**MONOPOLY History & Fun Facts**

- More than 275 million games have been sold worldwide and it’s available in 111 countries, in 43 languages.
- The longest MONOPOLY game in history lasted for 70 straight days.
- Many specialized editions of the classic game have been produced featuring your favorite sports teams, brands, television shows, cartoons and more.
- The most expensive version of the game was produced by celebrated San Francisco jeweler Sidney Mobell. Valued at $2 million, the set features a 23-carat gold board and diamond-studded dice.
- The character locked behind the bars is called Jake the Jailbird. Officer Edgar Mallory sent him to jail.
- Children play MONOPOLY all over the world, but where they live may determine what they call the highest rent property on the game board. In the U.S., it is named “Boardwalk” after a street in Atlantic City. In Spain, it is named “Paseo del Prado” after a street in Barcelona and in France, “Rue de la Paix” is the name of the most coveted property space.
- Escape maps, compasses and files were inserted into MONOPOLY game boards smuggled into POW camps inside Germany during World War II. Real money for escapees was slipped into the packs of MONOPOLY money.
- Every few years, national champions from around the globe meet for the MONOPOLY World Championship tournament. World Champions have hailed from 10 different countries, including: United States, Ireland, Singapore, Italy, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Japan, Netherlands, Hong Kong, Japan and Spain.

- More than six billion little green houses and 2.25 billion red hotels have been “constructed” since 1935.
- Since 1935, more than one billion people have played the game.
- Over 20 tokens have been cast since the MONOPOLY game was introduced in 1935 such as the horse, dog, car, elephant, purse and lantern.

- Demand for MONOPOLY skyrockets and it quickly becomes America’s No.1 game!
- More than just a game – MONOPOLY is used by British Secret Service in WWII.
- Our beloved tokens! In the early 1950s, the lantern, purse and rocking horse were removed from the game. They were replaced by the dog, horse and rider, and wheelbarrow.

- In the 1970’s, a Braille edition of the MONOPOLY game was created for the visually impaired.
- In 1972, the Commissioner of Public Works in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the real life model for the game, threatened to change the names of the real Baltic and Mediterranean Avenues, but public outcry vetoed the bill.
- In 1978, the Neiman Marcus Christmas catalog offered a chocolate version of the game priced at $600.

- Money and property ownership symbolize success in the 1980’s and the MONOPOLY brand seems to match up. Localizations, licenses, and spin-offs of MONOPOLY allow people all over the world to live the dream of owning it all.
- MONOPOLY develops strategic partnerships (MONOPOLY at McDonald’s promotion) and brand extensions (first CD-Rom game) becoming a recognizable cultural icon including becoming a US postage stamp!

- MONOPOLY has launches on seven platforms in 27 countries, and is localized into 20 languages with nearly 10 million worldwide mobile phone game downloads.
- Tokens from the United States MONOPOLY: Here & Now Edition were flown into space aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis in 2007.
In 2008, MONOPOLY fans around the world united to set the world record for the most people playing MONOPOLY at the same time to commemorate the launch of MONOPOLY Here & Now: The World edition. Nearly 3,000 people “passed GO” at events around the world.

- “Best Mobile Game Award” at the 2008 Mobile Excellence Awards (MONOPOLY Here & Now on feature phone)
- “Best Dice Game” at the 2009 Best App Ever Awards (MONOPOLY Classic on iPhone)
- “Best Game inspired by a Board Game” at the 2009 AppAdvice App Awards (MONOPOLY Here & Now on iPhone)
- In 2009, MONOPOLY and Google partner to launch MONOPOLY City Streets. The 3 month game had more than 1.4MM registered players, from across the world generating 17 million visits and nearly a billion page views while purchasing nearly 9 million streets and constructing more than 175 million buildings.
- MONOPOLY’s most recent extensions: Apple iPhone - February 2010

