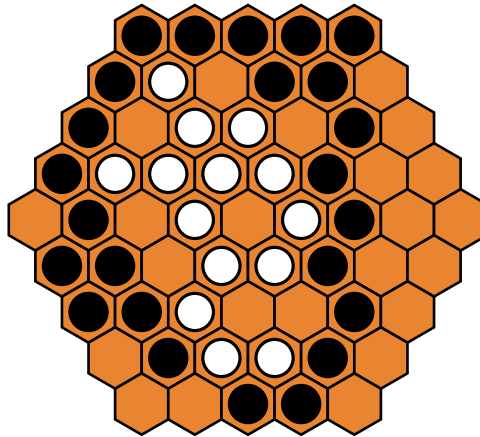


Sunspot



A finished game won by white.

Sunspot is a loop-forming game played on a regular hexagonal board by placing and flipping stones. The game is guaranteed to end with a winning loop. The recommended board size is 5 or larger. The pie rule may be used for balance.

Sunspot was designed by Hoembla in 2024.

Goal

Form a loop of your stones around at least one enemy stone or empty site.

Definitions

- *Edge stone*: a stone on the board edge, or a stone that can "see" the board edge through a straight line of empty spaces.
- *Interior stone*: a stone that is not an edge stone, i.e. it's not on the edge, and does not "see" the edge.
- A group, consisting of adjacent stones of a single colour, can be an *edge group* (having only edge stones), an *interior group* (having only interior stones), or a *combined group* (having both).
- A combined group has one or more *edge subgroups*, i.e. mutually adjacent edge stones.

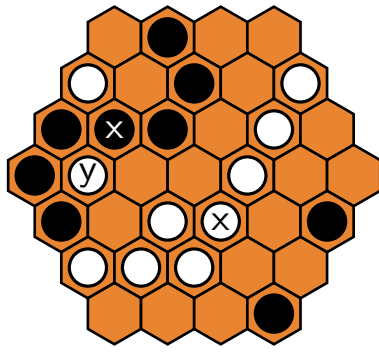
On your turn

Your turn can consist of a placement action, which is mandatory as long as the board isn't full, and a flip action, which is optional if you just did a placement action, and mandatory if no placement action was possible. There is no passing.

- *Placement action*: place one stone of your colour on an empty site.
- *Flip action*: flip an interior stone that is part of a combined group from the opponent's colour to your colour. If the flipped stone is now part of a combined group of your colour, you must choose one edge subgroup of this group and flip it to the opponent's colour.

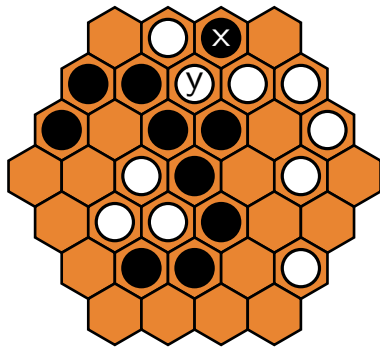
You can only win after performing the complete flip action, so if you momentarily create a loop but then have to destroy it again you don't win. If on your turn you create a loop for both yourself and the opponent, you win. If you only create a loop for the opponent, the opponent wins.

Examples

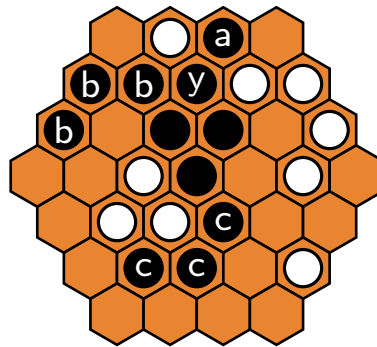


'x' and 'y' are interior stones. All other stones are edge stones. 'y' is an interior group. Only the 'x' stones may be flipped, because they are interior stones part of combined groups. The two combined groups in this diagram have two edge subgroups each.

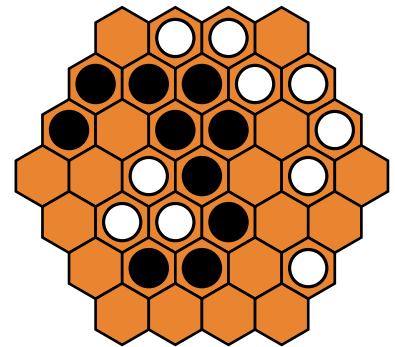
A turn



(1) Black has placed the stone 'x'. Stone 'y' is now an interior stone in a combined group, meaning black may flip it.

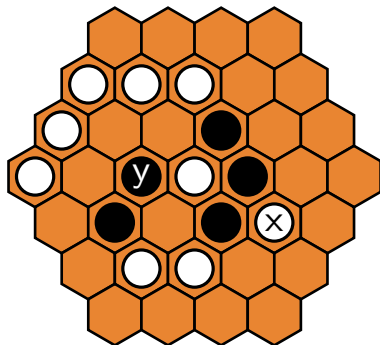


(2) After black flips the stone 'y' to his colour, he must flip one of his edge subgroups in the same group to the opponent's colour. Here, he must choose either all 'a', 'b', or 'c' stones.

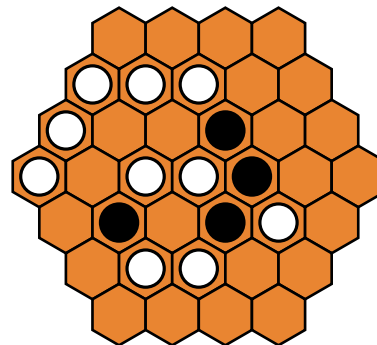


(3) Black chooses 'a'. This concludes the turn.

Another turn



(1) White places at 'x', then flips 'y'.



(2) The flipped stone is not part of a combined group, so white does not have to flip any of her stones to black.