

# PENNSYLVANIA FLIP 'EM

In this game, I have attempted to create a fun, poker-style game based off an activity my father taught my family as we were growing up. Five Finger Math involved a different symbol and number for each finger. Hold up your hand, palm facing you. Start with your farthest-left finger (thumb or pinky, depending on which hand you're holding up). Pick a number (or have someone else pick a number for you). Point at your finger and say the number. Point at your next finger and say, "Plus (new number)." Next finger: "Minus (new number)." Multiply by the next finger number, and divide that by the final finger number.  $\text{Num} + \text{num} - \text{num} \times \text{num} / \text{num} = \text{What?}$

This mechanic is how the game works.

Any number of people can play (assuming you have enough cards--you may need to get additional decks for larger groups). Recommended ages are 8 and up.

To begin, shuffle the deck of cards and place them in the middle of the playing area. Each player gets one card to start. Place one card face-down somewhere near the deck, but not as a discard pile. This will be the fifth card. It is a shared card--everyone applies it to their hand at the end. They can decide on each turn if they want to keep or discard any card in their hand (only one card per turn). With two cards, players can begin to see how well their hand could turn out.

(1st card + 2nd card.)

Before the third card is given, do a round of betting.

NOTE: We are against gambling with money or objects of any financial or aesthetic value, but Halloween candy, Easter candy, crackers, or other edible treats can be a fun way to pretend to play poker. Be sure to remind your children of the dangers of gambling with real currency and important possessions!

The object of betting is to a) intimidate other players into thinking you have a great hand so they'll leave the game before giving too many of their treats away, and b) try to win as many treats as you can in each game. So if you know you have a good chance of winning, you can bet more treats. If you know you have a losing hand, it's best to either bet low or Drop Out (aka Fold). The person to the left of the dealer starts each betting round. They place as many treats as they desire to bet in the center, by the deck. Go around the table to the left and see who will match (they must match, not increase) or Drop Out. If a player does not have enough to match a bet, they must Drop Out automatically (without betting).

Give the third card and allow each person to exchange a card, if desired. Do another round of betting.

((1st card + 2nd card) - 3rd card.))

Repeat with fourth card. Do a final (third) round of betting.

((((1st card + 2nd card) - 3rd card) x 4th card.)))

Here's the most intense part of the game. Will the fifth card make you a winner, or will it destroy your hand? After the third betting is over, flip the fifth card over for anyone who still has not Dropped Out.

(((((1st card + 2nd card) - 3rd card) x 4th card) / 5th card.))))

The player with the highest number is the winner! If there is a tie, divide the treats evenly between ALL players. The winner may choose to either keep or share their winnings (Hint: encourage them to share some).

I know some of you are also against gambling, and I know that some families have been looking for some fun alternatives to traditional poker games, so I hope this provides a good system and gives you many hours of mental stimulation and fun. Enjoy!