

KIRTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 2 NEWSLETTER 2024



YEAR 4

November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to welcome you to the start of our new term.

Our Topic

Term 2: Roman Britain

The children will learn about the Roman invasion of Britain and its impact on the lives of the Celts. They will consider whether the Roman settlement was a positive experience for all involved and explore the long-term legacy of the invasion. Year 4 will take part in an incredible Roman Day where they will act out Roman battles, make Roman artefacts and learn about Roman culture.

In science lessons, the children will be introduced to the main body parts associated with the digestive system: the mouth, tongue, teeth, oesophagus, stomach, intestines, rectum and anus. They will learn that the role of the digestive system is to break down the food we eat so that the nutrients, energy and other requirements we derive from it can be used in the rest of the body. They will learn about how food can be broken down through mechanical and chemical processes.

Maths and English

In maths lessons, children will be learning about: the four basic operations, mass and time. In order to support your child, you could talk to your child about the maths they are learning, identifying things in the real world that have weights on them e.g. bags of sugar and other items in the supermarket and at home.

It would really support your child if they were confident with their times tables. This would help them in all areas of maths. This term your child needs to learn up to the 6x table.

x2 x10 x5 x4 x3 x8 x6 x9 x7 x11 x12 p1

In English, we will be learning about: explanation texts, diaries, newspapers and stories.

In order to support your child, you could look at explanation texts and what is similar about each of them, look at stories and how the authors develop settings and characters. You could also look at newspaper reports and identify common features that appear in nearly every single one.

The spellings that your child will be learning this term can be accessed through our school website; it would be really useful if you could help your child to learn these spellings.

Please encourage your child to read at home every day and ask them questions about what they are reading at every opportunity. We aim to change books regularly.

Your child may bring a water bottle to school. Please ensure the bottle is clearly named and only contains water.

PE

Please ensure that your child has the appropriate PE kit in school every day. For outdoor games, the children need plain black/navy tracksuit bottoms, a plain white t-shirt, a plain sweatshirt and trainers. For indoor PE, the children need plain black/navy shorts and a plain white t-shirt. Every item needs to be clearly labelled and in a bag that will remain in school every day. Kits will be taken home to be washed at the end of each term. No items should be taken home during the term.

Homework

Homework is set on a Thursday and will continue to support your child's education. It will include weekly maths and English activities as well as reading, some spelling investigations and multiplication facts. If there are ever any problems about the homework, please come and see us as soon as possible.

Station Road, Kirton, Boston, Lincolnshire PE20 1HY

Tel: 01205 722236

Email: enquiries@kirton-boston.lincs.sch.uk

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YEAR 4

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING THIS TERM:

Key things that parents can do to support their child this term related to things they will be learning about are:

- suggesting your child reads articles in newspapers
- keeping a diary
- following the attached instructions to make a marvellous mosaic
- following the attached instructions to make a heated Roman villa
- using the recipe to make Roman honey cake
- playing the Roman Bear game
- visiting Ancient Rome here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XxA4CX_lp8
- learning about Roman numerals here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49oWYxExWKE>

Important Dates

04.11.24 - First day of term 2
02.12.24 - Y4 Roman Day
16.12.24 - Y4 – Y6 Carol Service at church 2.15pm
18.12.24 - Children's Christmas dinner
20.12.24 - Last day of term 2
06.01.25 - First day of term 3

Yours sincerely

Mr Batterham

Ms Phillips

Mr Saw

Year 4 Class Teachers

Activity **1** make a mosaic

BBC

**HANDS ON
HISTORY**
THE ROMANS

Make a marvellous mosaic



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Supported by



ENGLISH HERITAGE

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Activity 1



Those clever Romans were ahead of their time in so many ways.

These days we make our pictures on TV, computers and in print using lots of coloured dots or pixels to build up the image. The Romans had their own version using coloured stone tiles (a bit like tiny versions of the tiles you might find in your bathroom or kitchen) to create colourful mosaics on floors and walls.



