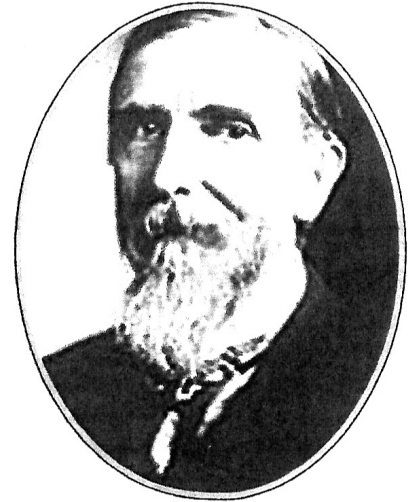


19th Century Board Game Maker: Milton Bradley

Many famous companies have called the city of Springfield, Massachusetts home at one point or another. This long list includes American board game manufacturer, The Milton Bradley Company. Established in 1860 by Milton Bradley (1836-1911), the company has produced recognizable titles such as *The Game of Life*, originally marketed as *The Checkered Game of Life* upon its release in the winter of 1860. Even though board games, like the morality-promoting Puritan game, *Mansion of Happiness*, existed as early as the 1650s, Bradley and his game are credited with revolutionizing the board game industry.



Milton Bradley

A lithograph printer from a working class family based in Lowell, Massachusetts, Bradley turned to board games after his popular print of President Abraham Lincoln without his trademark beard fell out of favor with the public. Following the release of *The Checkered Game of Life*, Bradley began to manufacture small games for Civil War soldiers stationed in Springfield and became an avid supporter of American kindergartens. Though he later stepped down as head of the Milton Bradley Company, his games continue to delight and entertain players centuries later.

Make Your Own Board Game

Want to make your own board game, just like Milton Bradley? Follow the steps below then use the paper game board, index cards and maybe even a paper dice to play.

1. Figure out how many players your game will have and come up with an objective – like having a race to reach the end before anyone else.
2. Think up a few rules for what players can and cannot do.
3. Imagine a problem that will prevent a player from moving forward, then determine a resource that will help a player move forward by chance.
4. Lastly, determine what it will take for a player to win the game.