

Julia Robinson
Mathematics Festival.®

JRMF Game of the Week

At the beginning of each week, JRMF will be publishing one of our favorite 2-player games. Although some games will involve manipulatives, all of them will be accompanied with instructions for how to play with just pencil and paper, so that you can play anytime and anywhere!

At the end of each week, we'll be publishing twists, extensions, and variants to keep our games fresh and interesting. If you like what you see here, check out our activities library at jrmf.org and our weekly webinars for even more content.

Happy mathing!

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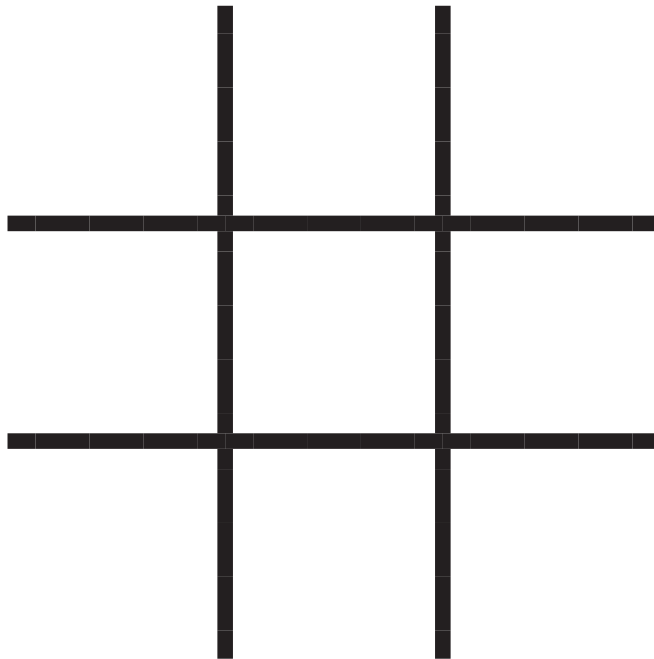
Game of the Week: Super Tic-Tac-Toe

Objective:

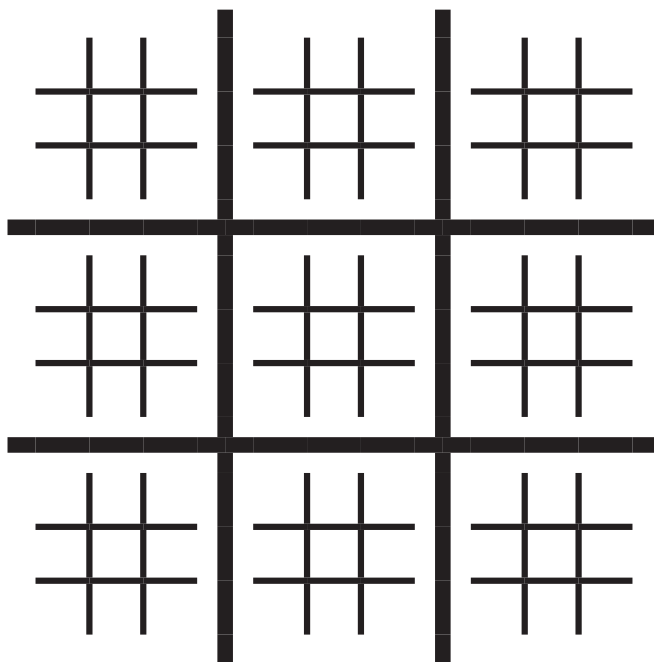
Make three-in-a-row on the large tic-tac-toe board.

Set-Up:

1. Draw a large tic-tac-toe board. Leave plenty of room in the 9 spaces.

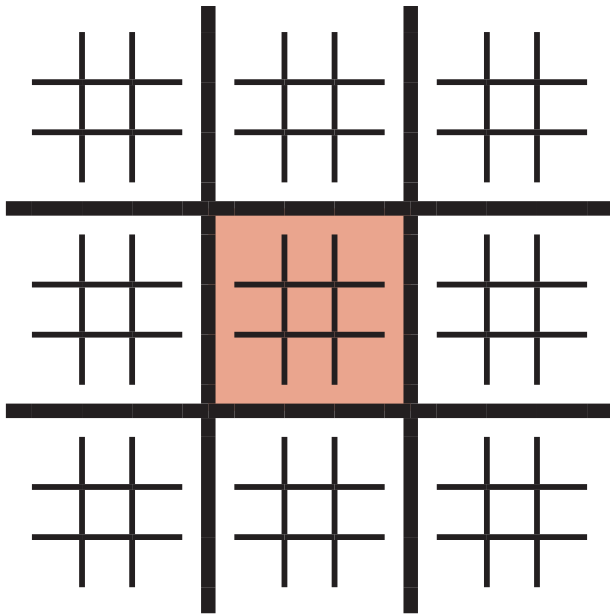


1. Draw 9 small tic-tac-toe boards, one in each of the spaces of your large tic-tac-toe board.



Rules:

