

Spelling

Here are this week's spellings

Unit 5	candle	find	paddle
le, el, al	handle	floor	rectangle
and il endings	angle	gold	gravel
	bangle	grass	signal
	camel	great	fossil
	metal	half	nostril

You can practice them by doing Look, say, cover, write, check, or by following the Educandy link on the homework page on the website and playing some of the games there.

Literacy /
Maths

Today we are finishing writing our Nine Man's Morris (Merelles) instructions. Use the information below to

(Combined
due to
swimming)

- 1) Make your own Nine Man's Morris board
- 2) Play a game of Nine Man's Morris
- 3) Write some Nine Man's Morris instructions. Can you use the instructions to teach someone how to play?

MAKE & CREATE

Merelles or
9 Men's Morris

Make a merelles board game set and use all your cunning to beat your opponent!

This two-player game dates from at least the Roman times. We know merelles was played by monks in abbeys across Scotland more than 600 years ago.

Did you know...

The name merelles comes from an old French word 'merel', meaning counter or token. The game's also known as Nine Men's Morris due to the 9 counters each player uses.

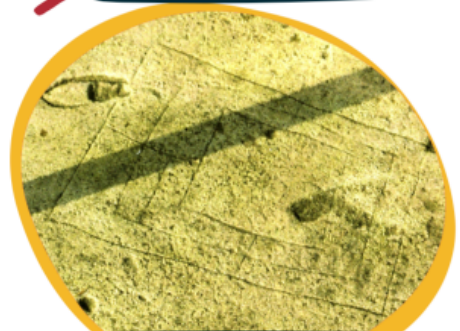
Evidence found by archaeologists suggests that people often used whatever they had lying around to make their games, including pieces of broken pottery or pebbles for counters and boards scratched into stone, wood, or the ground.



This homemade merelles set uses wood and different coloured pebbles.



This merelles board was found during excavations of Jedburgh Abbey in 1984.



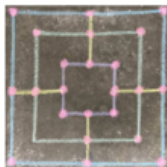
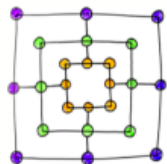
This merelles board was discovered carved into stone at Dryburgh Abbey.

Step 1

Make your board

Draw out a merelles board (or you can print off the template).

Here are some examples we drew - one with pen on paper and one with chalk on the pavement. You don't need to use colours, but they can make your board look more fun!



Step 2

Pick your counters

You will need 18 counters in total - two sets of 9 that look different.

In the past, people might have used pebbles or coins. You could get crafty and colour pebbles with permanent markers or nail varnish - or if you use something edible you can eat your opponent's counters if you win!



How to play merelles

Aim of the game:

To form "mills", rows of three counters.

Set up:

Each player starts with a set of nine counters that are different to their opponent's.

When it's your turn:

Place a counter on one of the circles (junctions) on the board. Each player will spend their first 9 turns placing a counter onto the board.

Once all the pieces are on the board:

You can now move one of your counters around the board during your go - into any empty neighbouring junction connected by a line.

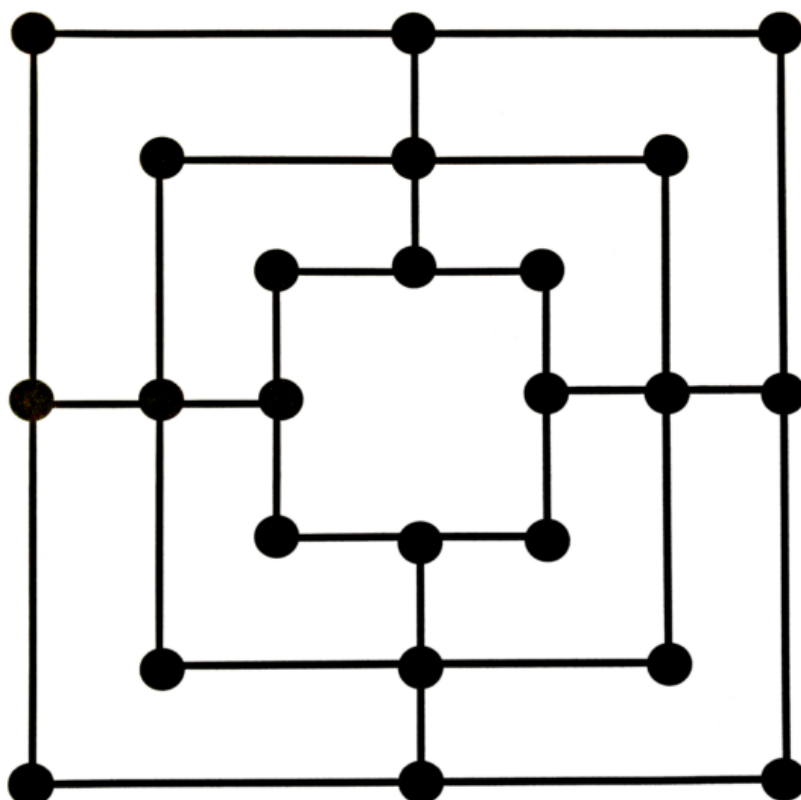
When you form a 'mill':

You can remove one of your opponent's counters as a reward for forming a mill (a row of three counters). Your opponent's individual counters (ones not in a mill) must be removed first; if there aren't any left to remove, you can remove a counter from your opponent's mill.

How you win:

When your opponent has only two counters left, and therefore can't form a mill.

Merelles or
9 Mens Morris
Template



Writing instructions

Key Words

how to
you will need
equipment
ingredients
method

When words

first
next
then
when
after
before
while
penultimately
lastly
finally

Doing words(verbs)

put
fold
press
turn
make
attach
cook
cut
place
take
hold
pull
wait
measure
check
look

Other helpful words

until
once
twice
don't
always
never
must
because
repeat
again
next to
under
over
against

How words (adverbs)

carefully
gently
slowly
firmly
evenly
sensibly



Science

Go through the Friction PowerPoint and have a go at the experiment (Note this will need a toy car. If you don't one – you could try sliding a coin along different surfaces.). **We set this as a home learning task in September but we didn't end up doing the experiment in class due to too many absences.**

Investigating Friction.

Which surfaces will you test?

Which surface do you predict will create the **most** friction for the toy car?

Surface	Distance travelled

Which surface created the **most** friction for the toy car?

Which surface created the **least** friction for the toy car?

Was your prediction accurate?
