

Kseri

2-4 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Short

Score points by capturing cards and earning kseri bonuses.

SETUP

- Deal 4 cards to each player.
- Place 4 cards face up on the table (no Jacks).
- Keep the remaining deck nearby for redeals.

SCORING

- 10 points per kseri, 3 points for most cards.
- 1 point for the 10 of diamonds and 1 for the 2 of clubs.

Tip: Hold your Jacks for big piles and try to bait opponents into leaving single cards on the table.

ON YOUR TURN

- Play one card from your hand.
- Capture the pile if your card matches the top card's value, or play a Jack to take everything.
- Score a kseri if you capture a lone card by matching it.

Kseri is a popular Greek and Turkish capture card game where players try to clear the table by matching card values. Clearing the table earns bonus points called kseri, making timing and memory critical.

Objective

Score the most points by capturing cards from the table. Earn bonus points by performing a kseri, which means capturing the only card on the table with a matching card.

Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 4 players.
2. **Deck:** A standard 52-card deck.
3. **Deal:** Deal 4 cards to each player. Place 4 cards face up on the table. If any Jacks appear among the initial table cards, bury them in the middle of the deck and deal replacements.

Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** On your turn, play one card from your hand to the table.
2. **Step 2:** If your card matches the value of the top card on the table pile, capture the entire pile. A Jack captures everything on the table regardless of value.
3. **Step 3:** If there is exactly one card on the table and you capture it with a matching card (not a Jack), you score a kseri bonus.
4. **Step 4:** When all players have played their 4 cards, deal 4 more to each player (but no new table cards). Continue until the deck runs out.

Scoring

- 10 points for each kseri (capturing a lone card by matching its value).
- The player with the most cards captured gets 3 points.
- 1 point for the 10 of diamonds.
- 1 point for the 2 of clubs.
- Games are typically played to 61 points.

Variations

- **Double Kseri:** If a player responds to a kseri by immediately making their own kseri, it counts as 20 points.
- **Team Kseri:** With 4 players, form two partnerships and combine captured cards for scoring.

Tips and Strategies

- Use Jacks wisely; they can capture everything but do not score kseri, so save them for large piles.
- Try to bait your opponent into leaving a single card on the table so you can score a kseri.
- Keep track of which cards have been played to anticipate what your opponents hold.

Tips & Strategy

Save Jacks for sweeping large piles rather than wasting them on single cards. Try to set traps that leave a lone card on the table for an easy kseri on your next turn.

The best Kseri players count cards meticulously and manipulate the table to create kseri opportunities.

Knowing when to hold a Jack versus playing it immediately separates beginners from experts.