



## WORDS ROCK

What has 100 tiles...225 squares...a multi-colored board...and millions of fans of all ages, backgrounds and locales? The answer, of course, is **SCRABBLE®** Brand Crossword Game, which took America by storm in the early 1950s-and has continued to grow in popularity.

It all began when in 1931 an out-of-work architect named Alfred Moshier Butts translated his lifelong love of crossword puzzles into a board game. After studying existing games, he realized that games fell into three categories: Number games like dice and bingo, move games such as chess and checkers, and word games like anagrams

Mr. Butts, attempting to create a game that would use both chance and skill, combined features of anagrams and the crossword puzzle-and called his new game "Crisp Cross Words." Today the game is in over one hundred million households worldwide and about two million sets are sold each year. Starting in 1991, the National **SCRABBLE®** Association began the School **SCRABBLE®** Program. In May 2007, Girl Scouts AZ Cactus Pine Council sent the first troop to be represented at the National School **SCRABBLE®** Championship where 100 teams of students in grades 5-8 gathered to compete to see which team is the best.

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### ACTIVITIES

Complete the following number of activities to earn your WORDS ROCK! patch. The **SCRABBLE®** website (<http://SCRABBLE.hasbro.com/en-us>) will be a great resource for you.

- » **Girl Scout Juniors** – complete 6 activities, including the starred (★) activities.
- » **Girl Scout Cadettes** – complete 7 activities, including the starred (★) activities.
- » **Girl Scout Seniors** – complete 8 activities, including the starred (★) activities.
- » **Girl Scout Ambassadors** – complete 8 activities, including the starred (★) activities.

1. Research Alfred Moshier Butts at the library or online and see if you can find out:
  - a. The year he was born?
  - b. Is he still alive?
  - c. What were the two other names given the word game before it was changed to **SCRABBLE** in the 1950s?
  - d. What man did Alfred Butts sell his game to? HINT: It was this man that changed the name of the game to **SCRABBLE**.



- 2.\* Every game or sport has certain equipment that is needed to play. The game of **SCRABBLE** is no different. This particular board game includes a game board, tile racks, tile bag and 100 tiles. See if you can find out:
- How many of each letter is in a set of tiles?
  - Explain why do you think some letters have more tiles than others?
  - See if you can find how Alfred Butts decided how many letters would go in each set.
- 3.\* **SCRABBLE** is a game of words, right? Well consider this, the best **SCRABBLE** players in the world are often mathematicians, musicians or from the science field. Can you answer these numbers questions?
- How many tiles are there in a **SCRABBLE** set?
  - What are the 4 highest point tiles? List them and their values.
  - The first play must cross the center pink star on the game board. Look for other pink squares and determine how you would score the first play?
  - Although a very special move, sometimes players can make a play that crosses two TRIPLE WORD score squares. How would you score that amazing play?
4. The official word source for the **SCRABBLE** game is Merriam Webster's *Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, Fourth Edition*. Its slang name is "OSPD4." Proper nouns are not acceptable in **SCRABBLE** play. A proper noun has a first letter that always appears in upper case. *Example: Phoenix; the capitol of the State of Arizona*. Many words that can be played look like proper nouns, but they are not capitalized because they have a second meaning.
- Look up the word **PHOENIX** and see if it has another meaning...and if it is acceptable in **SCRABBLE** game play.
  - Look up your name and see if it is an acceptable word for the game. If so, what is its definition? For instance "JANE" is acceptable and is listed as: **JANE n pl.-S a girl or woman**
  - Find words that are usually considered names and proper nouns, not including "jane", and make a list of them and their definitions.
    - Girl Scout Juniors – find 10 words
    - Girl Scout Cadettes – find 15 words
    - Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors – find 20 words
5. The best **SCRABBLE** players in the world will tell you that the Q tile can be your best friend in a game...or your worst nightmare. As long as you have a U or a blank tile it is almost always a guaranteed point maker. Well here's a secret! We have all heard that a U always follows the letter Q, right? Well maybe not always. Actually there are 32 words that use a Q but no U.
- Find the number of words listed below that use a Q but no U.
    - Girl Scout Juniors – find 10 words
    - Girl Scout Cadettes – find 15 words
    - Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors – find 20 words
  - Which of your words take an S to make it plural?





