

STRATEGO

a game of skill and strategy for two players

STRATEGO is the American version of the game now popular on the Continent. While the pieces have military designs and are maneuvered across the playing board, it is not a war game.

STRATEGO is a fast moving game which is easy to learn, delightful to play and which provides a never-ending variety of ways to outwit your opponent. The colorful playing pieces are marked according to military rank which are kept hidden from the opponent as they are placed and moved across the board to capture your opponent's "Flag". The rank of the piece is revealed only when an opposing piece is "struck" or attacked. The higher ranked piece removes the lesser rank. There are "Bombs" which "blow up" and remove any attacking piece except the "Miner", who can dismantle and remove the "Bomb". Even the "Marshal", the highest ranking piece has a weakness, in that the lowly "Spy" can remove him from the game.

The exciting elements of skillful planning, clever deception, memory and suspense make **STRATEGO** a thoroughly delightful game.

RULES FOR STRATEGO

The **OBJECT** of the game is to capture the opponent's flag.

TO START THE GAME:

1. Place the board between the players so that the name **STRATEGO** is facing each contestant.
2. One player takes the Red and the other the Blue playing pieces. **RED starts first.**
3. Each player gets an army of 40 pieces, in order of rank from high to low, consisting of:

1 Marshal	3 Majors	4 Sergeants
1 General	4 Captains	5 Miners
2 Colonels	4 Lieutenants	8 Scouts
		1 Spy

These are all moveable pieces

There are also 6 Bombs and 1 Flag which are not movable.

Note that the movable pieces have a number in the upper left corner to designate the order of rank. Thus, the Marshal is ranked 1 (highest), the General 2, the Colonels 3, and so on to the Spy, who is marked with an "S".

4. The players place one piece in each square of their half of the board. All squares are to be filled from each end. That is, 10 per row, 4 rows deep. The two middle rows are to be left unoccupied at the start of the game.
5. The pieces are placed with the notched ends up and the printed emblem facing the player in such a way that the opponent does not know the arrangement of the pieces.
6. Read the rules of "Movement" and "Striking" so that an idea of how to plan the placement of pieces will be obtained.

RULES FOR MOVEMENT

1. Turns alternate, first Red and then Blue.
2. A piece moves from square to square, one square at a time. (Exception: Scout — see rule 8). A piece may be moved forward, backward, or sideways but **NOT DIAGONALLY**.
3. Note that there are two lakes in the center of the board, which contain no squares. Pieces must move around lakes.
4. Two pieces may **not** occupy the same square at the same time.
5. A piece may **not** move through a square occupied by a piece nor jump over a piece.
6. Only one piece may be moved in each turn.
7. The "Flag" and the "Bomb" pieces **cannot** be moved. Once these pieces are placed at the start of the game they **must remain** in that square.
8. The "Scout" may move any number of **OPEN** squares forward, backward, or sideways in a straight line if the player desires. This movement, of course, then reveals to the opponents the value of that piece. Therefore, the player may elect to move only one square for the "Scout" in his turn so as to keep the Scout's identity hidden. The "Scout" is valuable for probing the opponent's positions.

9. Once a piece has been moved to a square and the **hand removed**, it cannot be moved back to its original position in that turn.
10. No piece may be shifted more than 3 times back and forth in the same two squares.
11. A player must either "move" or "strike" in his turn.

RULES FOR "STRIKE" OR ATTACK

1. When a red and a blue piece occupy adjoining squares either back to back, side to side, or face to face, they are in a position to attack or "strike". **NO DIAGONAL** strikes can be made.
2. A player may move in his turn or strike in his turn. **He cannot do both.** The "strike" ends the turn. After pieces have finished the "strike" move, the player who was struck has his turn to move or strike.
3. It is not required to "strike" at once when two opposing pieces are in position. A player may decide to strike, whenever he desires.
4. **Either** player may strike (in his turn) not only the one who moved his piece into position.
5. To strike (or attack), the player, whose turn it is, takes up his piece and lightly "strikes" the opponent's piece while at the same time declaring his piece's rank. The opponent answers by naming the rank of his piece.
6. The piece with the **lower** rank is lost and removed from the board. The winning **higher** ranking piece is then moved immediately into the empty square formerly occupied by the losing piece.
7. When **equal ranks** are struck, then **both** pieces are lost and removed from the board.
8. A Marshal removes a General, a General removes a Colonel, a Colonel removes a Major and so on down to the Spy, which is the lowest ranking piece.
9. The "Spy", however, has the special privilege of being able to remove only the **Marshal** provided he strikes **first**. That is, if the Spy "strikes" the Marshal in his turn, the Marshal is removed. However, if the Marshal "strikes" first, the Spy is removed. All other pieces remove the Spy regardless of who strikes first.
10. When any piece (except a miner) strikes a bomb (Bang!) that piece is lost and is removed from the board. The bomb does **not** move into the empty square, but remains in its original position at all times. When a Miner strikes a bomb, the bomb is lost and the Miner moves into the unoccupied square.
11. A "bomb" cannot strike, but rather must wait until a movable piece strikes it.
12. Remember, the Flag also can never be moved.

TO END THE GAME

Whenever a player "strikes" his opponent's flag, the game **ENDS** and he is the **WINNER**.

Note: If a player cannot move a piece or "strike" in his turn, he must give up and declare his opponent the winner.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR STRATEGY

From the above it is clear that the original placement of the pieces can determine the outcome. It is therefore good defensive tactics to surround the flag with a few bombs. However, to mislead the opponent, it is recommended to place a few bombs at some distance from the flag.

A few high ranking pieces in the front lines is a good plan, but the player who rapidly loses his high officers stands in a weak position.

Scouts in the front line are useful to probe the strength of the opposing pieces.

Miners are very important near the end of the game so it is good strategy to place some in the rear ranks.