

GIANT NOUGHTS AND CROSSES

The Game

Everyone loves Nought and Crosses and this super-sized version is made from soft, coloured foam and gives the old favourite of Noughts and Crosses (or *Tic Tac Toe* as it is known in America) a fresh twist.

Noughts and Crosses is a game that has been played in the United Kingdom for several centuries although its precise history is uncertain.

Some people suggest that the ancient Roman game of *Terni Lapilli* was essentially the same as Noughts and Crosses but there is no firm evidence for this. Even though the grid used for the game has been found scratched on to various surfaces all over the ancient Roman empire, none have symbols resembling either noughts and crosses and unless the game was played with counters then the link remains tenuous.

Rules

Two players take it in turns to place an O or an X on the board. When three Os or three Xs are placed in a line either horizontally, vertically or diagonally the game is won.

If neither three Os nor three Xs are in a line and there is no space on the board then the game is drawn.

Since the first player has up to five turns and the opponent has only up to four turns, the winner is the player who wins the most games out of a pre-set, even number of games.

Not a lot of people know that!

Amazingly there are over 250,000 possible games of Noughts and Crosses. If symmetrically similar moves are disregarded (i.e. rotations, reflections and so on) then there are still more than 26,000 completely different games - quite impressive for a game played on a mere "three by three" grid.

