Ancient Egyptian Board Games: Senet

Aim of the Game

Be the first player to move all of your pieces off the board.

You will need:

- 2 sets of 5 counters
- Game board (see below)
- 1 Dice or 4 Homemade Throwing Sticks

How to play

1) Player 1 rolls the dice or sticks and moves one of their pieces the number of spaces thrown.
   If a 1, 4 or 5 is thrown, Player 1 gets another go. If a 2 or a 3 is thrown, the player moves their piece and their turn ends. (If you are using a dice and roll a 6 you miss a go as you cannot throw a 6 with the sticks).

2) Play continues with each player taking it in turns to move their pieces.

3) You can move your piece to an empty space or swap places with one of your opponent’s pieces as long as they are not defended.

4) A piece is defended when two or more of a player’s pieces are sat on adjacent spaces. Three pieces of the same colour cannot be passed by an opponent.

5) If you cannot move forwards you have to move backwards. If you cannot move in either direction, your turn ends.

6) The last five squares are special. You cannot be attacked by your opponent on these spaces but these spaces all have special meanings.

\[\begin{array}{c}
\text{= You must throw a 5 to finish.} \\
\text{= You must throw a 2 to finish.} \\
\text{= Return to the beginning.} \\
\text{= You must throw a 1 to finish.} \\
\text{= You must throw a 3 to finish.}
\end{array}\]
Senet

1) Print out and decorate your Senet Board.
2) Challenge someone to a game!

Some Senet boards had even more special spaces.
Once you have played Senet a few times, think of other hieroglyph spaces that you could have and the rules that might go with them.
Add them to your board and play your own personal version of Senet!

Throwing Sticks
You can use dice to play senet or decorate one side of 4 lolly sticks to make throwing sticks. These sticks are thrown just like the dice. There are 5 possible combinations you can throw.

= 1 space
= 2 spaces
= 3 spaces
= 4 spaces
= 5 spaces