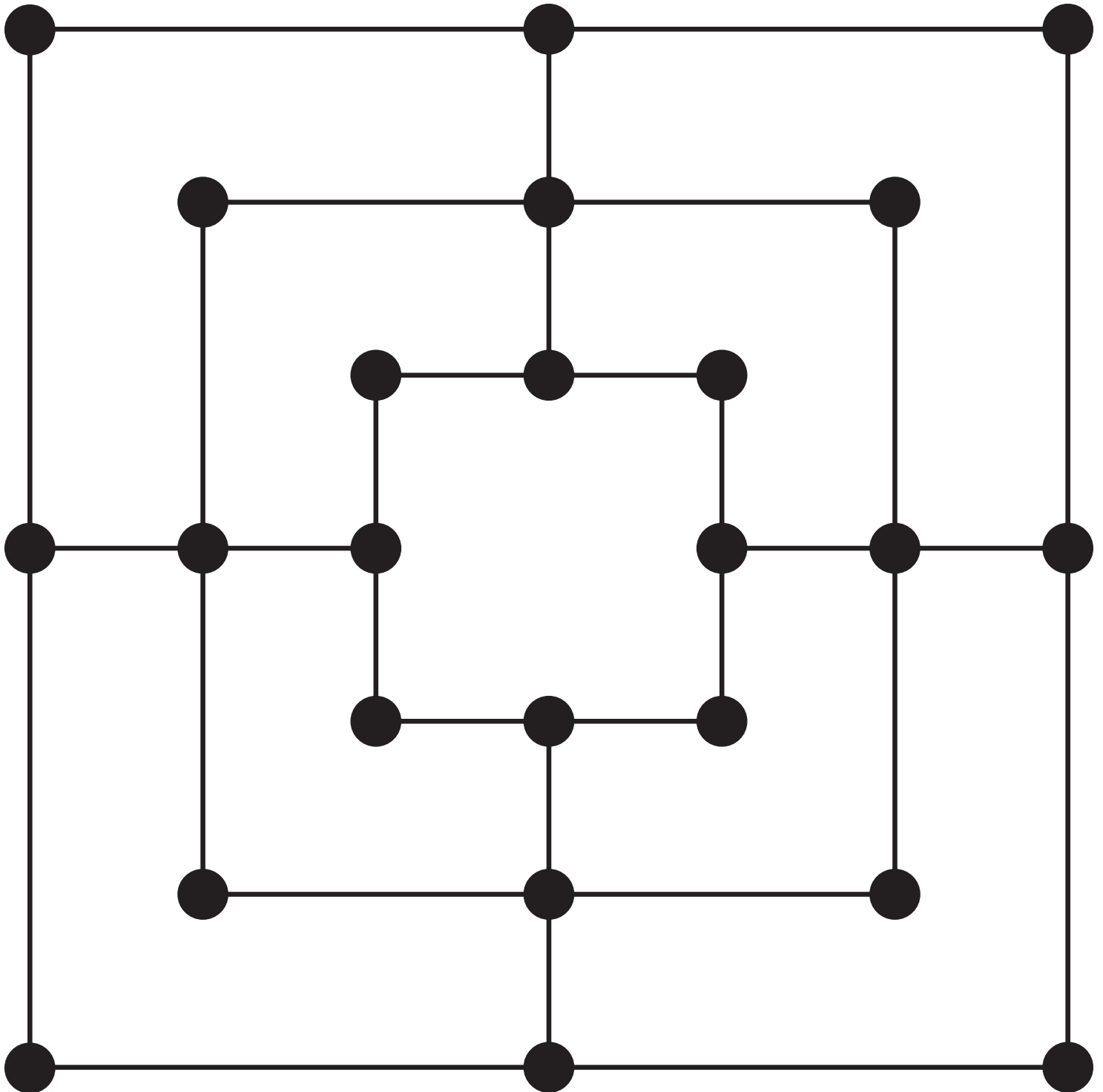


Nine Men's Morris

Nine Men's Morris is a game that has been played for thousands of years; some of the oldest boards have been found carved into walls of buildings in Ancient Egypt, Sri Lanka, Greece and Ireland (so you could count this game towards your Egyptians and Greeks challenges too!) It became widely popular during 14th Century and even got a mention in William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

You will need:

1. Game board (use this page as your board or draw your own). The board consists of three concentric squares (three various sizes all sharing the same centre) that are connected by straight lines at the midpoints of all four sides of the squares.
2. 9 pieces for each player. Each player's pieces should be a different colour; you could use checkers, coins, buttons or painted stones.



