




BAGH CHAL

nepal

In the lush pasturelands of the Kathmandu Valley, a shepherd wanders peacefully with a herd of goats. But tigers roam nearby, on the hunt for stray animals. The tigers are swift, but when the goats unite, they can overwhelm their predators. Who will win in the fight for survival?



Bagh Chal ("Tiger Game") is a 2-player abstract strategy game from Nepal. One player controls a herd of 20 Goats. The other controls 4 Tigers.

Object of the Game

- The Goat player wins if they trap all 4 Tigers (the Tigers have no possible moves).
- The Tiger player wins if they capture 5 Goats (by jumping over them).

Game Contents

- 1 bag • 4 Tiger tokens • 20 Goat tokens
- 1 playmat • 1 rulebook


Setup

1. Lay out the playmat with the Valley (green) side up.
2. Decide player roles. Take 1 Tiger and 1 Goat. Hide 1 token in each hand. The other player chooses a hand. This reveals their role.
3. Place 1 Tiger on each corner of the board.
4. Give the 20 Goats to the Goat player.

How to Play

Bagh Chal is played over 2 phases, described below.

Phase i



The Goat player goes first, placing 1 Goat onto an available space (1 of the 25 intersections) on the board. Then the Tiger player moves 1 Tiger.

Continue alternating turns until there are no Goats left to be placed.

A Tiger may move in 1 of 2 ways:

- Walk. Move to an adjacent space connected by a straight line. (Fig. 1), OR
- Capture a Goat. If the Tiger is adjacent to a Goat and there is an available space on the opposite side of that Goat, jump over the Goat. (Fig 2.) Then discard the Goat into the bag.

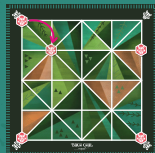


Fig.1
Walk

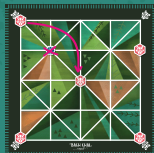


Fig.2
Capture a Goat

Phase ii

After all Goats have been placed, Phase II begins. In this phase, Goats use each turn to walk (just like Tigers do). Goats may NOT jump over or capture other pieces. In addition, during Phase II, Tigers and Goats may not walk back and forth between the same 2 spaces during consecutive turns, unless they have no other option.

Trapped Tigers

If a Tiger has no legal moves available, it is considered trapped (see Fig 3). But if a legal move becomes available, it is no longer considered trapped.

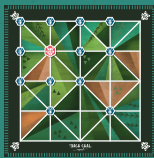


Fig. 3
A trapped Tiger

Game End

The game ends immediately if:

- The Tigers capture 5 Goats. (Tiger player wins)
- All 4 Tigers are trapped at the same time. (Goat player wins)
- Players perform the same moves 3 times in a row—e.g., chasing each other in a triangular path. (The game is a draw.)

Playing a Match

Traditionally, in competitions, a Bagh Chal match includes 3 games—each player plays the Tigers once, and the Goats once. If one player wins both games, they win the match. Otherwise, players choose roles again and play a third game. The player who wins more games wins the match. (If all 3 games are draws, the match is a draw.)

Tips & Tricks

- 💡 Goat player: Don't be afraid to sacrifice 1-2 Goats early in the game. This can help you force Tigers to unfavorable spaces.
- 💡 Tiger player: Try to spread your Tigers out, so it becomes more difficult for Goats to trap each one.

Puli Meka

In India, the game of Puli Meka is similar to Bagh Chal. You can play Puli Meka using the same rules as Bagh Chal, with these exceptions:

Lay out the playmat with the Mountain (teal) side up. Use only 15 Goats



Fig. 4
Tiger starting positions

and 3 Tigers for the game. (Return the extra pieces to the bag.) Place the Tigers in the starting positions shown above (Fig. 4). The Goats win by trapping all 3 Tigers. The Tigers win by capturing 5 Goats.

Thank you!

We would like to thank all XXX Kickstarter backers who helped this pocket game version of Bagh Chal come to life. Your contribution is key in preserving this game for future generations. Spread the word, and have fun!

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⚠️ WARNING:

CHOKING HAZARD - Small Parts.
Not for children under 3 years.