Pop Culture

- In the movie Zombieland, Tallahassee and Little Rock pass the time playing MONOPOLY with real money.
- Under The Boardwalk, a documentary about MONOPOLY is scheduled to debut fall 2010. It will feature interviews and profiles from the world’s top competitors, commentary from a MONOPOLY expert, along with fanatics and collectors and a history of the game.
- MONOPOLY Classic for iPhone was voted “Best Dice Game” at the 2009 Best App Ever Awards.
- In the book and the movie One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, McMurphy joins the patients in a game of MONOPOLY. In the movie, the game gets so heated that McMurphy ends up hosing down the other players with cold water.
- In one of President Obama’s State of the Union addresses he referenced MONOPOLY money: The fact is, Washington is a place where tax dollars are often treated like MONOPOLY money, bartered and traded, divvied up among lobbyists and special interests. And it has been a place where waste – even billions of dollars in waste – is accepted as the price of doing business,” said President Obama. “Well, I don’t accept business as usual. And the American people don’t accept it either, especially when one of the most pressing challenges we face is reining in long-term deficits with threaten to leave our children a mountain of debt.
- MONOPOLY Here & Now for iPhone was voted “Best Game inspired by a Board Game” at the 2009 AppAdvice App Awards.
- In a Chumbawumba song entitled “Don’t Pass Go” they sing:
  Well the facts said ‘yes’
  But the judge said ‘no’
  Go straight to jail
  And don’t pass go
  He didn’t understand
  And he told them so
  Go straight to jail
  And don’t pass go
  Don’t pass go
- MONOPOLY match-ups are common between the fictional Humphrey family on Gossip Girl. Wannabe designer Jenny Humphrey aptly chose the thimble token.
- MONOPOLY Here & Now on feature phone was voted “Best Mobile Game Award” at the 2008 Mobile Excellence Awards

Personal Finance Definition of Monopoly

1. exclusive control of a commodity or service in a particular market, or a control that makes possible the manipulation of prices. Compare duopoly, oligopoly.

2. an exclusive privilege to carry on a business, traffic, or service, granted by a government.

3. the exclusive possession or control of something.

4. something that is the subject of such control, as a commodity or service.
5. a company or group that has such control.

**History of Monopolies**

The history of monopoly pertains to the historical tendency of a successful commercial enterprise to dominate an industry. The practice started during Advanced Industrialization with such companies as Standard Oil and the Carnegie Steel Company.

The **Sherman Antitrust Act** was the first Federal statute to limit cartels and monopolies, and today still forms the basis for most antitrust litigation by the United States federal government.

Recently, companies such as Microsoft have been accused by the U.S. Department of Justice of the monopolistic practice of *Embrace, extend and extinguish*. In addition, ExxonMobil and several other corporations have been accused of monopolizing an industry and even crushing competition. [1]

The next probable American monopolies... look them up to see if you may want to invest or is it too late??

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**Ticketmaster ...a monopoly??**

In 1994-1995 *LA Times* reporter Chuck Philips broke a series of stories that helped trigger a federal anti-trust investigation. [28] In 1994 Ticketmaster’s tickets often had surcharges as large as 25% of the base ticket price. Moreover, an unwanted and unnecessary “tying” of services (such as parking and “conveniences”) to the cost of the concert placed an unfair burden on customers and constituted an anti-competitive practice according to a legal analysis of investigative pieces by Philips. [29][30][31][32][33][34]

The grunge band Pearl Jam petitioned the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice, complaining that Ticketmaster adopted monopolistic practices and refused to lower service fees for the band's tickets. [26] Pearl Jam wanted to keep ticket prices under $20.00, with service charges no greater than $1.80. Fred Rosen of Ticketmaster refused and because Ticketmaster had exclusive contracts with many of the large venues in the United States they threatened to take legal action if those contracts were broken. Pearl Jam was forced to create from scratch its own outdoor stadiums in rural areas to perform. Pearl Jam’s efforts to organize a tour without the ticket giant collapsed which Pearl Jam said was further evidence of Ticketmaster’s monopoly. An analysis of Philips’ investigative series in well known legal monograph concluded that it was hard to imagine a legitimate reason for their exclusive contracts with venues and contracts which covered such a lengthy period of time. The authors said, “The pervasiveness of Ticketmaster’s exclusive agreements, coupled with their excessive duration and the manner in which they are procured, supported a finding that Ticketmaster had engaged in anticompetitive conduct under section 2 of the Sherman Act.” Members of Pearl Jam testified on Capitol Hill on June 30 of 1994. Pearl Jam alleged that Ticketmaster used anti-competitive and monopolistic practices to gouge fans. Congressman Dingell (D-Mich.) after Pearl Jam’s testimony before congress wrote a bill requiring full disclosure to prevent
Ticketmaster from burying escalating service fees. Pearl Jam’s manager said he was gratified that Congress saw the problem as a national issue.\textsuperscript{[36]}

