**How to Play Checkers**

I am going to teach you how to play “Checkers” otherwise known as draughts. As a start here is some history of the game. The board game is called "Checkers" in North America and "Draughts" in Europe is one of the oldest games known to man. The history of checkers can be traced to the very back of civilization, where vestiges of the earliest form of the game was unearthed in an archeological dig in the ancient city of Ur in southern Mesopotamia, which is now modern day Iraq. Using a slightly different board, no one is sure of the exact rules of the game which was carbon dated at 3000 B.C.

Here is what you will need, 8x8 Checkers Board, 12 Black Checkers, 12 White Checkers and two players. It is good to keep in mind that certain boards may have different colours however, the basis of the game remain the same.

To start you should first flip a coin to decide which player will go first. The first movements are always made by the black checkers. Place all 24 checkers on the board making sure that you only use the black squares and not the white squares. Checkers pieces move diagonally across the board. Each piece can only move one jump at a time and only to a connecting black square. Players take it in turns to move their pieces across the board, attempting to take their opponents checkers. It is important to remember that initial pieces can only move in a forward direction. To take an opponent’s checkers you need to leap diagonally over them. This can only be done if you are directly next to your opponents checker and there must be an empty square for you to land on once you have completed the jump. If the circumstances are right you can jump two or more checkers simultaneously. If you reach your opponents end of the board with one of your checkers you can request one piece to be crowned. Your opponent must place one of your captured checkers on top of the forward most checkers. The piece becomes crowned and has the ability to move both forwards and backwards across the board. To win the game you must remove all of your opponent’s checkers from the board. Once the last piece has been removed you are the winner. The game end in a draw if neither side can win.

I did this activity in St. Catherine's Park in the Upper East Side. However, many public parks have the tables required to pay checkers in New York City. Therefore, the game can be played almost in any park in New York.

