

THE CALLY KIDS PLAY WORLD GAMES



by the team at islington play association 2010
with thanks to all the children and
families involved

FAH (SOMALIA)

Type of Game

Sitting down game

Number of Players

2 children

Best location

Indoors or out

Resources

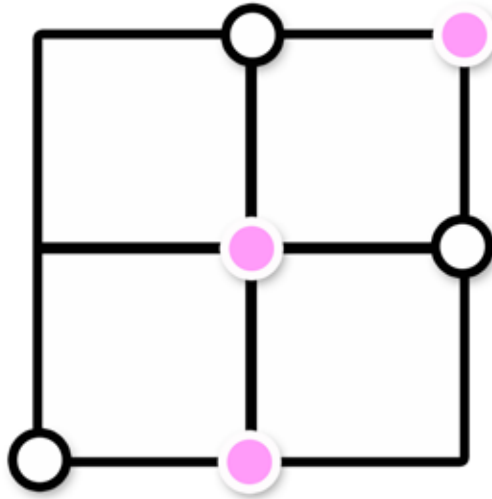
Scratched in the dirt or drawn on a piece of paper. 3 pebbles each.

Setting up

Drawing the board.

Fah might be considered the national game of Somalia, and is very popular there. It is believed to be a variation of a game played throughout the Roman Empire, which travelled very widely. Another surviving variation in Britain is Nine Men's Morris, and another is the more widely known Noughts and Crosses (Tic Tac Toe). This simplified version of Fah exists in the Philippines and is called Tapatan.

The board looks like this:



Each of the two players has three stones of distinctive colour or kind. These are placed alternately by them on the angles formed by three vertical and three horizontal lines (shown above, as if the game was already in play). Once the stones are placed they can be moved along the lines one space at a time – but not jumping!

The first player to get their stones in a straight connected line wins the game.

VARIATION:

A number of different boards exist for more advanced games – going up to what is known in Britain as Twelve Men’s Morris. Some boards use diagonal lines and allow the pieces to jump those of the opponent – as in Ghanaian version known as Achi.

“(When I was new here) I felt shy, because there was everyone playing then I got made up friends and gathered them up, and then I had all my friends.” (Anton, 9)