Later in the year the Justice Department opened an investigation into anti-competitive practices in the ticket industry. It continued for close to a year until July 6 of 1995 when the Justice Department abruptly closed its antitrust probe in a two-sentence press release.\textsuperscript{[8]}\textsuperscript{[36]} Chuck Philips was told by sources close to the case that the investigation was closed due a combination of shortage of resources and the case being difficult and having uncertain prospects.\textsuperscript{[8]}

A spokesman for Pearl Jam told the LA Times Chuck Philips, “Unfortunately, those who will be most hurt by the Justice Department’s cave-in are the consumers of live entertainment…The consumers are the ones who ultimately pay for the lack of choice in the marketplace.”
Charles B. Darrow, was a sales rep for an engineering firm, when the stock market crash of 1929 took place. Like thousands of Americans, he lost his job, and could only keep food on the table by doing small mechanical work for people, like fixing irons, and other small items. He even walked dogs, and began making Jigsaw Puzzles, and other game inventions in his spare time. None of which ever made it anywhere.

However in 1934, his wife and him were expecting their second child, so he needed to do something to increase the income of the family.

So Mr. Darrow sat down and remembered when his wife and him took a trip to Atlantic City, a few years before the loss of his job. Remembering the city, the street names, and the whole image of Atlantic City so clearly in his mind, he decided to design a game after this city that he remembered so well.

He began drawing squares on a piece of tile, and adding colors to those squares with whatever paint he could find at the local hardware store. He then decided that he would let the players of this game be able to buy these streets, and own them. And in a sense own part of Atlantic City. He eventually came up with the game we all know as Monopoly®.

However some feel that he was not the original inventor of this game. Some people point to a game made in 1904 by a lady named Lizzie J. Magie, called "The Landlords Game."

The Landlords Game was very similar to Monopoly®, with the purchase of properties, utilities, a public park square, and a "Go to jail " square. Many feel Darrow just added items to this game and improved some features.

When Charles Darrow brought his game to Parker Brothers, they played the game, and after two weeks, Parker Brothers wrote Darrow, and told him that his board game is being rejected, for breaking the ground rules set up for "family games " by Parker Brothers. But more important then that, for having fifty-two fundamental errors.
Parker Brothers felt a family game should last approx. 45 minutes, and have simple and easy to understand instructions, as well as a have a clear winner. None of which Parker Brothers felt this game had. These were just a few of the errors.

However Mr. Darrow was selling his game to friends, and family around the state at a very rapid rate. So Darrow decided to get a local printer to make 5,000 sets of this game, and he managed to sell them to a store in Philadelphia called Wanamakers, in late 1934.

After hearing wind of the deal struck with Darrow and Wanamakers, Parker Brothers re-thought their decision, and quickly signed an agreement in early 1935, and by mid February where selling 20,000 sets of this game per week.

Hello, and welcome... Almost everyone has a question or two about how to play Monopoly®. Because of this, I have put together, a list of the most often asked questions regarding how to play Monopoly®, as well as those often asked questions about Monopoly Trivia. Hopefully this will answer your questions. If not, please refer to my Official Monopoly Rules page.

Q. What is the name of the Monopoly Character?
   A. His name is Mr. Monopoly as of the year 2000. He previously was Rich Uncle Pennybags.