Here is a Roman mosaic from a distance and close up.



Bignor Roman Villa, Sussex

Making your own mosaic is a great family activity with lots of different jobs. Share out the preparation so that one family member doesn't have to cut up all the small pieces of card!

You will need:

- Piece of stiff paper or card
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue
- Coloured 'tiles' (made from card or paper)
- Cups to hold your tiles
- A bit of patience!



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Activity **1**



1. Make the base

Start by deciding how big you want your finished mosaic to be. A4 size works well to start with but you can go bigger if you want.

Use a piece of card or thick paper – the thicker the better, as the glue may make your base soggy.

Use a ruler and pencil to divide the page into a grid of 1cm squares. Romans wouldn't have made a grid, but this is really useful for first-time mosaic makers. On an A4 sheet you will get 21 squares along the short edge and 30 along the long edge creating a grid of 630 squares. So you'll need 630 tiles for your finished mosaic – plus a few spares.

Six hundred and thirty squares may seem like a lot, but on an ordinary-sized Roman mosaic (around 6m x 8m) there might be half a million tiles in total, and bigger mosaics would have had many more.

2. Create your design

A simple, clear design works best for mosaics. You can take a Roman theme – below are a few ideas to get you started. Alternatively, a geometric pattern using shapes and lines can be very effective. You could even make a mosaic of your name.



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Activity **1** make a mosaic

Create your design

Use some plain paper to sketch out some designs first. Once you are happy with your design, draw it onto your gridded base. Use the grid as a guide for the width and length of different parts of your design where you can, this will make things easier later when you come to add your tiles.

Which colours?

Now decide which colours you are going to use. It's best to choose around four to six colours, as it can get a bit tricky with more.

Roman floor tiles were made from cut stone, not painted, as paint would have worn off. So the tiles would have been the natural colours found in rocks.

Mark out the different coloured squares on your grid ready for when you add the tiles later, using the following letters to represent each colour:

B – blue

G – green

R – red

Y – yellow

BR – brown

BL – black



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Activity **1** make a mosaic

3. Make the mosaic tiles

You can make your tiles in a variety of ways:

- Use paint, pens or coloured pencils to colour plain card before you cut it into tiles.
- Use coloured card from craft shops, or from old files or other stationery.
- Collect packaging boxes and cut the colours you need from the card.

Whatever you choose to use, make sure that it's thick enough not to soak up all the glue.

Once you have your coloured card, use your ruler to draw another 1cm x 1cm grid to create tiles to match the size of the squares on your base grid. Use your scissors to cut out the tiles carefully. You don't have to be too precise with the edges – a slightly rough look is more authentic.

Collect each set of coloured tiles in different pots ready to make your mosaic.



Roman fact

The Roman name for mosaic tiles is tesserae.

Top tips

If you have a computer, you can print out a 1cm x 1cm grid onto your paper by drawing out a grid in Word or similar computer software. For younger children you can buy ready-to-use paper squares from craft shops.

If you don't fancy making the fiddly tiles at all, you can create the look of a mosaic by completing sections one and two of this activity and then use paints, pens or coloured pencils to draw 'tiles' straight onto the grid!

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Activity **1** make a mosaic



