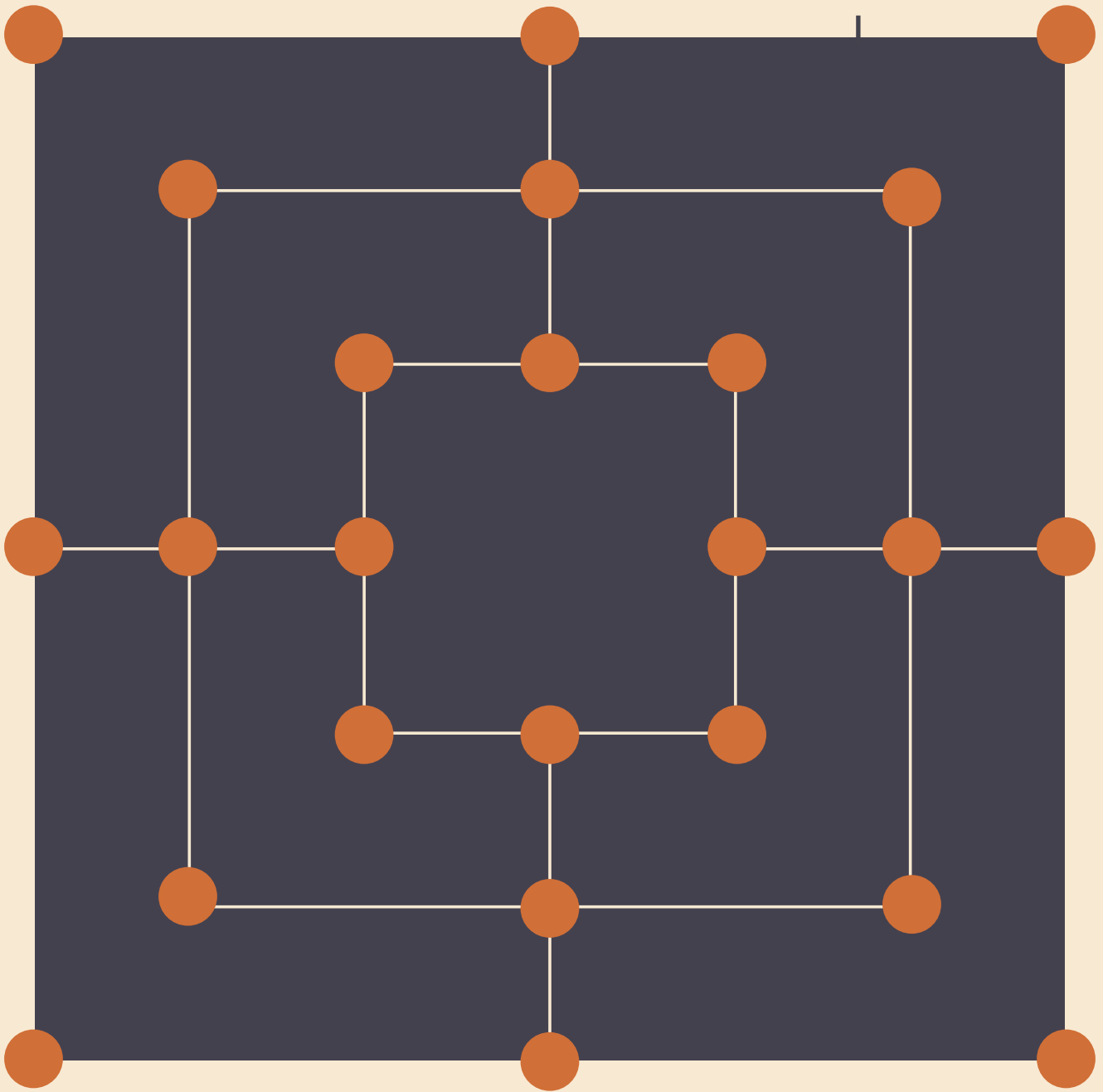
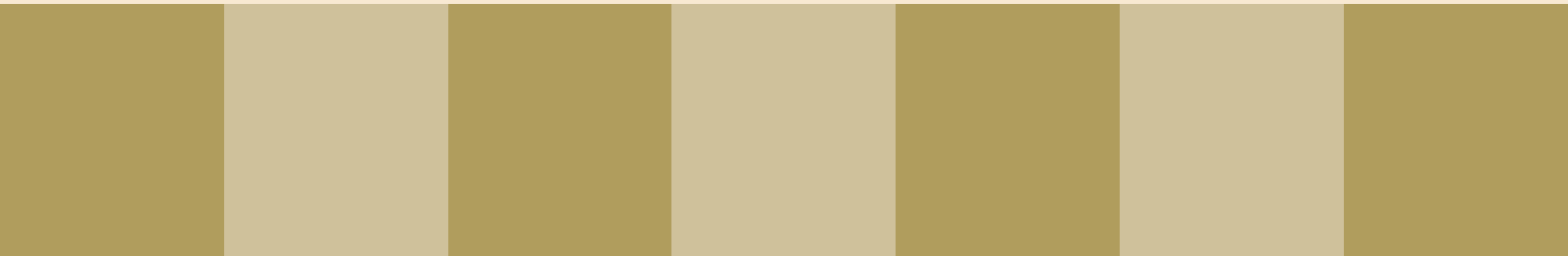
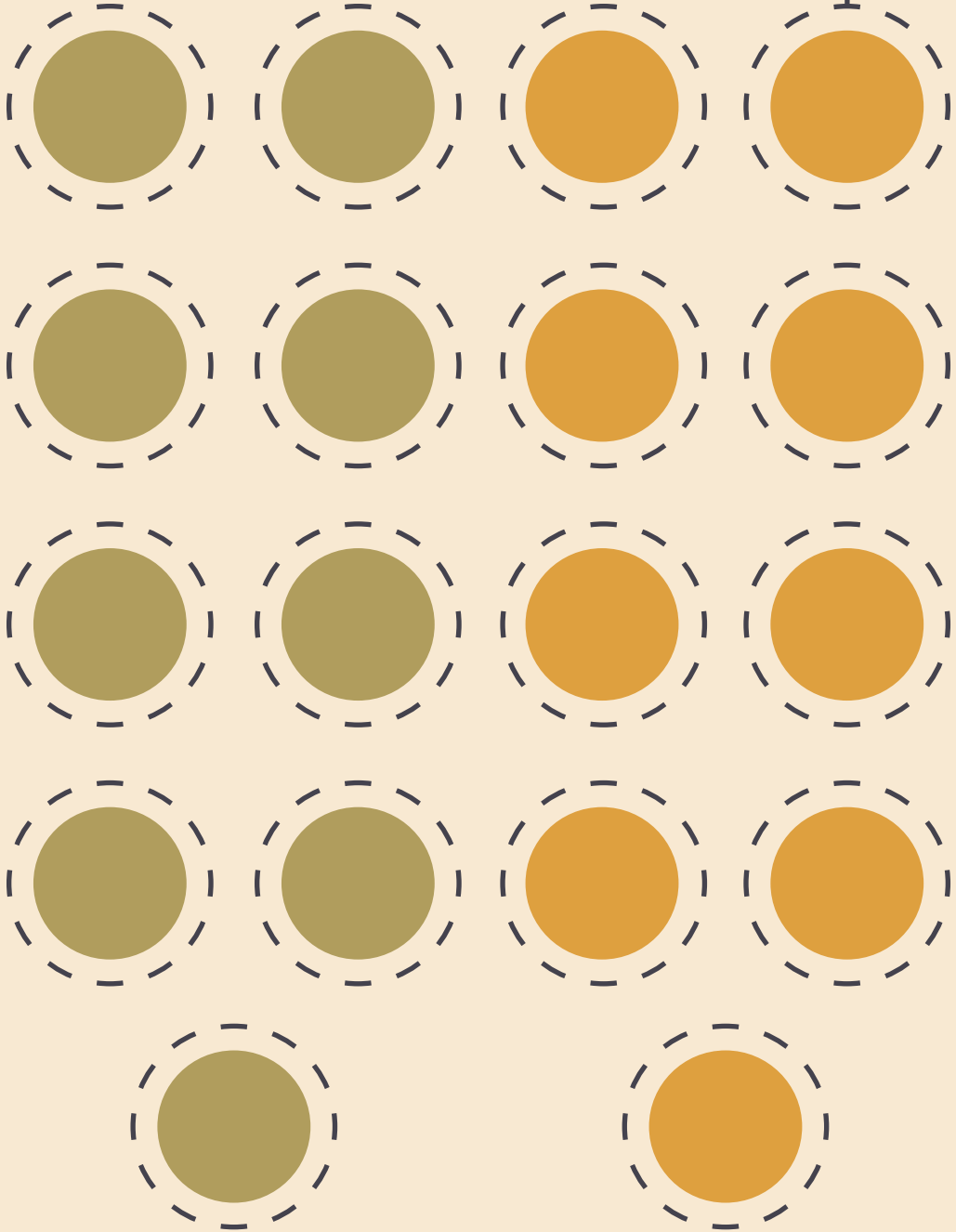


