



GOTCHA GAME

Jackie learned this game from Master Pi. Use your your **BRAIN POWER** - and math - to find a pattern that will make you a winner . . . every time!

Number of players: 2 players or teams

Materials: 15 dragons -- (1 of them is red)
OR any 15 objects -- 14 of one color and 1 of another

Object: Make your opponent take the red piece.

To play:

Form 2 teams. Place all 15 dragons or objects on the table.

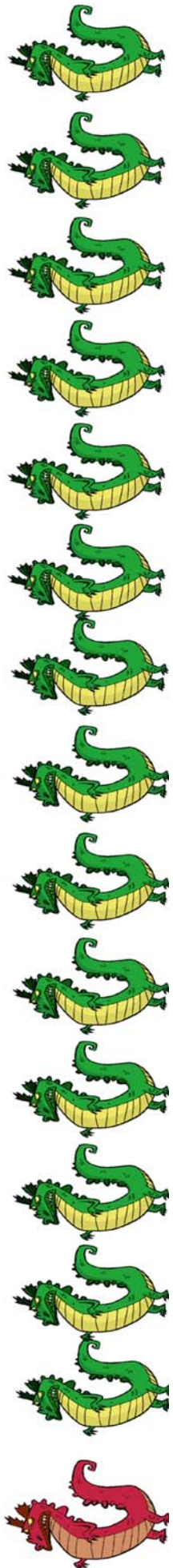
Players take turns and remove 1, 2 or 3 pieces per turn. You don't want to take the red piece!

The winner: The one who avoids getting stuck with the red piece.

Master Pi's secret tips:

Force your opponent to take a turn when there are 13, 9, and 5 dragons left (counting the red dragon). If you do this, you can control the game. How? Working backward from the red dragon, if there are 4 green dragons left, and it is your opponent's turn, if she takes 1 dragon, you can take 3 and force her to take the red. If she takes 2 dragons, you can take 2 and win. And if she takes 3 dragons, you can still win by taking 1.

If you keep working backward like this, if your opponent takes a turn with 9 dragons left, you can force her to 5! The same is true of the number 13. Just make sure you go first and remember to force your opponent to the numbers 13, 9, and 5 dragons (including the red dragon). Even if you don't go first, if you force your opponent to take from the key numbers you'll win . . . every time.



Cut out these dragons and use them as your game pieces.