1. The first player (in **red**) places an X anywhere in the small, middle tic-tac-toe board.



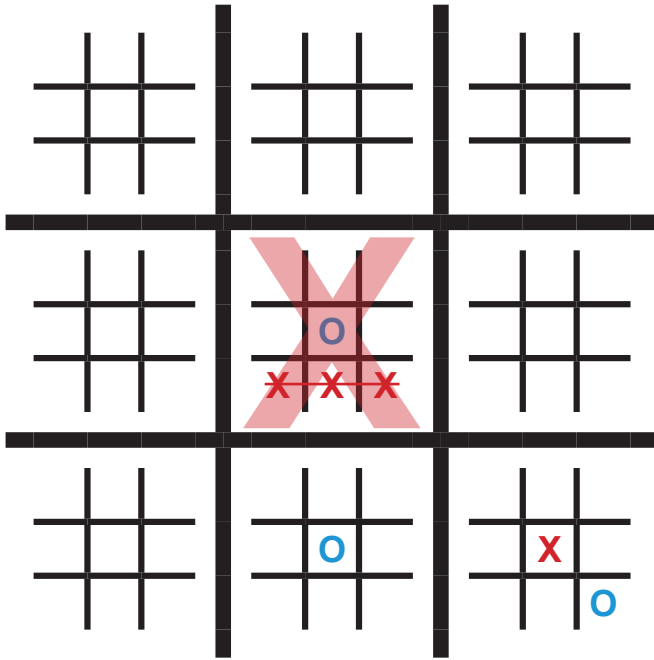
The first player can place an X anywhere in the middle tic-tac-toe board (highlighted in **red**).

2. The space in which the first player places their X tells the second player where to place their O. If the first player plays in the upper-left space, then the second player plays in the upper-left **small tic-tac-toe board**. If the first player plays in the lower-right space, then the second player plays in the lower-right small board, and so on.

<p>If the first player places their X in the upper-left corner, then the second player must play in the upper-left board, highlighted in blue.</p>	<p>If the first player places their X in the left middle space, then the second player must play in the left middle board, highlighted in blue.</p>

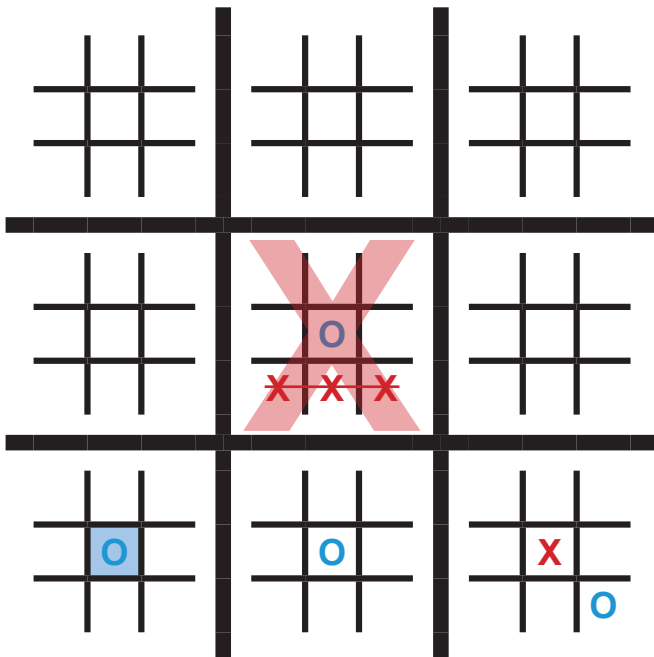
<p>If the first player places their X in the middle space, then the second player must play in the middle board, highlighted in blue.</p>	<p>If the first player places their X in the lower-right corner, then the second player must play in the lower-right board, highlighted in blue.</p>

- The space the second player places their O tells the first player where to place their next X. Players take turns placing X's and O's until the game ends.
- When a player makes 3-in-a-row in one of the smaller tic-tac-toe boards, that player draws a large version of their letter on top of that small board.



The first player makes a 3-in-a-row in the middle tic-tac-toe board. The first player then draws a large X over the entire middle board.

