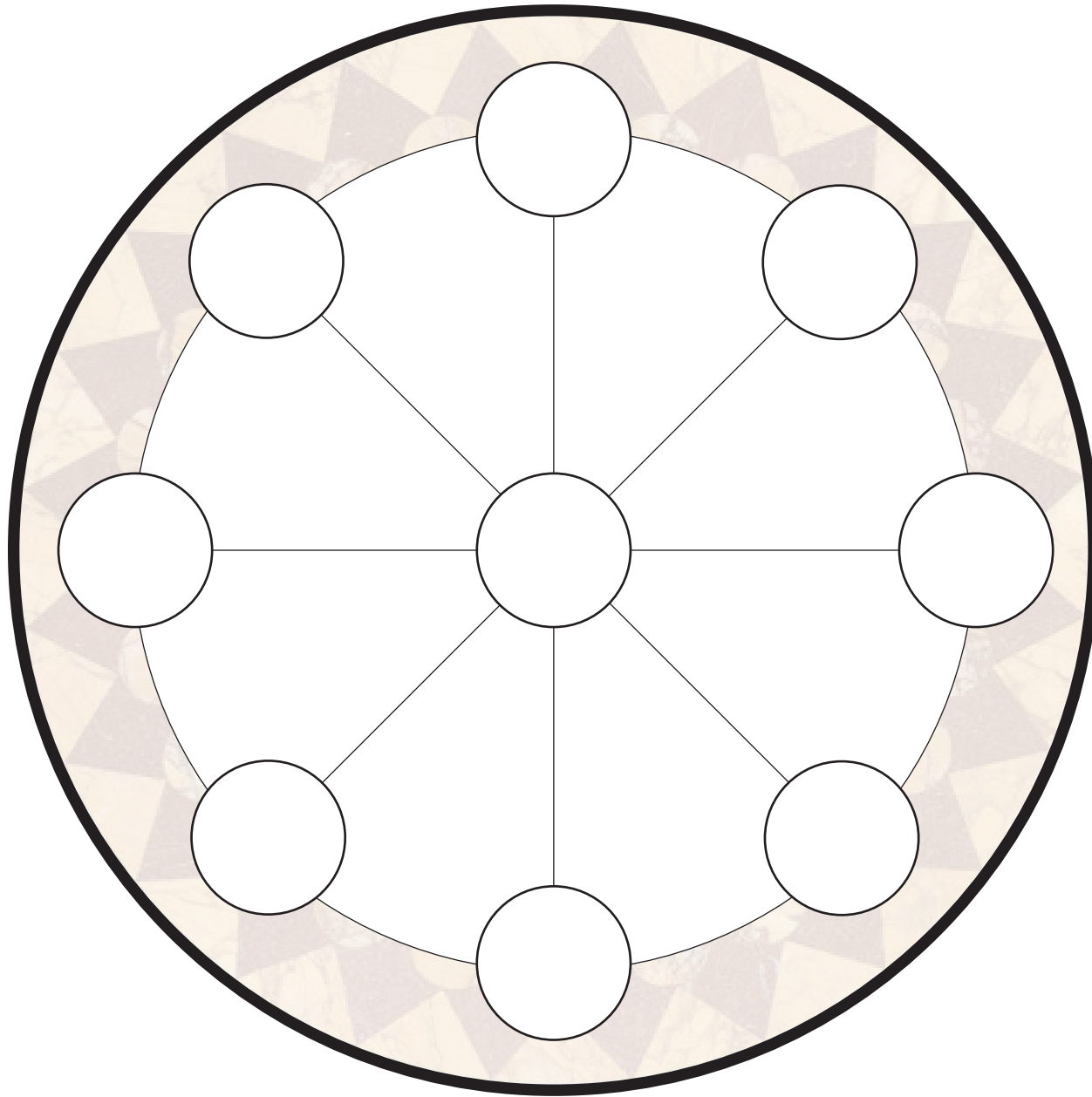


GAME BOARD

ROTA

Getty



This board is based on one found in Roman Libya.

INFORMATION AND RULES

ROTA

ABOUT

“Rota” is a common modern name for an easy strategy game played on a round board. The Latin name is probably *Terni Lapilli* (“Three pebbles”). Many boards survive, both round and rectangular, and there must have been variations in play.

This is a very simple game, and Rota is especially appropriate to play with young family members and friends! Unlike Tic Tac Toe, Rota avoids a tie.



Roman Rota game carved into the forum pavement, Leptis Magna, Libya.

Photo by Sebastia Giralt / CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

WHAT YOU NEED

- 2 players
- 1 round game board like a wheel with 8 spokes (download and print ours, or draw your own)
- 1 die for determining who starts first
- 3 playing pieces for each player, such as light and dark pebbles or coins (heads and tails). You can also cut out our gaming pieces and glue them to pennies or circles of cardboard

RULES

Goal: The first player to place three game pieces in a row across the center or in the circle of the board wins

- Roll a die or flip a coin to determine who starts. The higher number plays first
- Players take turns placing one piece on the board in any open spot
- After all the pieces are on the board, a player moves one piece each turn onto the next empty spot (along spokes or circle)

A player may not

- Skip a turn, even if the move forces you to lose the game
- Jump over another piece
- Move more than one space
- Land on a space with a piece already on it
- Knock a piece off a space

Changing the rules

- Since the person who starts first has an advantage, give it to a young player, or alternate turns rather than leave it to chance
- Whoever wins six times first has to do something nice for the other person during a break in play...