

Board games can offer fun for the family

Can fun and laughter be packaged inside a box? You might say yes after playing some of the hot new board games available for this holiday season.

With something to suit any taste or style, today's board games provide the perfect gift for any member of the family.

Pictionary Party Edition is the portable version of the original charades on paper game, America's best-selling game. It features a sturdy 15" x 15" carrying case that has plenty of room for cards, markers, timer and everything you'll need for an exciting round of Pictionary. But the fun really begins when the carrying case transforms into a reusable dry-erase easel.

Now, large groups of people can play Pictionary at once and, because both sides of the easel feature identical dry-erase surfaces, two teams can go head-to-head at the same time. The suggested retail price is \$30-\$35.

U.S.A. Trivia fits two centuries of the American Experience into an 8" x 12" box. Featuring thousands of questions

from America's past and present, U.S.A. Trivia tackles our nation's history, biography and geography, sending players on a freewheeling race across the country.

Questions range from easy to difficult. Here's a tough one: What are Abraham Lincoln's hands doing in the famous statue of him in the Lincoln Memorial? (Answer: His hands are using sign language to "sign" his initials "A" and "L.") For ages 14 and up; the suggested retail price is \$30.

Putting sentences together seems easy when you have no time limit and the entire English language to work with. But what if your choice of words were limited to only those that start with certain letters—and the words must be placed in the same order as the letters were dealt? And what if you were pitted against other players scrambling to create these sentences while time quickly expires?

Then you'd be playing Verbositi, the new game that gives players three minutes to create proper sentences about specific topics from seven randomly dealt letters. For example, if the letters dealt

were V, C, F, F, E, O, and I, a good sentence might be "Verbositi—Contagious Fun For Every Outrageous Imagination," or, backwards "Imagine Endless Feverish Fun Called Verbositi." Suggested retail price is \$12.

There are games that reward you for

knowledge of world events. There are games that reward you for making deals and earning money. But has there ever been a game that rewarded you for having common sense? Finally, there is.

Quick Wit, The Uncommon Game of Common Sense, poses 1,000 questions that challenge players' common sense,

visual perception, basic knowledge... and sense of humor. Quick Wit categories include Ultimately Logical (logic and reason), Eye'll Be The Judge (perceptual), Communicabulary (vocabulary), Know Nonsense (general knowledge) and A Moment's Thoughts (problem solving).



WITH SOMETHING TO SUIT ANY TASTE, board games are the perfect holiday gift.

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