

NINE MEN'S MORRIS · VARIANT 1 OF 7

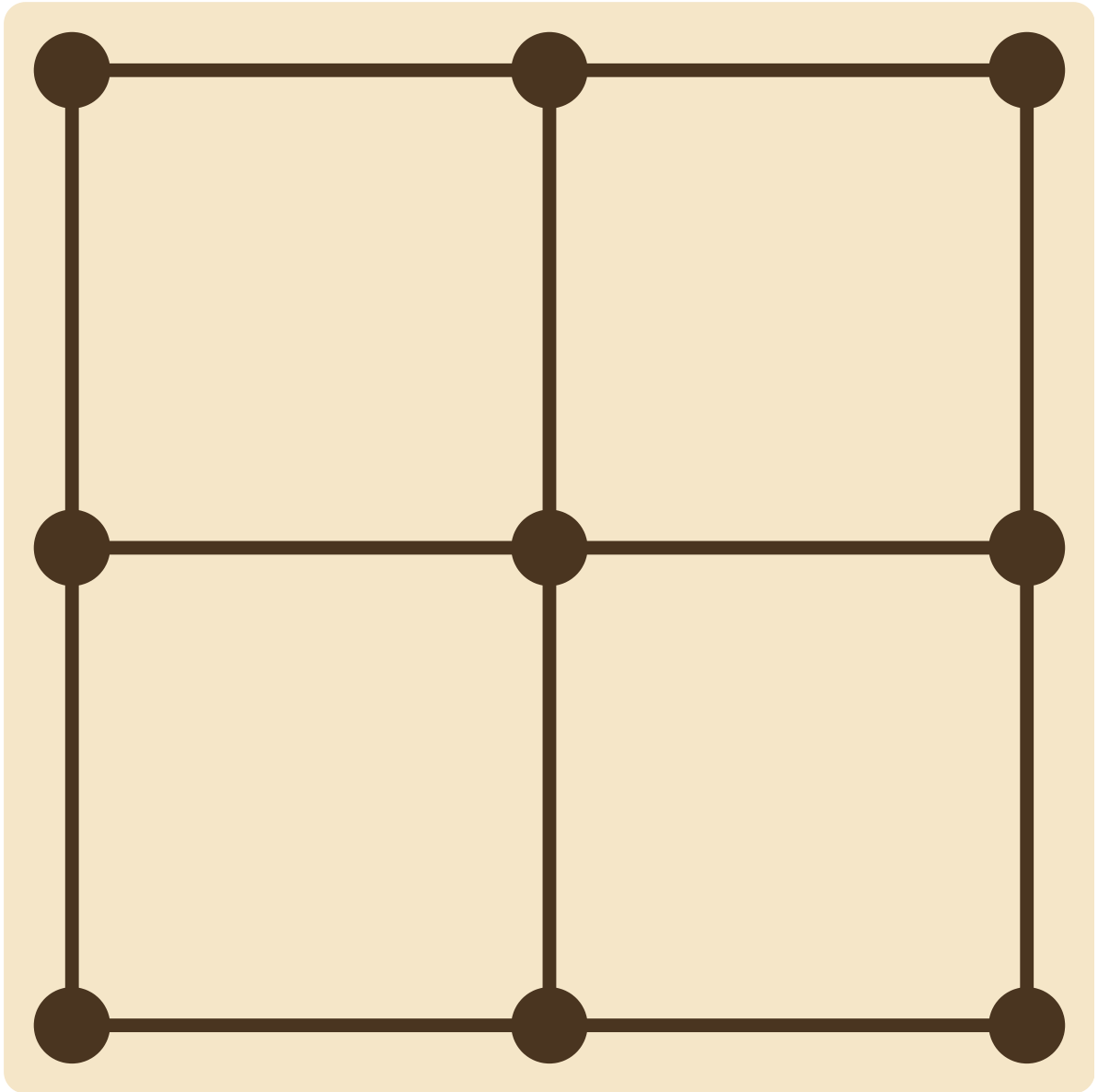
Three Men's Morris

3×3 grid (9 intersections)
BOARD

2
PLAYERS

THREE MEN'S MORRIS

The smallest and oldest member of the Mill game family, played on a 3×3 grid with three pieces per side. Unlike the larger Morris games, Three Men's Morris has no sequential placement phase — pieces are placed and can immediately jump to any empty square on subsequent turns. The game is essentially Tic-Tac-Toe with mobile pieces, preventing draws through the ability to rearrange your position.



Three Men's Morris — board layout

<https://engine.moddable.games/play/?game=morris&variant=three-mens-morris>

ITEM	QTY	NOTES
Board	1	3×3 grid of intersections (9 positions)
Pieces	6	3 per player in contrasting colours

SETUP

The board is a 3×3 grid of points, connected horizontally, vertically, and (in most versions) diagonally. The board begins empty.

PHASE 1 — PLACEMENT

Players alternate placing one piece per turn onto any empty intersection until each player has placed all 3 pieces.

If a player forms a three-in-a-row during placement, they win immediately.

PHASE 2 — MOVEMENT

Players alternate moving one piece per turn. A piece may move to **any empty intersection** on the board — not just adjacent ones. This teleportation distinguishes Three Men's Morris from all larger variants.

The goal is to form a three-in-a-row (row, column, or diagonal, depending on board variant). On a diagonal-connected board, eight possible mills exist.

WINNING

The first player to have all three pieces in a straight line (row, column, or diagonal) wins.

DRAW PREVENTION

The free movement (jump anywhere) mechanic means that — unlike Tic-Tac-Toe — Three Men's Morris very rarely draws, because positions can always be rearranged. A draw occurs only if the same position repeats three times with the same player to move.

ATTRIBUTION

Three Men's Morris. Traditional game, Roman and medieval European origin. Public domain. Source: Murray, H.J.R. — *A History of Board-Games Other Than Chess* (1952, Oxford University Press); Wikipedia (CC-BY-SA).