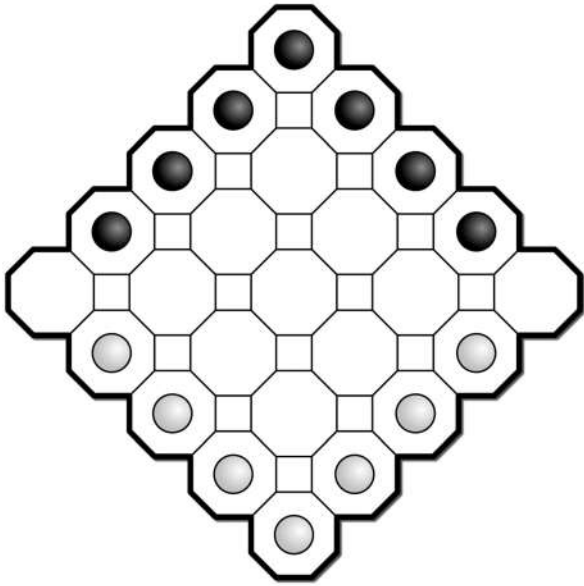


Tessella

A strategy game for 2 players

The Board

Each player starts with 7 pieces, positioned as shown.



A tessella board has both **octagons** and **squares**. Pieces can occupy both of these kinds of spaces during the game.

Win Conditions

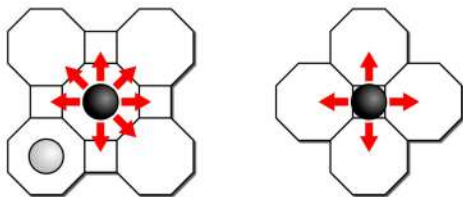
The first player to capture 4 of their opponent's pieces wins.

Turns

Clear plays first. On your turn, either **MOVE** or **CAPTURE**.

Moving

Move a piece to an unoccupied neighboring space (any empty space which shares an edge).

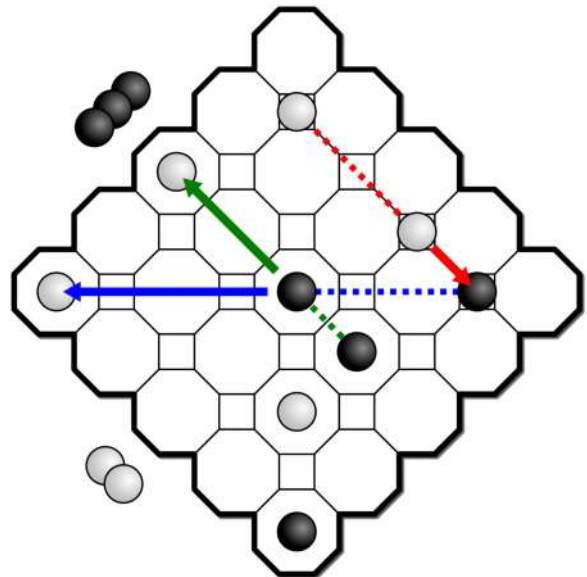


Octagons have (up to) eight neighboring spaces, but squares have only four: **you CAN'T move diagonally from a square to a square**, because squares do not touch.

Capturing

To capture, two pieces must work together. If two of your pieces are in a line, with no other pieces in between them, you can slide one away from the other until it reaches a space occupied by an enemy piece: it replaces the enemy piece (which is removed from the game). Essentially, one or your pieces "shoots" the other one away to capture.

*In the picture below, the dark piece in the center can **capture to the West**, or **to the Northwest** using the assisting dark pieces shown with dotted lines. It cannot capture to the North: even though there is a dark piece to the South, an enemy piece intervenes.*



Note that **you can capture from a square to another square**. Also note that it doesn't matter if the enemy piece has "backup" or not: you can capture an enemy piece even if there is another enemy piece behind it.

Strategy Tips

1. In your first few moves, create lines pointing forward across the board.
2. Have as many attacking pieces as possible.
3. Consolidate your pieces: tight formations create many threats, and control more of the board.
4. When three pieces are aligned, the two on the ends are guarded (if taken, the other player can just capture on their turn and the score will be even), but the one in the middle is vulnerable: attack the middle piece!
5. Trading is good for you if it leaves your opponent's pieces more spread out than before.