

EXPLORA CATALUNYA



20'

6+

2-6

42

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The Families



CITIES



NATURE



FOOD



FAMOUS PEOPLE



FOLKLORE



FESTIVALS



SYMBOLS

RUES OF THE GAME



Objective: Collect as many 6-card families as possible

- 1 Set-Up:** Shuffle and deal 6 cards to each player. Place the rest face down as the centre draw pile.
- 2 Starting Play:** The youngest player begins. On your turn, ask any player for a specific card from a family you already hold at least one card from (e.g. “From the Cities family, do you have Barcelona?”).
- 3 If They Have the Card:** They must give it to you and you take another turn.
- 4 If They Don’t:** They say “Dig!” and you draw a card—if it’s the one you asked for, you play again; if not, your turn ends and play passes clockwise.

5 Completing Families: When you collect all 6 cards from a family, say “Family!”, place them face up, and continue playing.

6 Running Out of Cards: If you run out during your turn, draw from the pile (or from another player if the pile is empty) then continue playing; if you run out when it’s not your turn, draw a card at the start of your next turn.



Winning the Game: The game ends when all families are complete.

The player with the most families wins!

CITIES



Barcelona

Catalonia's vibrant capital is renowned for its extraordinary Gaudí architecture, including the *Sagrada Família*, an iconic symbol of the city's creativity. Barcelona was transformed by the 1992 Olympics, which revitalised its waterfront. The city is also home to historic landmarks like the *Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya* and the Parliament of Catalonia.



Tarragona

Once a powerful Roman city called *Tarraco*, Tarragona is home to stunning ancient ruins that date back millennia. The Roman amphitheater, set by the sea, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Every year, the *Tarraco Viva* festival brings history to life with reenactments, making the past come alive for visitors

CITIES



Lleida

Dominated by the imposing *Seu Vella*, Lleida's hilltop cathedral offers spectacular panoramic views of the city below. This inland city is known for its agricultural heritage, particularly sweet pears and a wealth of local produce. It also hosts *L'Aplec del Caragol*, a beloved festival dedicated to eating snails!



Girona

This medieval gem is known for its colorful houses along the Onyar River and its well-preserved Jewish Quarter. The city's ancient walls offer breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside. Fans of *Game of Thrones* may recognize its cathedral and old streets from the series, which adds to its charm.

CITIES



Vic

Famous for its lively market square, Vic is a historic town with medieval charm. Its cured sausages, especially *llonganissa de Vic*, are among Catalonia's most famous foods. The town's rich history includes a stunning Roman temple, a beautiful Gothic cathedral, and impressive examples of traditional Catalan architecture.



Olot

Surrounded by dormant volcanoes, Olot is part of the *Garrotxa* Volcanic Zone Natural Park, where nature thrives. The city is famous for its unique volcanic cuisine, including *fesols de Santa Pau*, a local bean dish. The striking landscape, with its lush forests and rolling hills, makes it a paradise for nature lovers.

NATURE



La Costa Brava

Golden beaches, rugged cliffs, and hidden coves make the Costa Brava a Mediterranean paradise. The crystal-clear waters are perfect for snorkeling, kayaking, and swimming. Quaint fishing villages like Cadaqués, with their cobbled streets and whitewashed houses, inspired artists like Dalí and continue to captivate visitors.



Montserrat

This iconic mountain range is home to a Benedictine monastery and the revered Black Madonna, Catalonia's patron saint. The jagged peaks create an unforgettable skyline, often shrouded in mist. Pilgrims and hikers alike visit to enjoy the stunning views, peaceful atmosphere, and sacred spiritual experience.

NATURE



Ebro Delta

This vast wetland is a paradise for birdwatchers, with flamingos and over 300 other bird species. Rice fields dominate the landscape, producing some of Spain's best rice for paella. The traditional *pontona* boats, used to navigate its shallow waters, offer a unique way to explore the region's natural beauty.



Aigüestortes National Park

Catalonia's only national park is a breathtaking landscape of pristine lakes, rushing rivers, and towering mountains. The park is home to the *isard*, a type of Pyrenean goat, and other rare wildlife. In winter, the frozen lakes create a magical snowy wonderland, perfect for winter sports and serene walks.

NATURE



Pedraforca Mountain

One of Catalonia's most famous mountains, Pedraforca's unique twin peaks make it instantly recognizable. A favourite among climbers, it's surrounded by lush forests and dramatic landscapes. Legends say witches once gathered here for magical rituals, adding a layer of mystery to the mountain's allure.



Lake Banyoles

Home to Catalonia's largest natural lake, Banyoles is perfect for rowing, cycling, and relaxing by the water. Legends tell of a lake monster lurking beneath the surface, adding to the lake's mystique. It was also the venue for the 1992 Olympic rowing events, further cementing its place in history.

