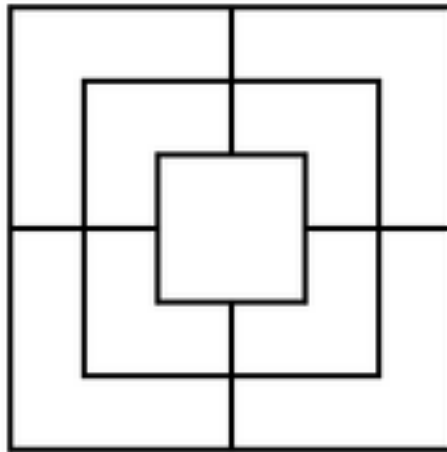


The Mill Game



History

This board game was played in ancient Egypt as early as about 1400 B.C. which means that people have been playing the game for more than 3400 years. It was known in Bible lands and then played in many parts of Europe. It has had many different names such as Mill, Mühle, Me'relle, and Nine Man Morris.

Players - Two

Ages – Eight and older

Materials – A copy of the game board and eighteen player pieces (Two different colors. Nine of each color) Use historic materials such as rocks rather than plastic pieces.

Object of the Game

Capture all your opponent's playing pieces except two or create a trap so that it is impossible to move.

Rules

- Decide who will go first.
- The game starts with the board empty.
- Take turns putting one piece at a time on the board.
- Place pieces on any spot where lines meet or intersect.
- Each time a player forms a line of three playing pieces on the board (a mill) he or she may remove one of the other player's pieces from the board. He or she may not take one that is part of a "three-in-a-row" line.
- A mill must have all the pieces on lines (not on diagonals).
- After both players have put down all of their pieces they take turns moving them along the lines to try to form a mill. They also try to block or to keep their opponent from making a mill.
- Players can move only once space at a time.
- Players may not move diagonally.
- Players may move only to the next open space.
- Players may not jump or bump an opponent's piece.
- Again, each time a mill is formed, that player may take one of the opponent's game pieces.
- The pieces may not be taken from a mill unless the opponent has no other playing pieces left on the board.
- The game ends when one player has only two pieces left or is blocked so he or she cannot move. That means the other player is the winner.

- A good way to win is to move the pieces to set up two mills next to each other. As the player opens one, the other can be closed. That means it becomes possible to take one of the opponent's pieces at each turn.

Mühle

Mühle or Mill, also called Nine Man Morris, has been a popular game for several hundred years. The Gustav Janke children had a commercially printed gameboard. Once when they were squabbling over the results of the game, an older person came, broke the board in two, and tossed it into the kitchen stove. After that they played the game on a hand-drawn game board like this one.

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