

NUTTY NEIGHBORS™

A Mix and Match Card Game!

FOR 2-4 PLAYERS • AGES 4 AND UP

There are 20 Nutty Neighbor character puzzles in all. Each character has 4 parts to each puzzle—80 cards total.

All games should be played with the answer key or poster nearby, so that players can look at them for clues on what the complete nutty characters look like!

GAME #1: MAKIN' FACES!

SETTING UP

Put all cards face down on the table (you should only be able to see the backs of the cards). Gently mix the cards up, taking care not to bend them. The youngest player goes first. Players take turns moving clockwise (to the right) around the table. In turn, each player takes a card without looking at it. This continues until all the cards are gone from the middle of the table. Players should form their cards into a pile, face down, in front of them.

TO PLAY

Each player takes his or her pile of cards and turns them over. The goal is to make as many complete characters out of the cards as possible with your own pile of cards.

First, try to make matching characters. These are the ones with the same color and patterned backgrounds, and the sections will look more like they go together. (You'll be completing faces of a chef, policewoman, fireman, artist, and more.) When you have made as many of these as you can, with your own cards, then take your remaining cards and try to make more complete characters. These will have mis-matched backgrounds. And they will look pretty nutty too! In order to count as a complete character each one must have a hat or head section, an eye section, a mouth section, and a body section.

It's OK for you to look at your friend's cards, but don't try to take them! Players have to use their own cards when making complete characters.

Players may line their complete characters up in their play area as they complete them.

You may end up with extra pieces that do not form a complete character. That is OK. But only count the complete character puzzles when figuring out your score.

WINNING THE GAME

The player with the most complete Nutty Neighbor character puzzles wins! If there is a tie, call it even and play again. (When played with only two people, a tie is more likely. To end the game without a tie, players can choose to remove one complete character puzzle from the game so that there is an uneven amount of them to make.)

GAME #2: FINDING FRIENDS!

SETTING UP

Put all cards face down on the table (you should only be able to see the backs of the cards). Gently mix the cards up, taking care not to bend them. The oldest player is the dealer. The dealer collects all the cards into a neat pile, and gives each person at the table one card until all of the players have eight cards each. Players may look at their cards, taking care not to let their friends see them. (For younger players, this game can also be played with each player's cards laid out face up in front of them. In this case, it is OK if other players can see your cards.) The remaining cards should be put in a pile, face down, in the center of the table. This is called the draw pile. The dealer turns the top card in the draw pile over to form a discard pile. (Anytime a player has to put a single card down, it should go in the discard pile.) If playing with more than two people, the cards in the discard pile may be fanned out so that players can draw ANY card from the discard pile.

TO PLAY

Players check their cards. Try to place cards that have the same color backgrounds next to one another. When you have four-of-a-kind, you will have a complete matching character. Player to the left of the dealer goes first. Each turn has two parts:

1. Pick the top card from the draw pile or any card from the discard pile.

2. Take a card from your “hand” (the cards you are holding) and place it into the discard pile.

Your goal during each turn is to try to complete matching characters (those with the same color backgrounds). So be alert—and watch to see which cards your friends get rid of, they may be the ones you’re looking for! When you have completed a character, put it together face up in your play area. All players must do this when they have all four cards to make a character.

Now it is the next person’s turn. Play continues in this manner until a player manages to create correct matching characters with all of their cards. If the draw pile runs out before this happens, take the discard pile and mix it up, and place it face down in a neat stack to form a new draw pile (placing the top card face up next to it, which will begin a new discard pile).

WINNING THE GAME

The first player to match up all their cards is the winner!

GAME #3: FISHING FOR NEIGHBORS!

(Caution: This game is a long one when played with only two players.)

SETTING UP

Put all cards face down on the table (you should only be able to see the backs of the cards). Gently mix the cards up, taking care not to bend them. The oldest player is the dealer. The dealer collects all the cards into a neat pile, and gives each person at the table one card until all of the players

have eight cards each. Players may look at their cards, taking care not to let their friends see them. The remaining cards are kept face down in the center of the table. They can be fanned out so that any card may be selected from the “pile.”

TO PLAY

This game is played like Go Fish. You need to collect all four cards of the same color or character. The player to the left of the dealer goes first. When you have looked at the cards in your hand and you know you do not have any groupings (4-of-a-kind) to lay down in your play area, you may ask any other player if they have what you are looking for. For example, “Do you have any with a blue zigzag background?” or “Do you have any of the chef?” You can either ask for your cards by color or by the name of the character (refer to the poster if you are unsure of all of the characters, or use the color or answer key to help you). Your friend has to hand over one card to you if he or she has what you are looking for. You may then go again, until one of your friends tells you to “Go fishing for neighbors!” You must then pick a card from the ones scattered in the center of the table. If the card you get during your turn completes a character for you, you may then place it down in front of you and go again. (You may also go again if the card you pick up happens to be the card you were asking for on that turn.) If not, play proceeds with the player to your left.

WINNING THE GAME

The first player to match all of their cards into matching Nutty Neighbor character puzzles first is the winner!

GAME #4: PUZZLE PEOPLE

SETTING UP

Put all cards face down on the table (you should only be able to see the backs of the cards). Gently mix the cards, taking care not to bend them. The oldest player is the dealer. The dealer collects all the cards into a neat pile, and gives each person at the table one card until all of the cards are dealt.

TO PLAY

Players may then look at their cards and place together face up as many correct matching characters as they can. (Players can also keep any characters that they have three pieces of.) Once all the players are finished, the dealer takes the leftover cards (turns them face down) and mixes them up in the center of the table. The remaining cards are then dealt out evenly to each player. Again, players then look at their cards and make as many matching characters as possible. Play continues in this way until there are only a few cards left, and one of the players has more matching characters than anyone else. (Note: When played with two players, you can end the game after 5 rounds to see who has the most complete character puzzles!)

WINNING THE GAME

The player with the most matching Nutty Neighbor character puzzles is the winner!

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