

Morra

a 10-minute board game for up to five players

EQUIPMENT:

No equipment is needed.

HOW TO PLAY:

Play is in several rounds. Each round has three steps:

- 1) All players say "One, two three, shoot!"
- 2) On "shoot", players each throw out one hand, with some number of fingers out. Each player also says a number.
- 3) The number of fingers out is added up, and the player who said that number gets one point.

WINNING:

The first player to get 3 points is the winner.

BY THE WAY:

You people are yelling again. Yes, yes you are.

VARIATIONS:

For two players, one player plays "odd", the other, "even". Players throw out one or two fingers, and if the result is odd, the odd player gets a point, and if the sum is even, the even player scores.

The illustration to the right is from a greek vase, showing a pair of Morra players with a rod-- the rod would have been marked and moved back and forth by one as a player wins or loses. The players are sitting on pots that hold their bets. Big pots!

You could use coins on the circles to the right to keep track of scores for any number of players.

HISTORY:

This game is very old. There are Egyptian drawings that seem to depict Morra players. The Romans had a saying: "you could play Morra with him in the dark," which meant that the person in question was completely, amazingly, disgustingly honest.

Italians have been known to take Morra very seriously.