- If a small board is covered by a large letter, this **does not** prevent a player from playing on that small board, as long as there are still empty spaces.

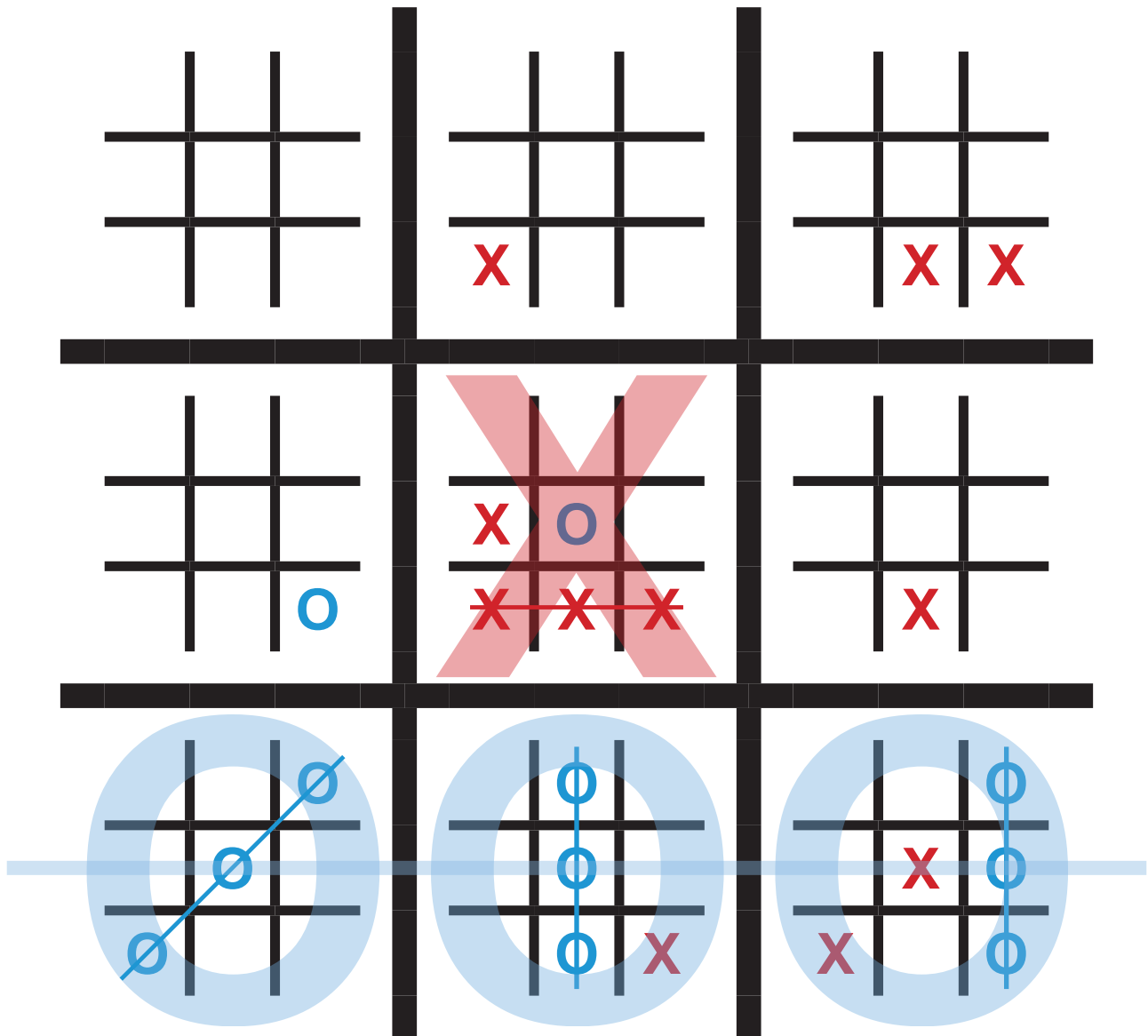


The second player decides to play in the space that is highlighted in blue. This tells the first player to play in the center board. Even though there is already a large X on the center board, the first player *must* play in this board.

- If a player is directed to play in a small board that has no empty spaces, that player may play in **any** empty space on **any** of the small boards.

Endgame:

1. The game ends when one player makes a 3-in-a-row on the large tic-tac-toe board. The player who makes the 3-in-a-row *wins*.
2. If every space is filled and neither player has won, then the game is a draw.



The second player made a 3-in-a-row along the bottom of the large board, so the second player *won*.