MAKE A CARDBOARD ARCADE GAME

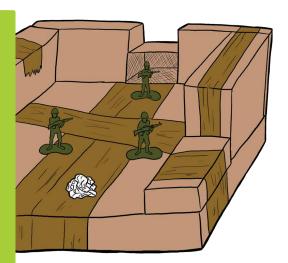**GAME JAM ACTIVITY**

IDEAS FOR SUPPLIES
lots of recycled cardboard ❖ craft materials such as pipe cleaners, straws, popsicle sticks, and bottle caps ❖ things to toss ❖ decorating supplies

In 2011, nine-year-old Caine Monroy built working cardboard versions of his favorite arcade games in his dad's auto parts shop, including a basketball toss and a tabletop soccer game with plastic army men. A customer named Nirvan Mullick liked Caine's Arcade so much, he invited lots of people to come and play. Mullick also made a short documentary about Caine's Arcade, and Caine became famous! You can watch the video here.

Caine's Arcade 🔍

Mullick also started the Imagination Foundation. The group holds a Global Cardboard Challenge every year in which kids around the world create cardboard games. In this activity, you'll design an arcade game using cardboard, tape, string, small toys, and other household items. This is fun to do with other people. You can all share your materials. Ask local appliance stores if they have any leftover cardboard boxes.

1 **Brainstorm** ideas for games to build. How might they work? Sketch out your ideas on a piece of paper and choose one to work on. Make notes and drawings to show how the different parts of the game fit together. Be sure to write out the directions so other people will know how to play the game.
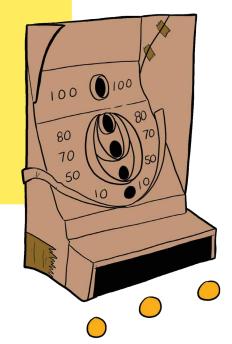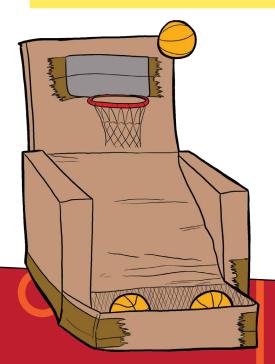

WORDS TO KNOW

brainstorm: to come up with a bunch of ideas quickly and without judgment.

Easter egg: a secret message or surprise hidden in a video game for players to find.

2 Following your plans, cut out the cardboard shapes you need and put them together using tape, staples, or other fasteners. Test it to make sure it works. Are all the parts moving correctly and easily? Does your game have goals, challenges, and rewards? What are the rules? What is a good name for your game?

GAME JAM ACTIVITY

3 When your game is ready, invite friends and family to try it out! If you find problems, fix them and test it out again. Ask players to offer feedback so the next game you make is even better.

EASTER EGGS

In many video games, the designers hide little surprises known as **Easter eggs** for the players to find. The first known Easter egg was found in a 1979 game called *Adventure*. The author of the game hid the words "Created by Warren Robinett" in a secret room. It wasn't discovered until a year after the game's release! In *The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past*, lucky players might stumble upon the Chris Houlihan Room. Filled with jewels and other useful items, the room is named for a fan who won a contest. Easter eggs often include guest appearances by characters from other games, celebrity voices, or bonus mini games.