

My First Book of GO Exercises



LEANDRO SORIANO MARCOLINO

My First Book of Go Exercises

Leandro Soriano Marcolino

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Lancaster Go Club

To my children



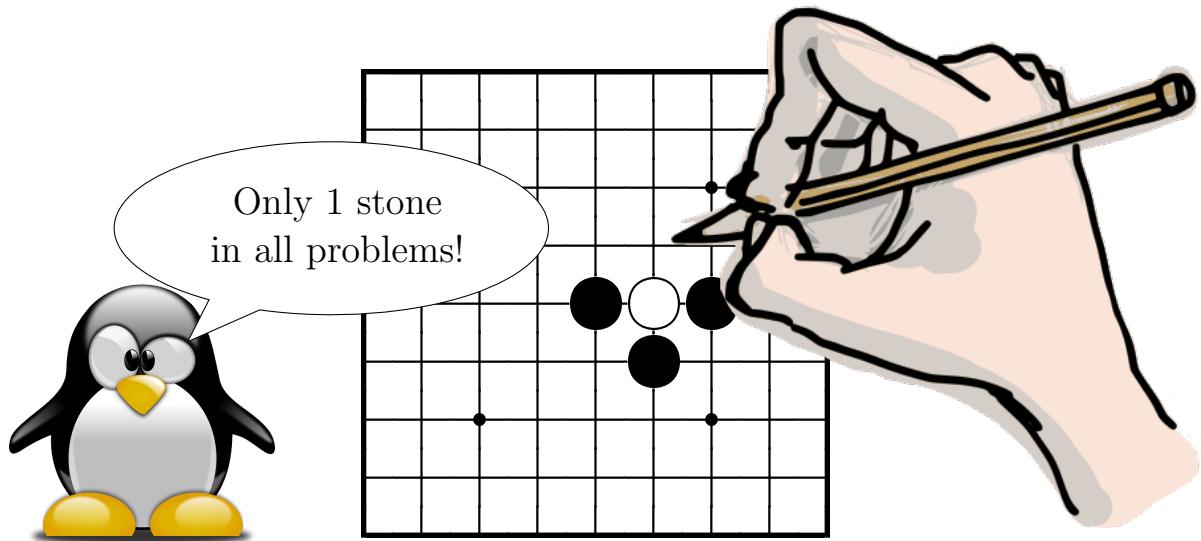
<https://buymeacoffee.com/leandromarcolino>



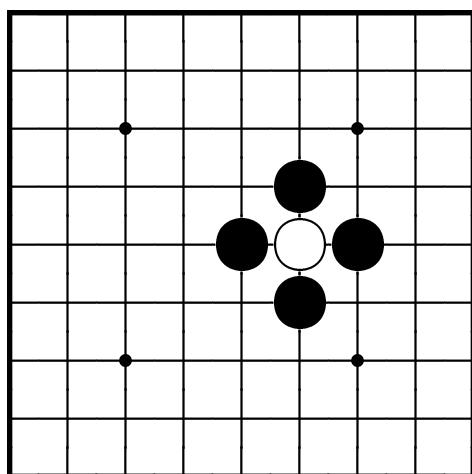
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English Version 1.0 – October 2024

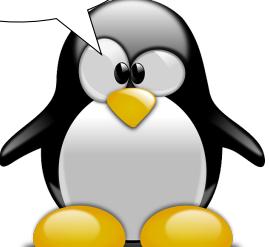
Draw stone to play.



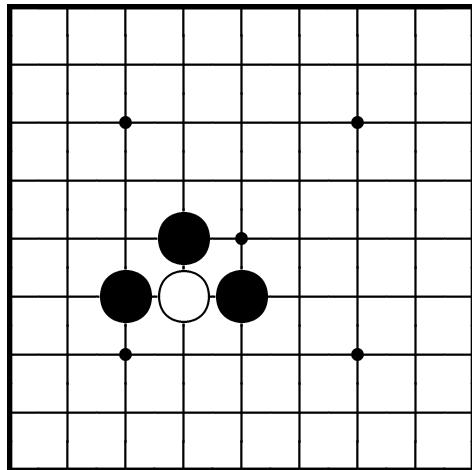
Surround to capture.



Black to play. Capture.

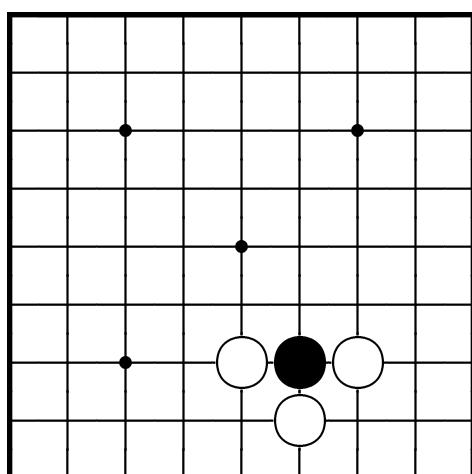


You can
do it!



