

# History at Home: Nine Men's Morris

## Purpose:

This activity focuses on games played by children during the Colonial Era

## Materials required:

Game Board (available to print below), nine game pieces for each player (buttons, beads, checkers or any small object).

## Background Information:

Children in the Colonial Era played games, just like kids today. Many of these games are still played today like: jump rope, tennis, hop scotch, tag and hide and seek. One game that isn't quite as popular, but still a great deal of fun is Nine Men's Morris.

## The Rules:

1. Nine Men's Morris is played by 2 players.
2. Each player gets **9** game pieces.
3. Players take turns placing each piece on the board. Pieces are placed on the circles or dots where the lines intersect.
4. Once all the pieces are on the board, players take turns moving the pieces from space to space, trying to get a line of three (either horizontal, vertical or diagonally, or to block an opponent from getting a line of three).
5. Whenever a player makes a line of 3, they remove an opponent's piece from the board.
6. Once a player is down to two pieces (can no longer make a line of three) that player loses and the game is over.



# The Game Board

