



5x5 Puzzle

1 or more Player Puzzle Game

Can You Solve this Ancient Riddle?

Summary:

Make a 5 by 5 layout where no suit or number is repeated in any row, column, or diagonal.

The Deck:

You will use the Ace and 2 through 5 of all five suits.

The Challenge:

Lay out all 25 cards in a 5 by 5 square so that every row, column and diagonal has one card of each suit and one card of each number.

The End:

Once you have placed all 25 cards and have satisfied all conditions needed YOU WIN!

This is a variation on a classic puzzle where you place 8 queens on a chess board so that no queen can capture another one.

On a practical note, my wife and I used the same challenge to make a baby blanket for a new family member. She crocheted 25 squares with five different colors and five different patterns. We used the solution for this puzzle to arrange the pieces into one square.

Variations:

With two players, take turns playing one card at a time into a 5 by 5 square. Each card played must go in a space that does not already have a card with the same rank or suit in the same row, column, or diagonal. When a player does not have a valid play available, the game is over and the last player who was able to place a card is the winner. If you can complete the square with all 25 cards, both players win!

Open deck version:

All cards are turned up and each player can choose any unplayed card to use for their turn.

Five card hand version:

Each player is dealt five cards. For each turn, the player uses one card from his hand. After each play the player draws a new card to replace it until no more cards are available in the draw pile.