

FURTHER INFORMATION

Players interested in the large family of morris games may find more about them, and other variations not mentioned here, by consulting the following books.

Bell, R. C. *Board and Table Games from Many Civilizations*, vol. 1, pp. 91-95. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1979.

Murray, H. J. R. *A History of Board-Games Other than Chess*, pp. 37-48. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1952.

Parlett, D. *The Oxford History of Board Games*, pp. 116-121. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

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OTHER MORRIS GAMES

by Damian Walker

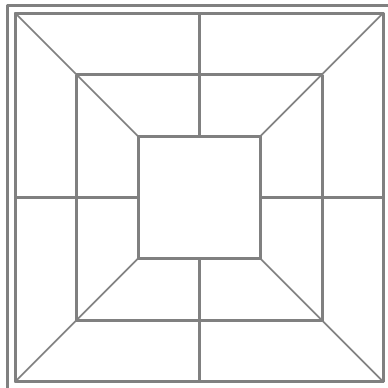
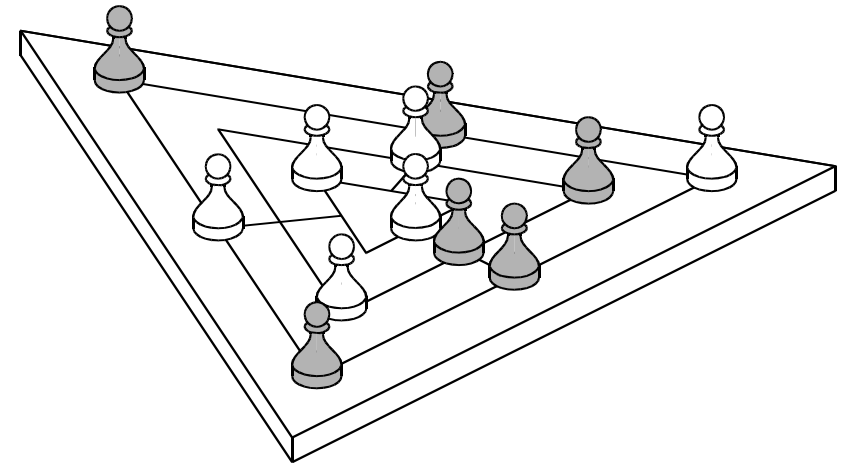


Illustration 4: the board for eleven and twelve men's morris.

INTRODUCTION & HISTORY

Nine Men's Morris is the best known morris game in much of Europe. But there were a number of other morris games played across Europe and the wider world. All

these games were played in much the same way, but the layout of the board and the number of pieces differed. This leaflet gives the rules to the most popular games.

HOW TO PLAY

Most morris games share the following common rules.

Common Rules

1. Morris games are played by two players, with pieces placed on the points of a lined board.
2. The board starts empty, each player holding all his pieces in hand.
3. At first, each player in turn puts one piece on the board, at any vacant point.

4. Once all pieces are on the board, a player instead moves one of his pieces along a marked line to an adjacent empty point.

5. If a piece placed or moved as in rules 3 or 4 forms a row of three along a marked line (called a *mill*), he

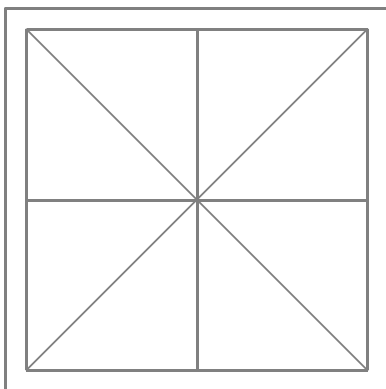


Illustration 1: the board for three men's morris and achi.

can take one of his opponent's pieces, so long as that piece is not itself part of a mill.

6. If when capturing as in rule 5, *all* opposing pieces form mills, then any of the pieces may be captured.

7. A player wins the game when the opponent is reduced to 2 pieces and is thus unable to form a mill or make further captures.

Three Men's Morris and Achi

These two games are played on the board shown in Illustration 1, three men's morris with three pieces for each player, and achi with four. Rules differ in that there is no capture; the first player who forms a row of three pieces immediately wins the

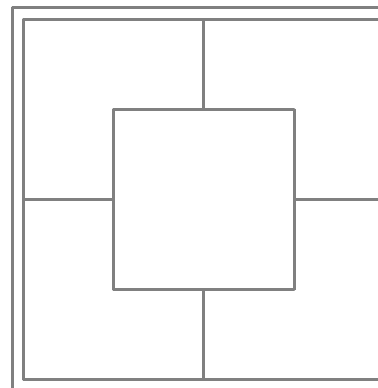


Illustration 2: the board for five and six men's morris.

game.

Three men's morris is one of the most widely played board games in the world. It has been found across all three continents of the old world, and it has been in existence for so long that it is not apparent where it was first invented. Achi, however, is an African variant.

Five & Six Men's Morris

These two games are played on the board shown in Illustration 2, one with five pieces each, and the other with six. Note that it is not possible to form a row of three on the lines that connect the two squares together.

Sixpenny Maddell

This curious variant of the

game was played in Wiltshire in England, and was observed in 1897. The game is played with six men per side on the board shown in Illustration 3, but unlike six men's morris, allows a row of three men to be formed on the lines that connect the triangles together.

Eleven & Twelve Men's Morris

These games are played on the board shown in Illustration 4, with eleven or twelve men per side. In early forms of the game, the diagonal lines were for movement only, but in the modern form, it is permissible to form mills upon them.

Twelve men's morris is the game taken to New England by the first settlers. In this game, a player may move his pieces from one point to any other when he is reduced to four pieces or less.

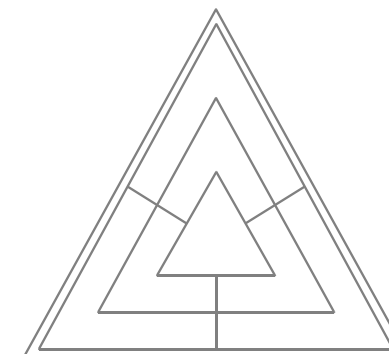


Illustration 3: the board for sixpenny maddell.