To play WAR, you need:

- 2 players
- 1-2 decks of regular playing cards, middle between the players


In regular WAR, players pick the top card from deck and turn face up; the player with the higher-value card takes both cards (in case of a tie, cards remain face up until a player wins a hand and gets to take the whole pot; play continues until all deck cards are used up; player with most won cards wins the game.
***In arithmetic WAR, the play is the same except - each player turns 2 cards over (instead of one):


- For Addition WAR, the values of the 2 cards are added; the player with the highest sum gets all 4 cards (continue play with a tie until someone wins all).
- For Subtraction WAR, the values of the 2 cards are subtracted; the player with the highest answer gets all 4 cards (continue play with a tie until someone wins all).
- For Multiplication WAR, the value of the 2 cards are multiplied; the player with the highest product gets all 4 cards (continue play with a tie until someone wins all). In any of these variations, the Jack, King, and Queen are wild cards with any one value, $0-12$, chosen by the player $(\mathrm{ace}=1)$.