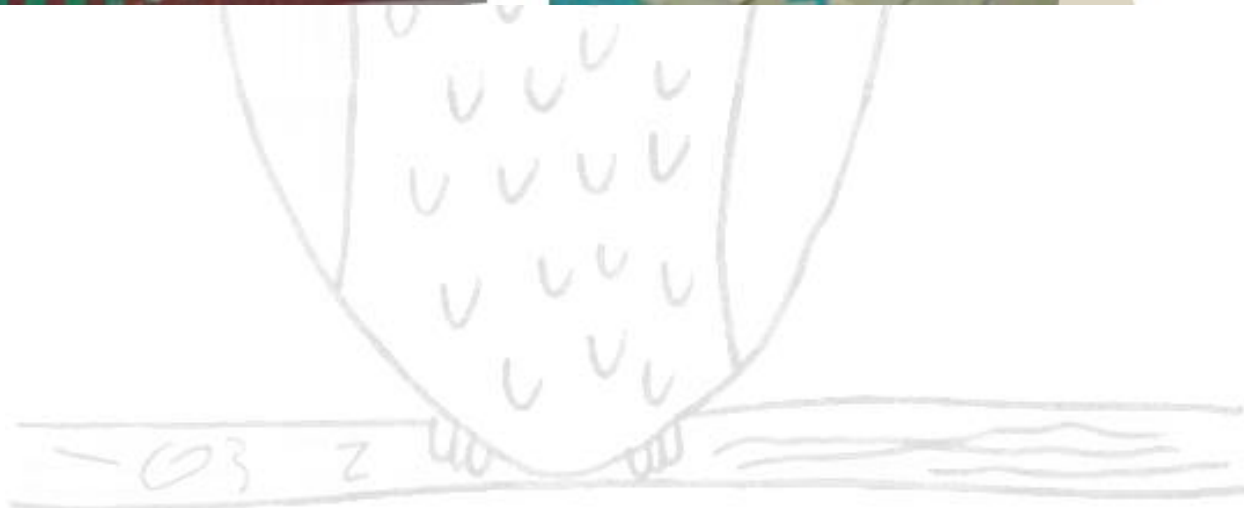
4. Make your marvellous mosaic

Use a glue stick to assemble your mosaic. Apply glue to a small area of the base sheet and then press on a few tiles at a time before moving on to the next section. Make sure you cover any pencil lines that are visible with your tiles.

Cut your tiles to fit curves and any awkward spaces – just like the Romans did!

If you are left with a lot of white space around your main design, you can either leave it white (you may want to use a rubber to erase the pencil lines that are left) or choose another colour to fill all the gaps with tiles.

And that's it. Leave your masterpiece of Roman design to dry before displaying it on your wall – or use it in your Roman Villa model. You'll find the Roman Villa building instructions on the Hands on History website.



Activity **2** make a model Roman Villa

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**HANDS ON
HISTORY**
THE ROMANS

Make a model Roman villa with under-floor heating!



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Activity 2



This activity is great for an extended holiday project for children or the whole family. You can each take responsibility for different sections of the villa. Why not complete this before or after visiting one of the fantastic Roman sites across the UK. You can find details of Roman and other historic sites to visit near you online:

www.english-heritage.org.uk
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
www.cadw.wales.gov.uk
www.doeni.gov.uk/niea

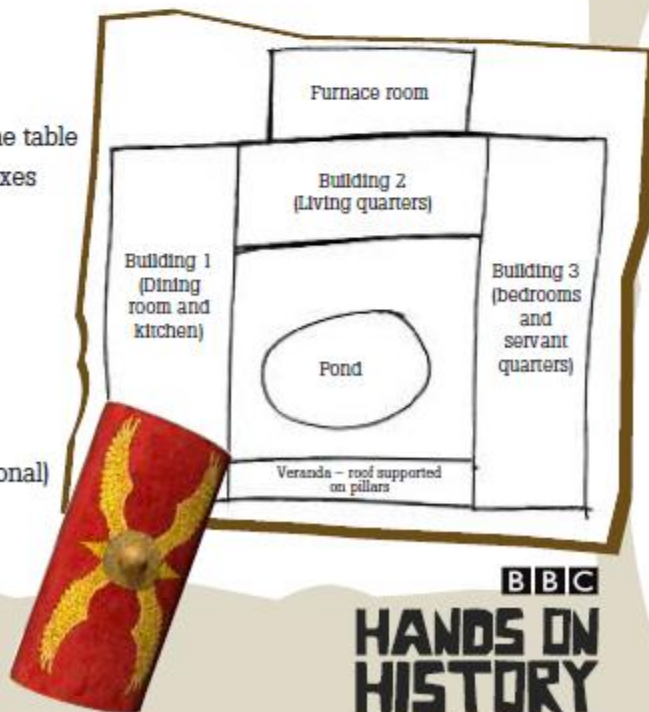


The richest Romans lived in fine houses which we know as 'villas'. Just like today, the owners liked to make their houses look special, building them to fit their needs and to show off their wealth.

