

## Chess



**Chess set**  
India, 18th century  
Ivory  
2015-00642

During the colonial period in India, intricately carved chess sets like this one were made for foreign residents and for export. It's likely that they were displayed as rare treasures rather than actually used. The origins of chess are uncertain, but many trace the game to 7th-century India.

You can take a closer look at this set arranged atop an elaborate portable game box in ACM's Court and Company Gallery on Level 1.

Ivory, which comes from the tusks and teeth of some animals, was once an extremely popular material in art. But to obtain ivory, these wild animals were usually killed. Today, no museum would support production of ivory objects of any kind.

## Congkak



**Congkak Set**  
Sumatra, Batu Sangka  
1920s or 30s  
Wood  
XXXX-10904  
Acquired in 1931

Congkak is a popular game enjoyed by many different cultures throughout history. While the version most commonly played in the Malay Archipelago features a hand-crafted wooden board with 16 holes, this congkak board has 18, into which counters – such as rubber seeds or marbles – are placed and redistributed. The objective of the game is to accumulate the most counters in one's storehouse – the large hole at each end of the board.

## Pachisi

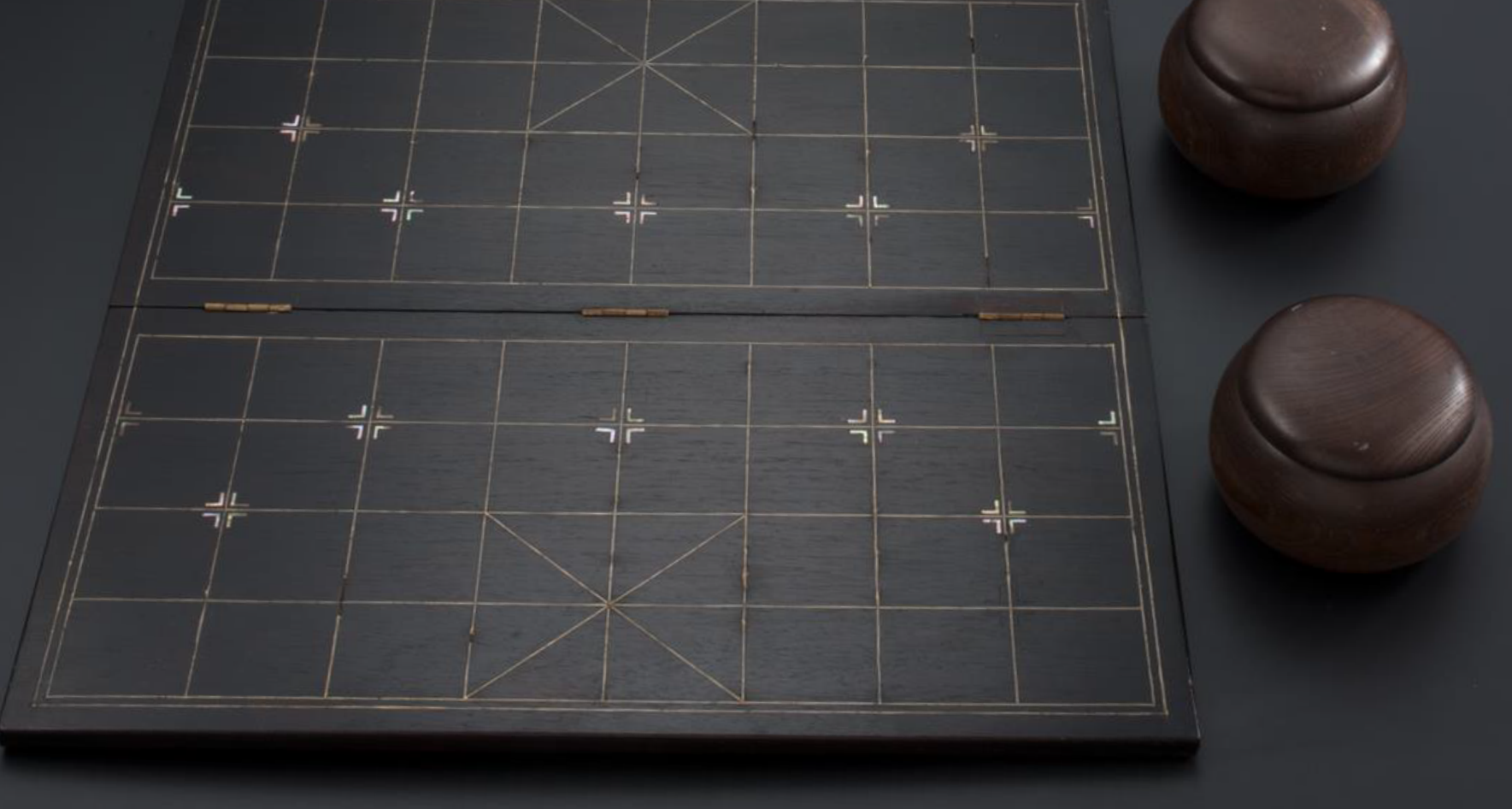


**Pachisi Set**  
Game pieces: India,  
18th or 19th century  
Rock crystal,  
gemstones, ivory  
2015-00643

Pachisi is one of the oldest games that originated in South Asia. It is often called the national game of India, and was played by all groups in society. A set comprises a board, 16 gaming pieces (called ghotis), and three dice. In this set, the gaming pieces are carved from rock crystal. One ivory die is missing. In this game, players attempt to move pieces around a cross-shaped board, their moves determined by rolling a die.

ACM has a beautiful rock crystal Pachisi set, which you can view in the Court and Company Gallery on Level 1.

## Weiqi



**Weiqi set**  
China, 19th century  
Wood; game pieces of  
seashell and slate  
2015-00645

Weiqi (also called Go) is a game of strategy that originated in China. A typical weiqi set consists of a folding board and two containers holding game pieces. These sets were usually light so players could carry them while travelling. Weiqi was more than just a popular game: it was considered one of the four essential arts that Chinese scholars needed to master.

See this set for yourself in the Scholar's Gallery on Level 2.