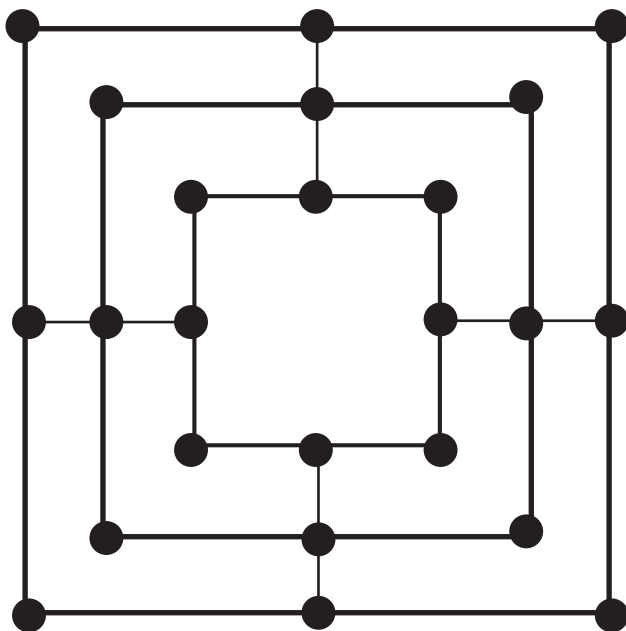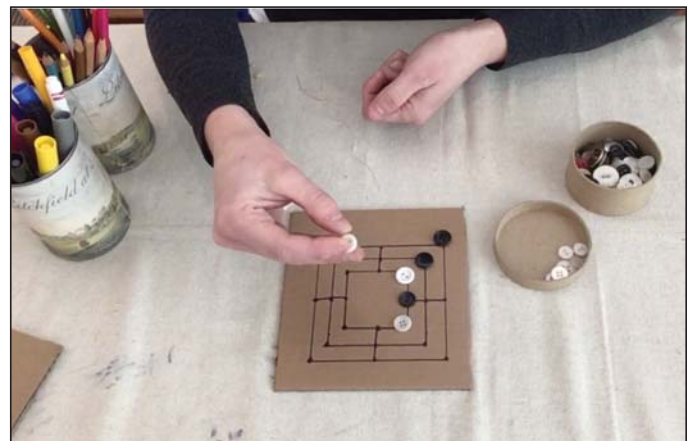# NINE MEN MORRIS

The History of Nine Men Morris

The game Nine Men Morris , sometimes called "mill", has been around for centuries, even the ancient Romans were playing at least 1400 years ago. The game was also popular in colonial America, everyone from children to soldiers played.

One of the reasons Nine Men Morris continues to be such a popular game is because it does not require any special equipment to play. The game pieces, called "men", can be made from almost anything – pebbles, beans, or buttons for example. The board is simple to draw and could even be scratched into dirt if no paper were handy.
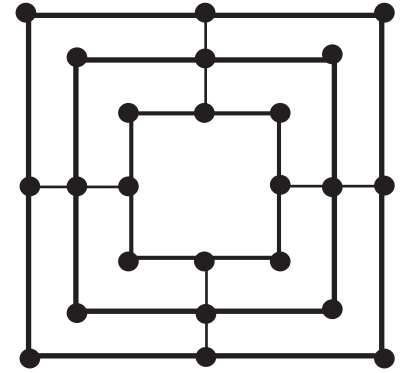
Supplies Needed:

☐ Paper

☐ Markers or Pen

☐ Ruler

☐ 9 game pieces of each color (example: 9 white buttons and 9 black buttons)

Nine Men Morris Instructions
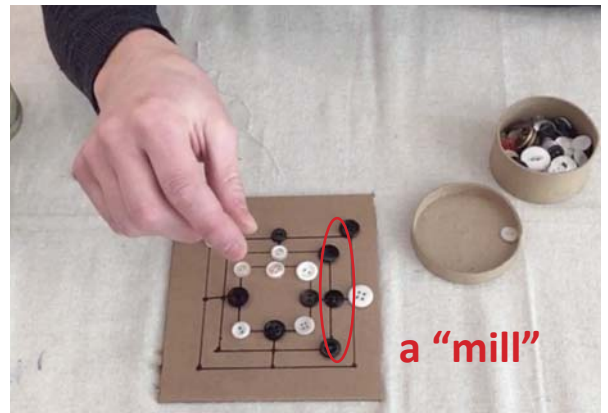
To Make a Nine Men Morris Game Board

1. Draw three concentric squares

2. Put a dot on the corner or each square and a dot in the center of all four sides of each square

3. Draw a line connecting the center dots. Your board will look like the diagram.

To Play Nine Men Morris

Objective: To capture opposing pieces by forming lines of 3.

1. To begin, players take turns placing their markers, or "men", on any unoccupied point until all 18 pieces have been placed on the board

2. After that, players take turns moving one piece along a line to an adjacent point.

3. During any point in the game, whenever a player makes a row of three, known as a "mill", that player immediately removes an opponent's piece from the board. Only opponent's men that are not part of a mill can be removed, unless all of the opponent's men are in mills.

4. Captured men are never replayed.

5. The game is finished when one player only has two men remaining on the board.

a "mill"

For video instructions, visit our website.

www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org

We want to see your nine men morris boards!

Share your creations with us by tagging us on social media with #litchfieldhistory