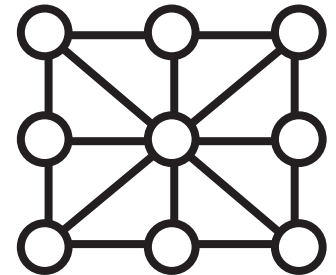


International Math

Activity 5 - Three Men's Morris

Three Men's Morris is a game of alignment. It is a variation of the well known game, Tic Tac Toe.

Three Men's Morris is an ancient game and has been around for over 3,500 years. The game used to be played in different parts of the world such as Egypt, China, Ireland, Norway, Italy and Sri Lanka. Today people in Europe, the United States, Senegal, Zimbabwe and other African countries enjoy the fun of the game. Mathematics is apparent in this game of alignment because Three Men's Morris involves strategy, game theory, logic, geometry and spatial visualization. Finding a winning strategy in this game requires some mathematical knowledge.



Rules of the Game:

- One player places three pieces of one colour on the three circles on the left side of the game board. The opponent places three different coloured pieces on the three circles on the right side of the board.
- Players take turns moving one of the pieces along any line to an empty point.
- A player wins when he/she makes a vertical, horizontal, or diagonal row of three pieces anywhere on the board except for the player's starting position.

Activity Questions:

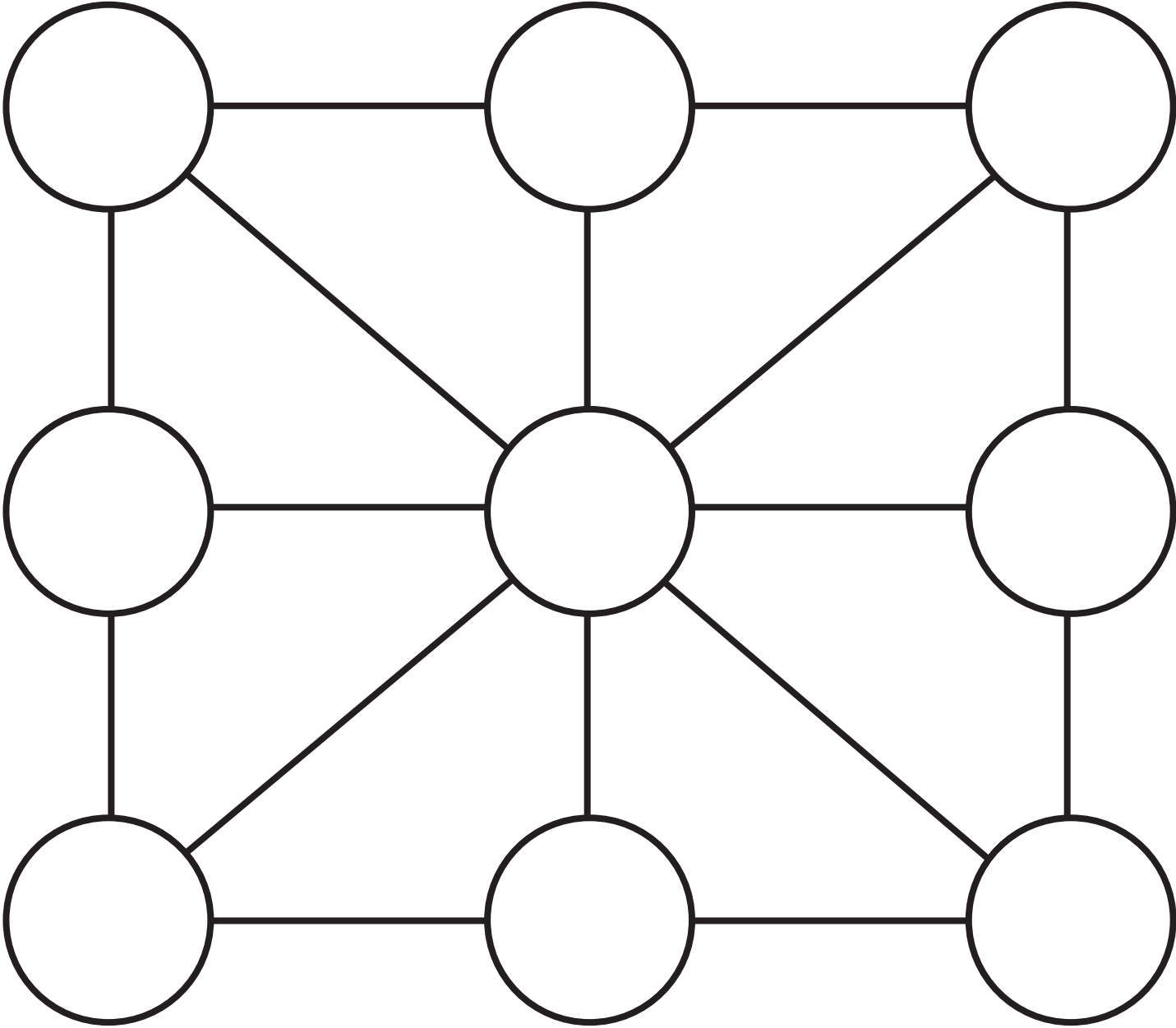
1. Play the game several times. Does it affect your chances of winning if you or your opponent goes first? Why?
2. Can you find the winning (unbeatable) strategy in Three Men's Morris - in other words, which moves do you have to make during the game so that your opponent loses every time?



Can you believe THIS is math?

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Activity 5 - Three Men's Morris



Can you believe **THIS** is math?