five players*

Rat-a-Tat-Cat is a simple strategy game that requires a mix of memory skills, calculated risk-taking and a bit of interactive

CRYSTAL STAR ORNAMENT

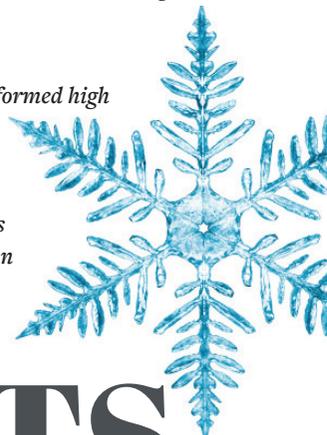
What you need:

- Table salt
- Water
- Bowl
- Spoon
- Measuring cup
- Plate
- Pipe cleaners
- Cookie cutter – simple shape like a star or snowflake
- Optional: food coloring

FUN FACTS:

Snowflakes are actually ice crystals that are formed high up in the clouds when water freezes. They always have six sides, but every single one of them is unique.

Most sandy beaches are made up of billions of broken quartz crystals. Quartz is a common mineral found in rocks, soil and sand.



Science EXPERIMENTS