Use our simple floor plan and illustration as the basis for your villa. But remember that you can vary the design depending on what sized boxes you have and to make the villa your own, just like the Romans did.

You will need:

- Scissors, glue and sticky tape
- Strong base of thick card
- Newspaper/scrap paper to cover the table
- 3 x large rectangular packaging boxes (large cereal boxes work well)
- 1 x smaller square packaging box (a small tissue box works well)
- Sheets of card or thick paper
- Toilet rolls
- Paints and/or pens to decorate
- Silver foil
- Coloured foil sweet wrappers (optional)
- Empty egg carton (optional)



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Activity **2** Make a model Roman villa

1. Build your villa

i. Prepare your buildings

Take your four boxes and lay them out on your base using the plan on page 2. Check you are happy with the height of each 'building'. You can make the cereal boxes into shorter buildings by carefully cutting to size – this can be easier if you flatten each box first, then reform using sticky tape to secure.



Romans usually made their walls out of stone and covered them with cement to make the walls smooth and very strong. Create the Roman look by covering each of the sides of your boxes with cream-coloured paper. You can paint white paper cream by mixing white paint with a dash of yellow.



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Activity **2** Make a model Roman villa

ii. Make the roofs

Roofs were made from red clay tiles, much like our roofs today. First create the sloping roofs out of card. To make the card the right shape, cut strips that are just a little longer than each box and twice as wide.

Either paint each roof a red, rusty colour to represent tiles, or stick on small squares of red painted paper in layers to create a tile effect.

Fold the strips of card in half and place on top of each box to create a sloping roof. Secure in place with sticky tape on the inside of the roof. Fill in the triangular gap at either end of the roof with a piece of cream-coloured paper.

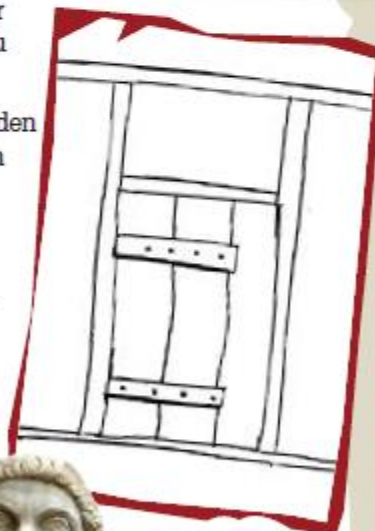
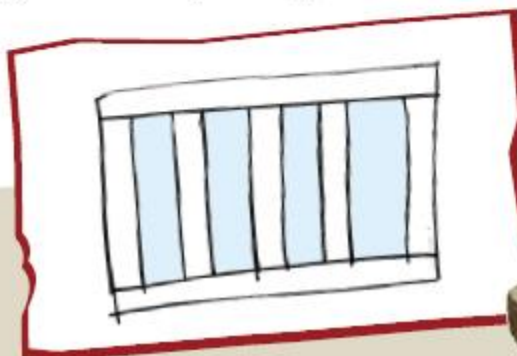


iii. Add the details

Stand your four buildings in place on the base following our floor plan. Before you stick them down, mark out where you would like to have the windows and doors.

Windows would have been rectangular in shape with wooden frames and light green or blue glass. Doors were made from wooden boards, with two supporting planks added horizontally for extra strength. Draw or paint the windows and doors on the walls using a black pen to add detail.

