

FOX AND GEESE GAME



The Historic Dockyards at Chatham,
Chatham, Kent, UK

FOX AND GEESE was one of the many games sailors and soldiers played in the 1700s to while away the hours in camp or at sea. It only takes two players, and people carved boards into benches and planks and made game pieces out of coins, pegs, stones, or even scraps of paper. Above is a Fox and Geese board that was found on a shipwreck from 1758! The object of the game is for the “fox” to move through the gaggle of geese, capturing as many as possible. The geese try to corner the fox so he can’t move around. Download our game board and instructions, and make your own pieces using things you have around the house!

OBJECTIVE

Fox & Geese is a game of inequality. The geese are aiming to capture the fox by fully surrounding him so that he cannot move. The goal of the fox, on the other hand, is to capture geese until it becomes impossible for them to trap him.

STEPS

1. Print out the game board
2. Cut out the 14 circles. The darker circle represents the fox. The other 13 circles represent the geese.

BASIC PLAY

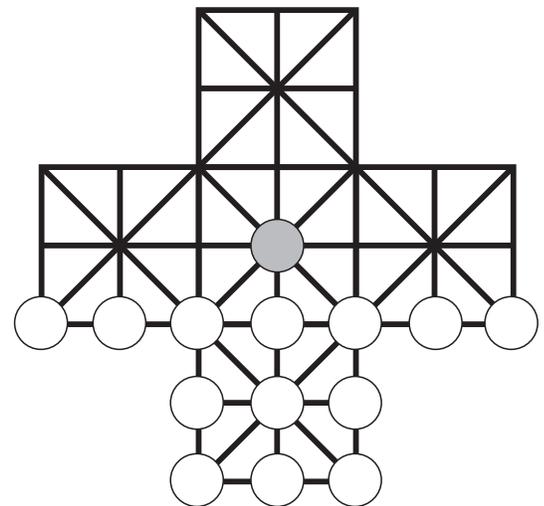
The game starts with the geese all on one arm of the cross and the fox in the middle of the board. (see diagram, right)

Players toss a coin to decide who will play the fox.

Geese get to move first. They can move straight forward, diagonally forward, or sideways along the lines to next intersection.

The fox can move in any direction, even backwards. If a goose is next to the fox with an empty point directly behind, the fox may capture that goose by hopping over it to the empty point and removing the goose from the board (like checkers). Captured pieces are never replayed onto the board.

The game is finished when a player either loses by being reduced to only two geese left or by the fox being unable to move. Take turns trying out each side and different strategies!





MUSEUM OF THE
AMERICAN
REVOLUTION

FOX AND GEESE GAME

