14: An Addition Game

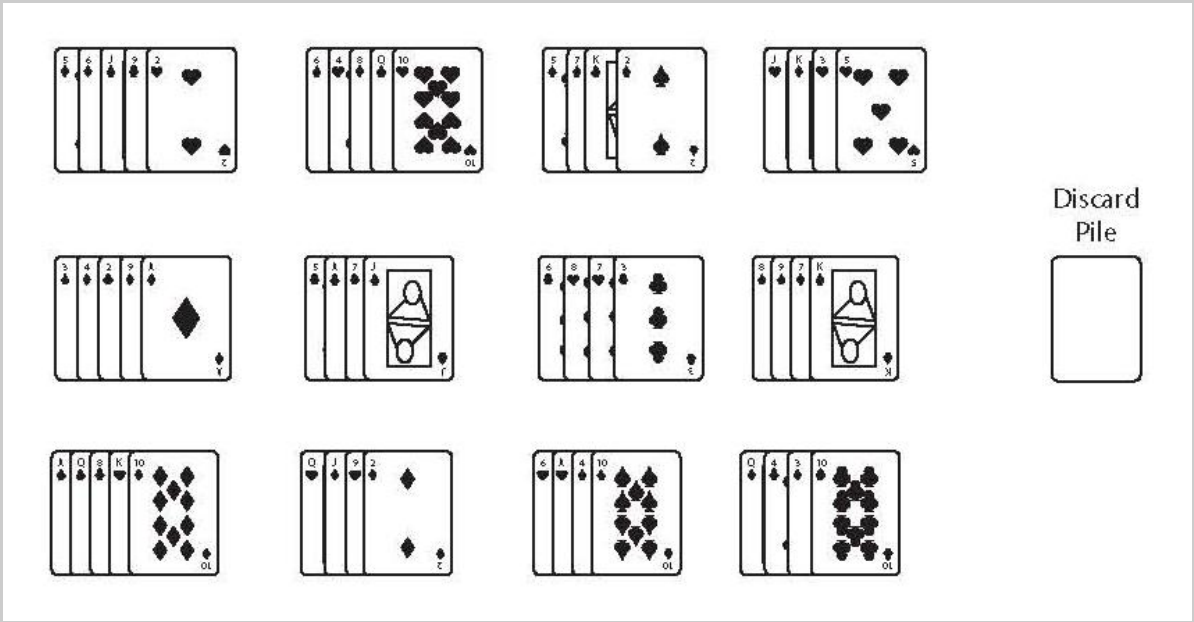
This single-player game is designed to help a first grader practice adding up to sums of 14. You'll need a deck of playing cards and a basic knowledge of addition facts in order to play. Work together with your child at first, and gradually allow him to take over as he masters the rules. Challenge him to play multiple times with the goal of improving his score. You'll see his confidence and speed grow as he plays again and again!

What You Need:

- One deck of playing cards (Print a deck.)

What You Do:

1. Shuffle the deck. Deal all 52 cards into 13 piles of four cards each. All cards should be face up.
2. Look for combinations of cards that equal 14. Keep in mind aces = 1, jacks = 11, queens = 12, and kings = 13. You may pick up any two-card combinations and discard them, but only if those cards are on top!
3. Play until there are no more possible moves. Count the remaining cards. This is your score.
4. Play again, and try for a lower score! With practice, you might be able to clear all of the cards!



Variations:

- Add jokers into the game (dealing a few piles of five, in order to accommodate them). Let jokers be wild, on the condition the player must say what number a joker represents each time it is used.
- Play with multiple players! Take turns removing cards from the board. Players should keep the cards they've removed; these will be their points. If a player is stuck, they may take any one card (instead of two) to help the game move along. Play until all cards have been picked up.

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