Now your buildings are ready, stick them to the main base. This should leave a large space in the middle of your buildings which will be your courtyard.



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Activity **2** Make a model Roman villa

2. Create your Courtyard: (Roman word: *peristyle*)

i. Make the basics

Add a pond to your courtyard using a sheet of silver foil cut into an oval or circle. Give the look of grass around your pond by painting the remaining parts of your base green or using some green paper.

ii. Some extra touches

You can add your own details, for example:

- A Plant – Make a pot by painting a section of an egg box brown, then ball up some green paper to create a bush. You can paint on flowers too.
- A bench – use half the lid of an egg box painted grey to create a stone bench.
- For an extra special villa, add a mosaic floor. You'll find all the instructions for making a Roman mosaic in the 'Make a marvellous mosaic' pack which is free to download on the Hands on History website.



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Activity 2 Make a model Roman villa

iii. The veranda

At the front of your villa create a grand entrance with an open veranda held up with pillars. How many pillars you will need will depend on the size of your villa, but you'll probably want around four to six, divided on either side of a wider opening. You can make these from toilet or kitchen roll tubes or by rolling a piece of card into a tube and securing with sticky tape. The pillars should be a couple of centimetres shorter than buildings 1 and 3. Paint your pillars brown to look like wood.



Use tabs of sticky tape to secure your columns to the base of your villa in a straight row running between buildings 1 and 3.

To make the roof of the veranda, cut a piece of card long enough to fit between your two main buildings and around 6cm wide. Decorate with 'tiles' to match the roofs of the other buildings. Fold a tab (around 1cm wide) along the back of the roof so that it sits neatly on top of the pillars. Secure at a sloping angle and attach to the two long buildings on either side using sticky tape.



Top tips

Paint all your roofs first and leave to dry while you create the rest of your villa.

If using toilet or kitchen roll tubes to make your pillars, you can make these thinner if required, by cutting a straight line up the tube, twisting it around tightly and securing with sticky tape.

If you're feeling really creative you can add murals on the inside walls of your courtyard.

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Activity **2** Make a model Roman villa

3. Add under-floor heating (Roman word: *hypocaust*)

i. Raise up your villa

Many Roman villas had under-floor heating which would have been especially useful in the British winter! The Roman name, hypocaust, is Ancient Greek meaning 'fire beneath'.

The floor was supported on short columns made of stacked tiles. A fire would be kept burning (very hard work for the slaves!) in the furnace room, and the hot air would move through the under-floor area, heating the rooms above. The hot air and smoke escaped through channels in the walls.

To make your hypocaust system, you will need to raise up your whole villa by around 6cm. Create two piles of three or four books underneath buildings 1 and 3 and place the base of your villa on top. This will leave a narrow channel beneath the villa for the air to flow through.

ii. Build a furnace

To represent the furnace, cut small pieces of silver foil or coloured foil or sweet wrappers into the shape of flames and add details using yellow and red paper. Stick them to a piece of card using sticky tape along one edge only so that it stands up.



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Activity **2** Make a model Roman villa

iii. 'Heat' your villa

Place your furnace flames under the square furnace room and blow hard behind it. The flames will flicker. Place your hand at the other end of your villa and you should feel the draught that's running under the building and out the other side, just as the warm air would have circulated through a Roman hypocaust system.



Roman honey cake

Ingredients

170g/6oz clear honey
140g/5oz butter
85g/3oz light muscovado sugar
2 eggs, beaten
200g/7oz self raising flour,
sieved
water

For the icing

55g/2oz icing sugar
1 tbsp clear honey
hot water



Method

1. Preheat oven to 180C/350F/Gas 3 and butter and line the bottom of a 7in/18cm cake tin.
2. Measure the honey, butter and sugar into a large pan. Add a tablespoon of water and heat gently until melted.
3. Remove from the heat and mix in the eggs and flour.
4. Spoon into the cake tin and bake for 40-45 minutes until the cake is springy to the touch and shrinking slightly from the sides of the tin.
5. Cool slightly in the tin before turning out onto a wire rack.
6. While the cake is still warm, make the icing by mixing the sugar and honey together with 2-3 teaspoons of hot water. Trickle over the cake in whatever design takes your fancy.