# Nine Men's Morris

Here is a board to play **Nine Men's Morris**, and some **counters**. You can **cut this board to play**, or, you can **make your own** by **drawing** out the board on a piece of paper or card.



You can **cut out and use these counters**, each person gets **nine**.  
Or, you can use **pebbles, counters, buttons or even shells**.



## The game is played in three phases.

### Phase 1

Each player takes turns **placing their counter on one of the spots**. Each player must try to make a 'mill', which is **three pieces in a row**, either **horizontal or vertical**.

When a player creates a mill, they can **remove one of the opponents piece** from the board.

**Pieces cannot be taken from a mill**, unless there are **no other pieces available to take**.

### Phase 2

When all the pieces are placed on the board, **players continue to take turns to create mills** and to try and **take away the pieces of the other player**. A piece can only be moved to an **empty place beside it**, and pieces **cannot jump**.

Play continues like this until **one player cannot move because they become blocked**, and the player with the **blocked pieces lose**.

Or, **one player has only three pieces left**, which **moves the game to phase three**.

### Phase 3

The player with the **three pieces** is now allowed to **jump or 'fly' his piece to ANY spot** on the board.

This continues until **one player has only two pieces on the board left**, in which they have **lost the game**.

### Top tip

Most players will try to **win** by **blocking an opponent's piece** and **stopping the game moving to phase three**, as it can get tricky to **defeat a player** who is able to **'fly'** their pieces!

### Find out more

To find out more about **Nine Men's Morris** and other **board games and pastimes in the past**, make sure you check out our **'Pastimes; A trail of ancient board games and hobbies'**. Download from [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)



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