6. Sometimes it's easier to learn words to play in the **SCRABBLE** game if there is a theme; for instance, the theme "Food". Here is some food for thought:

<b>BABA</b>	<i>n pl.</i> – <b>S</b> a rum cake	<b>RUSK</b>	<i>n pl.</i> – <b>S</b> a sweetened biscuit
<b>BANGER</b>	<i>n pl.</i> – <b>S</b> a sausage	<b>SCONE</b>	<i>n pl.</i> – <b>S</b> a flat, round cake
<b>BAP</b>	<i>n pl.</i> – <b>S</b> a small bun or roll	<b>SPELT</b>	<i>n pl.</i> – <b>S</b> a variety of wheat
<b>BIFFIN</b>	<i>n pl.</i> – <b>S</b> a cooking apple	<b>WHEY</b>	<i>n pl.</i> <b>WHEYS</b> the watery part of milk
<b>BREWIS</b>	<i>n pl.</i> <b>BREWISES</b> a broth	<b>YAM</b>	<i>n pl.</i> – <b>S</b> an edible plant root
<b>PONE</b>	<i>n pl.</i> – <b>S</b> a corn bread	<b>ZITI</b>	<i>n pl.</i> – <b>S</b> tubular pasta

- Can you come up with a list of 10 acceptable words with the theme "Money?"
- Share this list with your **SCRABBLE** partner and see how many she knows.
- See if your troop can come up with other themes to explore.

7. TROOP is an acceptable **SCRABBLE** word. Is the word SCOUT? Using the *Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, Fourth Edition (OSPD4)* find:

- All the words that begin with TROO...and list them.
- How many of these words did you already know?
- How many of these words are related to one another?

8. Using each letter of the alphabet below, list as many words as you can that you think relates to GIRL SCOUTING. Put a check next to the ones that are acceptable **SCRABBLE** words.

A	Arizona	J	S	<b>SCRABBLE!</b>
B	Badge	K	T	
C		L	U	
D		M	V	
E		N	W	
F		O	X	
G		P	Y	
H	Honor	Q	Z	
I		R		

9. An anagram (Greek *ana* = "back" or "again", and *graphein* = "to write") is a type of word play, the result of rearranging the letters of a word or phrase to produce other words, using all the original letters exactly once. See if you can anagram five of the words below. (*The answer key is at the bottom of last page.*)

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| a. prewrap | e. ocean  |
| b. ice tea | f. able   |
| c. marine  | g. baker  |
| d. field   | h. friend |

10. Like many activities, the game of **SCRABBLE** has a vocabulary of its own. Certain words that may mean something to one person will mean something special and different to **SCRABBLE** players. See if you can find out what the words below mean to **SCRABBLE** players?

For instance, to many people, the word BINGO refers to a game played with randomly generated numbers and a printed card. To a **SCRABBLE** player the word means "Using all seven tiles in one turn". By the way, **SCRABBLE** players get fifty extra points for laying a BINGO!

11. Define five terms as they relate to **SCRABBLE** players (not their dictionary meaning. (Hint: use the **SCRABBLE** website to find answers to this question <http://SCRABBLE.hasbro.com/en-us>)
- |             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| a. bingo    | f. alpha gram        |
| b. hook     | g. rack              |
| c. ospd4    | h. double word score |
| d. spread   | i. phoney            |
| e. bluffing | j. nssc              |

ANSWERS TO QUESTION 9: a) wrapper b) eat ice c) remain d) filed e) canoe f) bale g) break h) finder



COUNCIL'S OWN