FOOD



Bread with Tomato

A simple yet delicious Catalan staple: rustic bread rubbed with ripe tomato and garlic, drizzled with olive oil, and sprinkled with salt. It's often paired with cheeses, cured meats, or *botifarra*, adding layers of flavour. This dish turns any meal into a true Catalan experience, enjoyed as a tapa or snack.



Calçots (grilled onions)

These sweet grilled onions are a Catalan winter favourite, with a smoky flavor that's hard to resist. Served with romesco sauce, they are eaten at *calçotades*, lively outdoor feasts that bring people together. The traditional way to eat them? Hold them high, dip, and lower them into your mouth in one go for a tasty experience.

FOOD



Crema Catalana

This delicious custard dessert, similar to *crème brûlée*, is flavoured with cinnamon, vanilla, and lemon zest, offering a fragrant and creamy treat. Traditionally, the caramelized sugar topping is burned with a hot iron to create a crispy, golden layer. It's one of Catalonia's most famous sweet delights and a perfect end to any meal.



Escudella Stew

Catalonia's hearty winter stew features tender meat, fresh vegetables, and pasta or rice, making it perfect for cold weather. On Christmas, the first course is served as *sopa de galets*, a rich broth with large shell-shaped pasta. The second course, *carn d'olla*, includes the variety of meats, sausage and vegetables from the soup, creating a satisfying feast.

FOOD



Botifarra Sausage

Catalonia's beloved sausage comes in many varieties, from *negra* (black pudding) to *blanca* (white sausage), each with its own distinct flavour. It's often grilled and served with *mongetes*, (white beans) that make the perfect pairing. This dish is a must-try at local festivals and markets, where its savoury goodness shines.



Honey and Mató

A sweet and light Catalan treat, *mel i mató* combines fresh, creamy, and slightly sweet *mató* cheese with honey. This popular dessert, enjoyed by all ages, is often accompanied by nuts. Known for its low fat and high nutritional value, *mató* is rich in calcium, vitamins, and minerals, making it a healthy choice.

FAMOUS PEOPLE



Salvador Dalí

The eccentric genius of surrealism, Dalí painted dreamlike landscapes filled with melting clocks and bizarre creatures, challenging the limits of reality. His museum in Figueres is as bizarre as his art, offering an immersive experience into his creative world. With his flamboyant mustache and extravagant personality, Dalí remains one of the most famous and influential artists in history.



Antoni Gaudí

Catalonia's most famous architect, Gaudí created masterpieces like *La Sagrada Família* and Park Güell, blending natural forms with extraordinary design. His buildings, inspired by nature, are filled with colourful mosaics and organic shapes that captivate visitors worldwide. Gaudí's work is now recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, cementing his legacy in architectural history.

FAMOUS PEOPLE



Montserrat Caballé

One of the greatest opera singers of all time, Montserrat Caballé's voice was powerful, expressive, and deeply emotive. She famously sang "Barcelona" with Freddie Mercury, creating a legendary duet that resonated globally. Her illustrious career spanned decades, earning her worldwide admiration and solidifying her place as a cultural icon.



Joan Miró

Known for his bold colours and playful shapes, Miró's art captures the imagination with its whimsical, childlike wonder. His murals and sculptures decorate Barcelona, including the iconic mosaic on *La Rambla*. The Miró Foundation in Barcelona showcases his unique artistic vision, offering a deeper insight into his innovative approach to modern art.

FAMOUS PEOPLE



Pau Casals

A master cellist and composer, Pau Casals brought Catalan music to the world stage, becoming a symbol of artistic excellence. His rendition of *El Cant dels Ocells*, often associated with peace, remains a timeless piece. As a staunch advocate for democracy, he exiled himself in protest of Franco's dictatorship, making his legacy both musical and political.



Mercè Rodoreda

One of Catalonia's most important writers, Rodoreda's novels explore deep themes of identity, love, and resilience in times of hardship. *La Plaça del Diamant*, her most famous work, tells the poignant story of a woman's struggles during the Spanish Civil War. Her poetic, evocative style continues to influence generations of writers and readers.

FOLKLORE



Castells (Human Towers)

Human towers, or *castells*, can reach up to ten levels high, showcasing incredible teamwork, balance, and courage. This UNESCO-recognized tradition requires skill and coordination, with the smallest and bravest children, called *anxanetes*, climbing to the very top to complete the tower. *Castells* are a symbol of Catalan pride and strength, celebrated in festivals across the region.



Correfocs (Fire Runs)

Dancing devils and fire-breathing dragons fill the streets during *correfocs*, creating a thrilling, fiery spectacle. Performers dressed as demons run through crowds, spinning fireworks to the rhythm of drums, filling the air with excitement and energy. This fiery tradition brings excitement to many Catalan festivals, lighting up the night sky.

FOLKLORE



Gegants (Giants)

Giant, towering figures parade through the streets during Catalan festivals, dancing to the rhythmic beats of traditional music. These larger-than-life characters, representing kings, queens, and local heroes, captivate audiences with their elaborate costumes and movements. Each town has its own unique *gegants*, making them a cherished and beloved part of Catalan culture.



