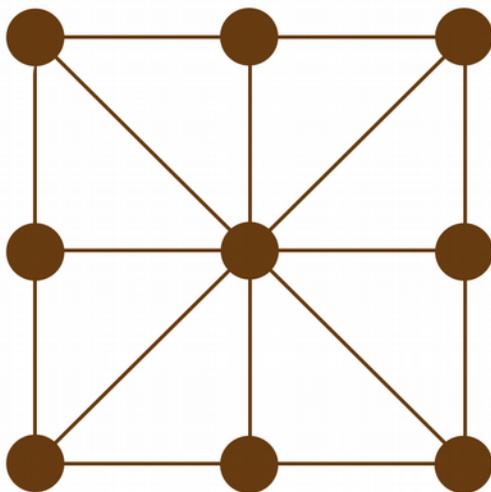




THREE MENS MORRIS OR THE SMALLER MERELS

Three Mens Morris may date from as early as 1400BC in Egypt. There are versions etched into Roman stonework and variants have been found in Greece, Sri-Lanka and China. In fact there were many books written about it during the sixth century in China. It was introduced to Britain during the Norman Conquest and versions have been found carved into seats in medieval cloisters.

As an art project you could make your own version, either drawing it out on paper or painting it onto cloth wood or leather and making counters from wood or clay. Alternatively you could just print this onto card and cut out the board and pieces below.



THE RULES

1. Three men's morris is played by two players, with pieces placed on the spots of the lined board.
2. The board starts empty with each player holding all their pieces.
3. Taking it in turns each player places one piece on the board, at any vacant point. Players attempt to make a line of three counters called a "Mill". The opposing player attempts to block their lines and create their own. (Like Naughts and Crosses)
4. Once all pieces are on the board, if no "Mill" has been made, players then take turns moving one of their pieces along the marked lines into any adjacent empty point and try to create a Mill.
5. If a piece is placed or moved and forms a row of three along a marked line (called a mill), they win the game.

N.B. There is also a version called "Nine Holes". In this version, once all pieces are placed on the board, pieces can be moved to ANY spot on the board not just adjacent spots.