Q. What is the name of the Guy in Jail?
   A. His name is Jake the Jailbird.

Q. What is the name of the Cop in the "Go to Jail" square?
   A. His name is Officer Malloy.
Q. How much money is in a standard game of Monopoly?  
   A. There is $15,140 in a Standard Edition, and double that in a Deluxe Edition.

Q. It has been asked, what are the most frequently landed on properties? No, this is not a question on how to play, but it is probably the most often asked question. So what are the most frequently landed on Properties in the board game Monopoly®? In order, they are!  
   A. Illinois Ave, Go, B&O Railroad. The most frequent dice roll!  

Q. Must I go around the board once before purchasing property?  
   A. No, You may begin purchasing property with the first available property you land on.

Q. May I collect rent while in Jail?  
   A. Yes, you may collect rent and conduct business as usual while in jail.

Q. Do I get any money for landing on Free Parking?  
   A. No, If you land on Free Parking, you receive no money, property, or reward of any kind.

Q. If I own all the properties of one color group, may I put three houses on only one property?  
   A. No, Remember to build evenly at all times. You may not put more than one house on any property of a color group until each property of that group has at least one house on it.

Q. Must I wait until my turn to buy houses and hotels?  
   A. No, You may transact business, such as buying and selling houses, any time on your turn or between moves by other players.

Q. May I mortgage a piece of property to buy other properties, houses, or hotels?  
   A. Yes, You may mortgage property to buy houses, hotels, or others properties of any color group.
Q. Are deals allowed between players?
A. Yes, Unimproved properties, railroads, and utilities (but not buildings) may be sold to any player as a private transaction, for any amount that the owner can get.

Q. May I borrow money from another player?
A. No, you may only borrow money from the Bank.

Q. Why does my set only have 32 houses?
A. To maintain a balance in the game, there have always been exactly 32 houses and 12 hotels in the Monopoly® game. If it were possible to improve all properties, it would be difficult to force opponents into bankruptcy.

Q. What if the Bank runs out of money?
A. Some players think the Bank is bankrupt if it runs out of money. The Bank never goes bankrupt. To continue playing, use slips of paper to keep track of each player's banking transactions, until the bank has enough paper money to operate again. The Banker may also issue "new" money on slips of ordinary paper.

Q. May I make my own rules?
A. Some people play the Monopoly® game according to what are called "house rules". A common example is placing Luxury Tax money on Free Parking. The official Parker Brothers rules, which are followed in tournament play, do not allow for such variations.

Common points related to mortgaging.
Even after one or two lots of a complete color group have been mortgaged, you may still collect double rent on the unmortgaged lots of that group.

Example. If you own all four railroads and mortgage one or more of them, you may still collect $200 rent when an opponent lands on one of the unmortgaged railroads.

Don't forget!
When ever a card directs you to advance to any space, move forward not backward. Except for Jail, where you go directly
there.

When assessed for street repairs, pay for all houses and hotels you own on the entire board at that time.

If you pass GO after drawing a Chance or Community Chest card directing you to move to another property, you collect $200 unless otherwise indicated on the card.

When you pass GO, then land on Community Chest or Chance and are then sent to Jail, you may still collect $200 because you passed GO before you were sent to Jail.

The Income Tax is 10% of your total assets. That includes cash on hand, property, houses, and hotels.
I'm a big fan of Monopoly. Sure, I don't know that I've ever played a game to completion... and yes, my cousin Seth and I always get bored with it and start pumping up the Free Parking jackpot with $500 bills just to keep things interesting... but it sure is iconic.

Here's some Monopoly trivia I found that I simply had to share.

1. **Based on probability, the most commonly landed on Monopoly square (not counting Jail) is Illinois Avenue.** It's followed by Go, New York Avenue, B&O Railroad, Reading Railroad and Tennessee Avenue.

   The reasons for most of those is a mix between dice probabilities and where Chance cards send you. (When you leave jail, odds are you'll hit one of the orange properties. From there, you're most likely to hit Illinois or B&O. And everything sends you toward Go.)

2. **The least-likely square you'll land on is Mediterranean Avenue.** Just above that are Baltic Avenue, Luxury Tax, Park Place and Oriental Avenue.

