

Tapatan : Tic-tac-toe with a Twist A Three-in-a-Row Strategy Game

By Carol Bob

Level: All Grades

Concepts: Problem Solving, Strategy

Interactive Gameboards on Jamboard:

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1ninL1sRSBffPAQkinOuMX0ATQwVBh82S-leygAW55zI/viewer>

Materials Required:

Paper, marker, two different coloured counters

Core-Competencies:

Critical and reflective thinking

Collaborating

Personal awareness and responsibility

First Peoples Principles of Learning:

Learning involves recognizes the consequences of one's actions

Background:

Tapatan is an abstract strategy game from the Philippines

Directions:

Two players take turns placing one counter at a time on the game board. When all counters are placed on the game board, players take turns moving one counter at a time along any line to the next empty place.

Jumping counters is not permitted.

The first to make three in a row, wins

Discussion Questions:

How could you have solved this challenge differently?

What strategies did you use to make three in a row?

Extensions:

Achi same goal of three in a row with four counters each instead of three counters; played in Ghana, West Africa. Follow this link to learn more:

<http://pi.math.cornell.edu/~mec/2003-2004/graphtheory/tictactoe/howtoplayttt.html#achi>

Picaria is the same game with three in a row but more places to move; played in Puebla nation in New Mexico. Follow this link to learn more:

<http://mathcentral.uregina.ca/RR/database/RR.09.00/treptau1/game11.html#:~:text=To%20Play%3A,a%20counter%20is%20not%20allowed.>

Human Tapatan-two teams of three, chalk to draw a game board on the cement, or a stick to draw the game board in the soil.

Resources

Tapatan rules, downloadable game board:

<https://regentsctr.uni.edu/ceestem/resources/game/tapatan>

Tic-Tac-Toe variations: <http://pi.math.cornell.edu/~mec/2003-2004/graphtheory/tictactoe/howtoplayttt.html#achi>

Games of Strategy:

<http://mathcentral.uregina.ca/RR/database/RR.09.00/treptau1/game11.html#:~:text=To%20Play%3A,a%20counter%20is%20not%20allowed.>

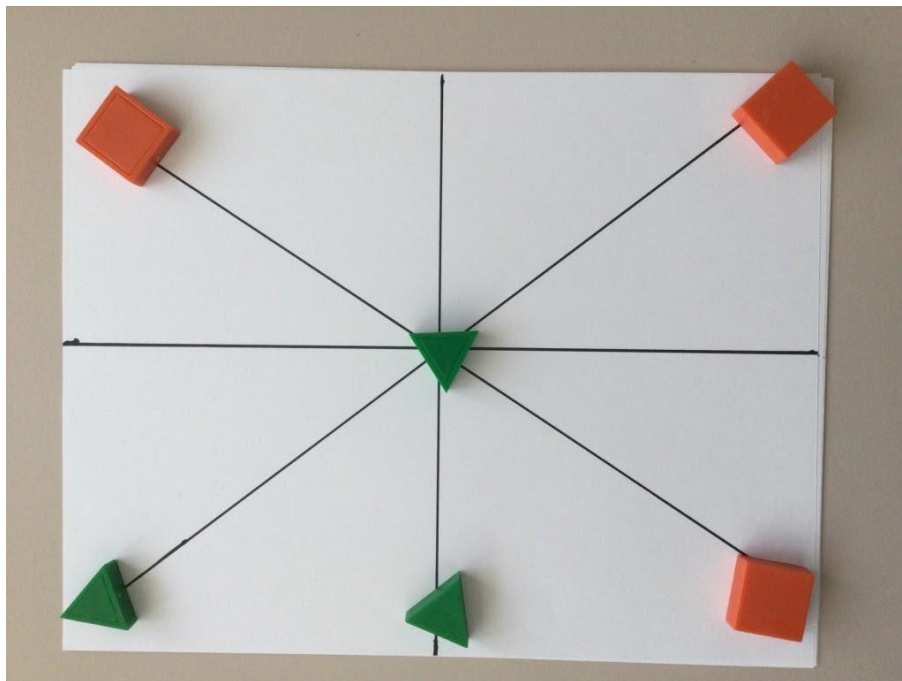


Figure 1 Tapatan game board. Photo by: Carol Bob