Safety Advice

Ask an adult to help with the oven.

ROMAN BEAR GAME

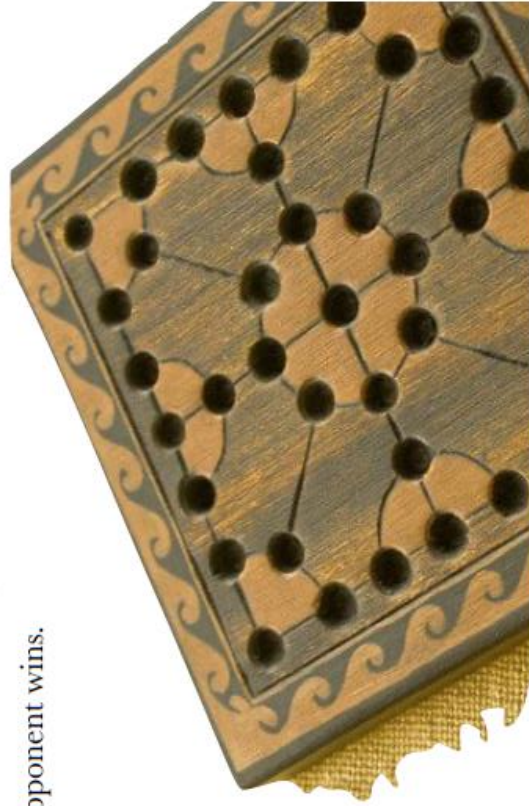
TASK ONE

Learn and play the Roman Bear game. The rules are on page 2 and the board is on page 3. You will need to print these out.

TASK TWO

Once you have mastered the game, make your own board and rules to show you have understood the game. If you wish to learn more about the history of these games follow this link https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bear_games. You could use this to help with your rules.

The Bear Game was played in Roman times across the empire, from Gaul to as far as Byzantium. It is an asymmetric game where one player plays the *bear* (one counter) against an opponent with three *hunters* (three counters). If the hunters corner the bear (and the bear cannot escape) they win. If the bear can avoid being cornered for thirty turns, he wins. If a player concedes their opponent wins.



RULES

COMPONENTS

You will need:

Board *(printed on the next page)*

Turn tracker *(printed on the next page)*

One bear *(use a standard game counter)*

Three hunters *(three counters of the same colour, but different from the bear)*

One turn marker *(any counter will do)*

If you can't find game counters coins will do.

SETTING UP

1. Place the bear in the centre. *(Its starting space is ringed in red.)*
2. Place the three hunters on the edge of the board. *(Their starting spaces are ringed)*
3. Place the turn counter on the first space (space "I") of the turn track.

TURNS

Players take alternate turns.

The hunters move first.

Only one piece may be moved by each player in a turn.

Players cannot pass on a turn.

Both the hunters and the bear move one junction at a time following the pattern on the board. A junction is a place where two or more lines meet.