   For a lot of those, the probabilities are low because of the Go To Jail square... for example, it's seven spots from Park Place, meaning you can't roll a seven (the most common possible roll) and end up there.

3. **There's no such place as Marvin Gardens.** There's an area in Atlantic City called Marven Gardens.

   Apparently, it was misspelled on the first prototype of the game and never got fixed.

4. In classic Monopoly (none of these new, inflation-oriented editions), **the bank contains $15,140.**
5. Only two of the four railroads in the game were actually accurate when the game debuted in the 1930s. **The B&O Railroad never served Atlantic City, and there's no such thing as the Short Line Railroad.** (AC used to have a streetcar service called the Shore Fast Line and was served by a railroad called the Seashore Lines, so the name was probably inspired by one of those.)

6. 

![The former Illinois Avenue.](image)

7. **Illinois Avenue doesn't exist anymore. It was renamed Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. back in the '80s**, when everyone was renaming streets after MLK. (Kind of like that brief period a few years back when Texas almost renamed every single street, airport, park and dog after Ronald Reagan.)

St. Charles Place also doesn’t exist anymore. There’s a casino where it used to be (the Showboat Casino Hotel).

8. McDonald's teamed up with Monopoly several times to run a promotion where you’d get Monopoly game pieces on fries or drinks or whatever. If you collected all of the properties in a monopoly, you’d win a prize. Collecting Park Place and Boardwalk was always worth $1,000,000. That's not an obscure fact, everyone knows all that.

You probably also remember that in 2001, it came out that the game had been RIGGED for years. McDonald's used an independent company called Simon Marketing to run the contest and some of their employees ran a scam where they’d steal the best game pieces, give them to friends or family members, then split the money. Fifty-one people ended up getting indicted for fraud.

Now here’s the obscure part... and a glorious example of a head shaking attempt to work the American legal system. One of the people indicted for fraud was Stanley Warwick. In
In 1999, he "won" the million dollar prize, thanks to a piece that was passed to him by a friend inside of Simon. When Warwick was indicted for conspiracy to commit mail fraud in 2001, his annual payments of $50,000-a-year for 20 years stopped.

In 2005, his widow, Naomi, sued McDonald's to continue the payments. Seriously. (I couldn't find any articles on how that suit turned out... it may still be pending.)

9. There are tons of localized versions of Monopoly which are officially licensed by Hasbro. Lots of major U.S. cities have their own versions of the game, including New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Chicago, Vegas, Orlando, et. al.

And then... there are two incredibly obscure Wisconsin cities that also have their own officially licensed versions of Monopoly: Fox Cities, Wisconsin, and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. (?)

10. The Monopoly mascot's original name was Rich Uncle Pennybags. As the world has gotten less "Annie" and more politically correct, the people at Hasbro decided that name no longer conjured up the right image.

So they decided to rename him... probably spent several hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions, on branding experts, focus groups and marketing firms... and arrived at his new name: Mr. Monopoly.

And I think that's proof that democracy doesn't work. You can't let the people decide things! The people are fools.

11. There's going to be an international edition of Monopoly coming out soon. Hasbro made it an Internet-wide vote to decide what cities would be included... and, based on the number of votes, where the cities would be placed on the board.

It's abundantly clear that a few places REALLY decided to stuff the ballot box on that. Because Park Place and Boardwalk ended up being Riga, Latvia, and Montreal, respectively. Belgrade, Serbia, got the spot of North Carolina Avenue, in the middle of the greens.

Meanwhile, Athens, Barcelona and Tokyo are in the crappy light blue spots... and London, New York and Sydney are the high-traffic but moderately-priced reds.

And I think that's proof that democracy doesn't work. You can't let the people decide things! The people are fools.

12. And finally, apparently, Ridley Scott is working on developing a movie based on Monopoly. Right now it's being called a "comedy thriller"... and both Kirsten Dunst and Scarlett Johansson have been rumored to be potential cast members.

Wonder if it will culminate in a chase scene down seedy Baltic Avenue where they have a catfight over which one deserves the $10 for winning second place in a beauty pageant.