



The big debate

Is Monopoly the best board game?

The real estate game has been criticized, but some fans say that's not fair.

What you need to know

- Monopoly holds the Guinness World Record for being the most popular board game.
- More than 500 million people have played it globally, and more than 275 million games have been sold.
- There are thousands of different versions of the game.
- The World of Card Games website studied player reviews for more than 1,000 board games. Monopoly was found to be the most overrated (not living up to players' expectations).



Monopoly was first sold in 1935, and since then, generations of families have been playing it for competitive but good-natured fun. Players ages 8 and up try to “Buy, sell, dream, and scheme the way to riches,” according to Hasbro, the company that makes it. Some people say there’s a reason Monopoly has maintained its popularity for nearly 100 years, but others say just because it’s a classic doesn’t mean it’s the best. They point out that there are plenty of other timeless games, from Candyland to Clue to Settlers of Catan, and that new board games are released all the time. What do you think? Is Monopoly the best board game?

Yes—it’s easy and fun

Monopoly is a classic for good reason. For one thing, it’s simple, which makes it suitable for all ages. Players roll the dice, move around the board, use their money to buy and build property, and eventually charge opponents rent. At the same time, though, Monopoly can also be played more strategically. Players can choose which properties to buy and when to not only make money but to avoid losing it all. The best thing about Monopoly, though, is that you can never predict the twists and turns a game may take. You might win a prize or get sent to jail, and that keeps everyone on the edge of their seats.

No—it’s predictable and slow

If you’re playing Monopoly, you’ll need to settle in for a long time around the table. Officially the game can take up to three hours, but the longest match reportedly lasted for more than two months! If you lose all your money early in the game, it can be boring, and you can feel like you’re missing out on the fun while everyone else plays on. Sometimes one player can take an early lead, which makes it easy to predict who’s going to win. And so much of the game comes down to chance. Whether you win or lose is just the luck of the dice, which is something you can’t control or improve.

YES Three reasons Monopoly is the best board game

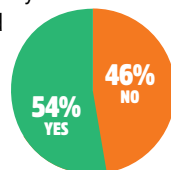
- 1 Monopoly is a popular game because people of all ages can play and families can enjoy it together.
- 2 At the same time, players can use strategy to make the game more challenging and interesting.
- 3 It’s never dull because one roll of the dice can change the game for everyone.

NO Three reasons Monopoly is not the best board game

- 1 It goes on for too long, especially if there are many players, and can drag on after you’ve lost interest.
- 2 You can end up watching others play if you run out of cash early, and if one player takes a clear lead, the game is predictable.
- 3 Monopoly is less about skill and more about the luck of the dice.

LAST WEEK’S POLL

Last week, we asked if we should do less on weekends. Just over half of you think Saturday and Sunday are best spent resting after a busy week.



What do you think?

Now that you’ve read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think Monopoly is the best board game or **NO** if you don’t. We’ll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.