

Hnefatafl



Hnefatafl



- What is Hnefatafl?
- Some history
- How do you play?

What is Hnefatafl?



- Viking chess game



History of Hnefatafl



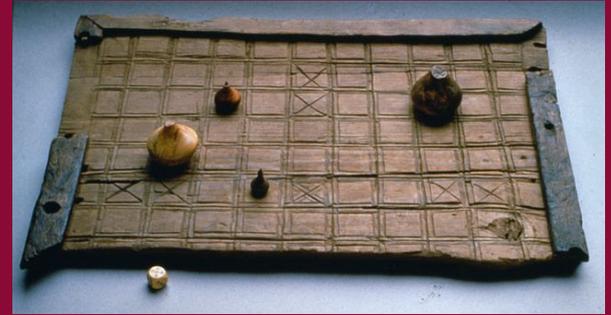
- ❖ “*Tafl*” was the generic name for games played on tables, Old Norse word for table.
- ❖ By the end of the Viking Age, it was called “Hnefatafl” to distinguish from other games.
- ❖ “*Hnefi*” referred to the king pieces.
- ❖ Started in Greece as a game called Petteia
- ❖ Romans adopted and called it Ludus Latrunculorum
- ❖ Scandinavians took it through trade and invasion and called it Hnefatafl
- ❖ Spread to the British Isles, Iceland, France, Germany, Ukraine and Greenland.



History Continued



- ❖ The game flourished in Europe until chess became popular.
- ❖ It was revived in 19th century with a Crimean War theme
- ❖ In 20th century archaeologists have uncovered many game boards and pieces, bringing new insights on how to play the original game



How to Play

Hnefatafl

Basic rules and strategies



How to Play



Castle Spaces

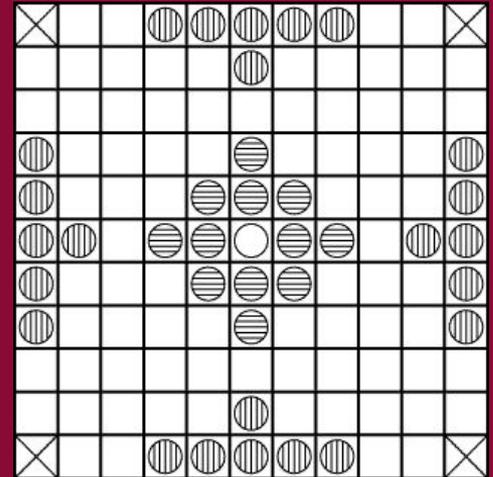
All four corners and the center tile. Only the king piece can be on these tiles. The king starts on the center tile, and the aim is to get the king to one of the four corner tiles. Regular pieces can move over the center tile, but not on it and not on any of the four corner spaces.

Starting Tiles

The marked tiles that indicate where both teams of pieces start. The marked tiles surrounding the center are where the white pieces start. The marked tiles on the borders are where the dark pieces start. During the game any pieces can be on these tiles.

Blank Tiles

Open spaces that any pieces of either color can land on.



How to Play



- ❖ The dark pieces go first, since the story of the game is that a king and his troops were ambushed by a rival army.
- ❖ All pieces can only move horizontally or vertically. NO diagonal movement.
- ❖ Each piece can move as far in the chosen direction as they want, but they cannot go through or over other pieces.



How to Play



- ❖ To capture enemy pieces, you have to have two pieces on either side.



How to Play



- ❖ To capture the king, your pieces must be on all four sides, or on three sides against the edge.



Let's Play!

Hnefatafl