Nine Men's Morris - Instructions

To play:

1. The game is for 2 players, each player has 9 playing pieces.
2. All playing pieces start off the board.
3. The aim of the game is to form a line of 3 pieces in a row (a mill), along a vertical or horizontal line. Diagonal lines do not count, see figures 1 – 3 below.
4. Players decide who is going first; this could be by tossing a coin, who is youngest, etc.
5. Phase 1: players take turns putting their pieces on any available points on the board until all 18 playing pieces have been placed. Players may create a mill (connect 3 pieces) during this phase.
6. If at any point a player creates a mill (connects 3 pieces along a horizontal or vertical line) they may remove an opponent's piece from the board provided it is not part of a mill.
EXCEPTION: An opponent's piece which is part of a mill may only be removed if all the opponent's pieces are part of mills. In this case an exception is made and the player is allowed to remove any of their opponent's pieces.
7. Phase 2: when all 18 playing pieces have been placed, players take turns to slide their playing pieces along the lines to neighbouring unoccupied points on the board. Only one piece may be moved per turn and players can only move horizontally or vertically.
8. Removed pieces remain out of the game for the remainder of play and the game ends when the losing player has only 2 pieces left on the board.

Winning:

1. Nine Men's Morris is a relatively short game.
2. The game ends when the losing player is left with only two pieces on the board or cannot make any legal moves.
3. Mills can be made horizontally or vertically but must be connected with a line as shown below.

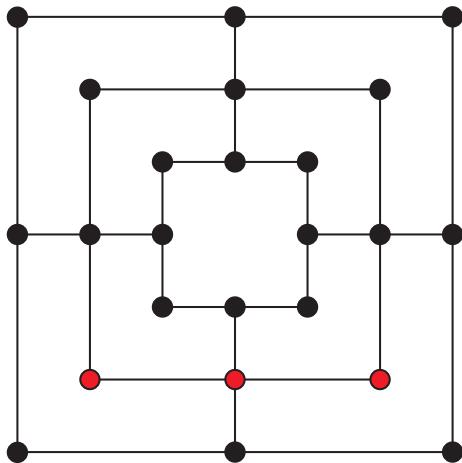


Figure 1.

3 in a row horizontally across the top or bottom of a square.

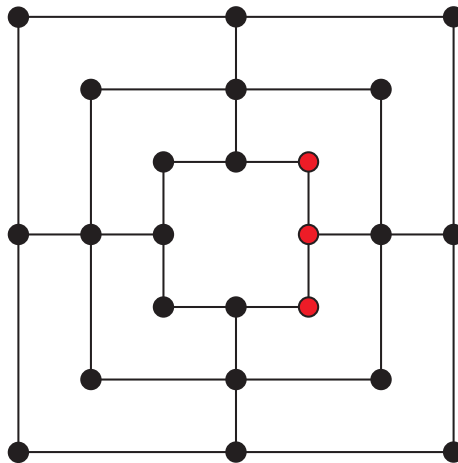


Figure 2.

3 in a row vertically along one side of a square.

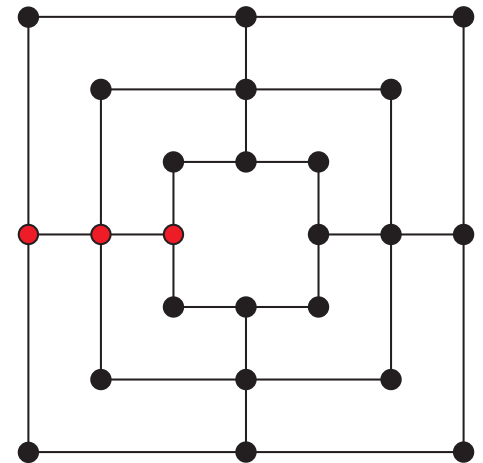


Figure 3.

3 in a row horizontally across all squares connected with a line.