

Free Online Card Games, Word Games, and Other Games

(This is one of a series of articles provided by the Oakmont Technology Learning Center on the use of technology by seniors.)

Tina Nerat

Over the past 2+ years of the ongoing Covid pandemic, many of us have figured out how to exercise our brains online, play games with online apps, and to exercise or socialize with Zoom. The OVA facilities were closed for months in 2020 so books and jigsaw puzzles weren't available to us. The pandemic is not over yet, so many of us aren't comfortable yet with in-person games. This article covers some of the online options that have become popular.

Card Games. One of the best-known card game sites is trickstercards.com, offering games like Bridge, Pinochle, Spades, Oh Hell, Hearts, and more. Arkadium.com offers card games and more (jigsaw puzzles, word games, crosswords, Mah-Jongg, Sudoku, to name a few). Notably, trickstercards.com does not offer cribbage, but cribbageclassic.com can fill that need. AARP offers a variety of games at games.aarp.org. Some people like to have verbal interaction in their card games, so they do a conference call with all the players on the phone.

Word Games. These games have become wildly popular over the past few years. Wordle (nytimes.com/games/wordle) is probably the best known; the object is to guess a 5 letter word every day. Waffle (wafflegame.net) is a spinoff from Wordle. Articles have been published online about starting words that lead to a greater chance of success. Words with Friends is another very popular online game similar to Scrabble to play with friends at wordswithfriends.com. Other word games to Google and check out are: Byrdle, Quordle, Octordle, Dordle, Typeshift, Wordscapes, and Sedecordle.

Jigsaw Puzzles. Don't have room in your house to keep a jigsaw puzzle set up or are you tired of puzzles from the library that are missing pieces? Some sites allow you to upload a picture and make an online jigsaw puzzle out of it. Google "best online free jigsaw puzzles."

Geography/Maps. Worldle is a geography guessing game. Note the different spelling from Wordle: "World" instead of "Word"). For those of us who are geographers or who love to travel, this is an excellent game at worldle.teuteuf.fr. A new map is displayed every day and you have six guesses as to what country or territory it is. Some are easy and others are difficult, especially since some country names or boundaries have changed since we were taking geography classes in school so many years ago. This game was created by a 31-year-old game developer in France as an alternative to the Wordle word game.

Give these games a try! For more information, clickable links to resources, or an electronic copy of this article and previous articles, visit oakmont-learning.org under "Tech Articles."