The Tió

This smiling wooden log brings immense joy to Catalan children during Christmas. Kids feed it treats and keep it warm under a blanket, symbolizing care for the earth, which in turn nourishes us. On Christmas Eve, they sing for it to “poop” out sweets and gifts, creating a fun, unique tradition.

FOLKLORE



The Sardana

This traditional Catalan dance is a powerful symbol of unity, pride, and community. Dancers join hands in a circle, moving in sync with the music of a cobla band, creating a harmonious and inclusive atmosphere. Sardanes are enjoyed by everyone, young and old, and are a vibrant part of Catalan festivals and gatherings.



Stick Dance

One of Catalonia's oldest and most energetic folk dances, ball de bastons is performed with wooden sticks, creating a rhythmic clash of sound. Dancers strike their sticks together in coordinated patterns, creating an exciting display of agility and teamwork. This traditional dance is often seen at festivals and celebrations, energizing crowds with its lively pace.

FESTIVALS



Sant Jordi (St. George's Day)

On April 23rd, Catalonia transforms into a festival of books and roses, celebrating the patron saint of the region, Saint George. Inspired by the legend, people exchange books and flowers as tokens of affection, making it a day for lovers, readers, and families alike. It's like Valentine's Day, but with a literary twist!



La Diada (National Day)

Catalonia's National Day, celebrated on September 11th, commemorates the loss of autonomy to Bourbon absolutism and the end of the War of Spanish Succession in 1714. The streets fill with Catalan flags, parades, and events promoting Catalan identity, language, and culture. It's a day of pride, remembrance, and solidarity for Catalans worldwide.

FESTIVALS



Sant Joan (Midsummer)

On the night of June 23rd, the eve of *Sant Joan*, Catalans celebrate the summer solstice with bonfires, fireworks, and lively gatherings. Families come together to eat *coca de Sant Joan*, a sweet pastry, while watching the night sky light up with colourful fireworks. It's a night of magic, celebration, and a joyous welcome to the summer season.



The Castanyada

Families gather on the evening of October 31st or November 1st to enjoy roasted chestnuts, *panellets* (sweet almond pastries), and sweet wine. According to tradition, the *castanyera*, an elderly woman in an apron and headscarf, sells chestnuts in the streets. This festival is Catalonia's cozy autumn celebration, welcoming the season with warmth and togetherness.

FESTIVALS



La Patum de Berga

La Patum de Berga, una festa reconeguda per la UNESCO, té les seves arrels en les processons medievals del Corpus Christi. Aquesta celebració pirotècnica presenta focs artificials explosius, gegants dansants i tambors potentíssims a la petita plaça de Berga. Una fusió vibrant de música, foc i personatges simbòlics, continua sent un dels esdeveniments culturals més espectaculars de Catalunya.



The Processó de Verges

Every Holy Thursday, the *Processó de Verges* fills the streets with captivating traditions, including the *Dansa de la Mort* (The Dance of Death). Originating after the Black Death, this centuries-old ritual features dancers in skeleton costumes, symbolising the passage of life to death. It's a unique and unforgettable Catalan event.

SYMBOLS



The Senyera

The *Senyera*, Catalonia's iconic flag with four red stripes on a golden background, dates back to the 12th century and is one of Europe's oldest still in use. Legend links it to a wounded Catalan count's bloody fingers, Guifré el Pilós. Today, it proudly hangs from balconies, symbolising Catalan identity, heritage, and pride.



The Caganer

This cheeky figurine, often hidden in Nativity scenes, depicts a person “relieving” themselves! Found in Catalan Christmas displays, it symbolises good luck, fertility, and abundance for the coming year. Modern versions feature celebrities, politicians, and famous characters, adding a humorous and playful twist to the tradition.

SYMBOLS



The Catalan Donkey

The Catalan donkey, or *ruc català*, is a national symbol of resilience and heritage. Once vital for agriculture and trade, this endangered breed stands tall—literally, as large as a horse. Its popularity soared in the 2000s as a playful counterpoint to the Spanish bull, reflecting Catalonia's proud, peaceful identity.



The Barretina

This traditional red or purple woolen hat, shaped like a pouch, was once worn by Catalan farmers and fishermen. It symbolized hard work and has become a beloved symbol of Catalan tradition and culture. Today, it appears in folk festivals, historical depictions, and as a marker of pride in Catalan heritage.

SYMBOLS



Espadrilles

These traditional rope-soled shoes, once worn by farmers and labourers, have now become famous worldwide. Designers like Yves Saint Laurent helped elevate them to a fashion trend. Comfortable, stylish, and versatile, *espadrilles* are still handmade in Catalonia today and are a symbol of both practicality and cultural heritage.



Porró (wine pitcher)

This traditional glass wine pitcher allows people to drink without touching the spout, making it a fun and social way to share wine. Passed around at gatherings, the *porró* brings people together in a communal ritual. Mastering the pour takes skill—beginners beware of spills, as it's all part of the fun!