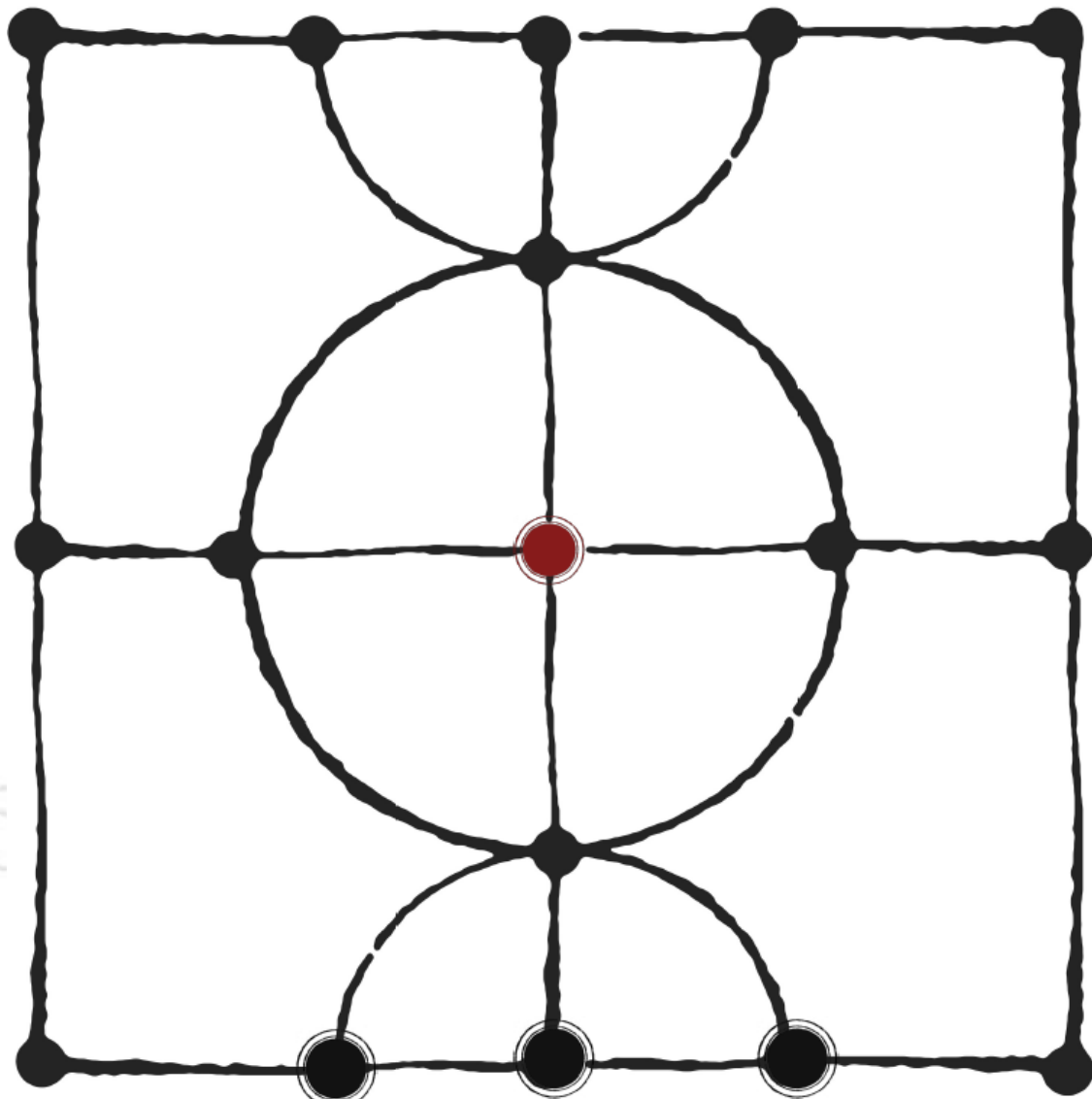
Players cannot pass on a turn.

After the bear player has moved, they also move the turn marker one space further along the time track.

WINNING

The hunters win if the bear can no longer move to another junction. The bear wins if it is not captured before the turn marker reaches 30 (XXX).

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TURN

I	1	XI	11	XXI	21
II	2	XII	12	XXII	22
III	3	XIII	13	XXIII	23
IV	4	XIV	14	XXIV	24
V	5	XV	15	XXV	25
VI	6	XVI	16	XXVI	26
VII	7	XVII	17	XXVII	27
VIII	8	XVIII	18	XXVIII	28
VIII	9	XVIII	19	XXVIII	29
X	10	XX	20	XXX	30