How many stones did you capture?

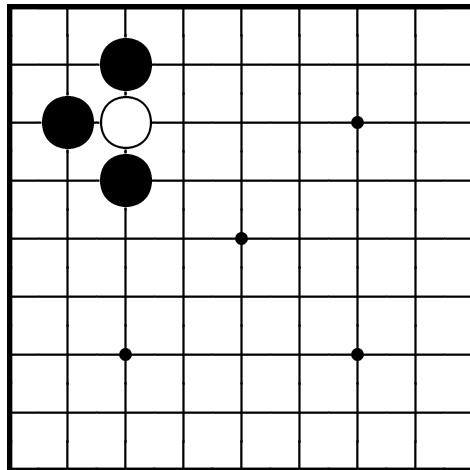
White to play. Capture.



Nice work!

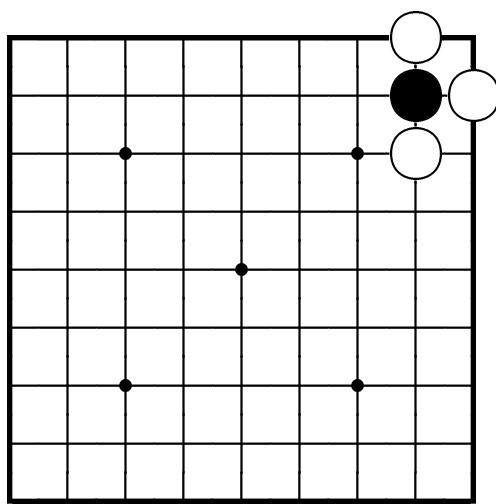
How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.



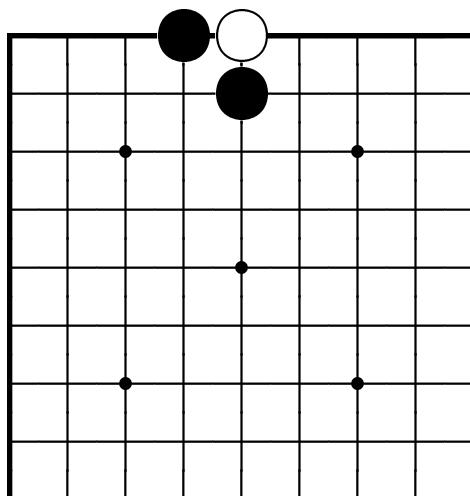
How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.



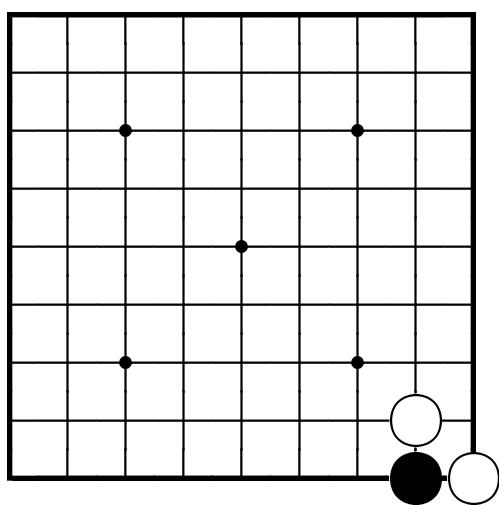
How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.



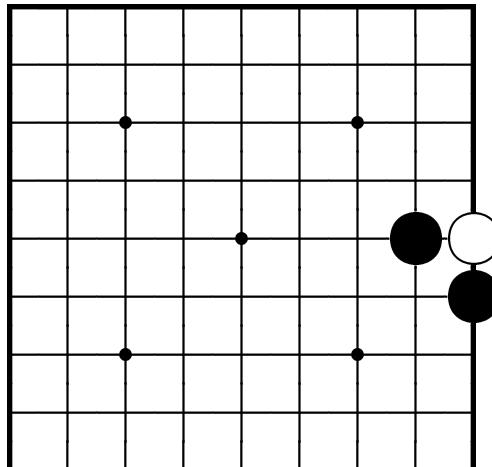
How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.



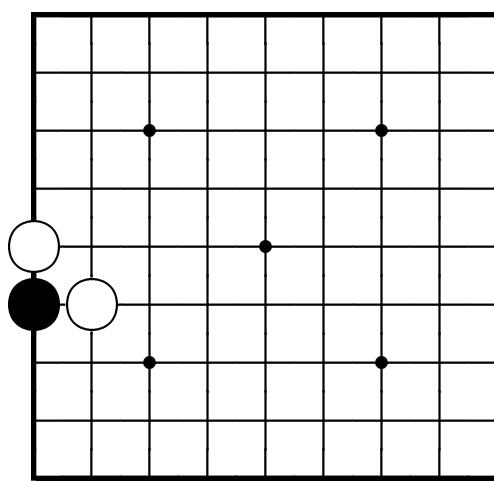
How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.



How many stones did you capture?

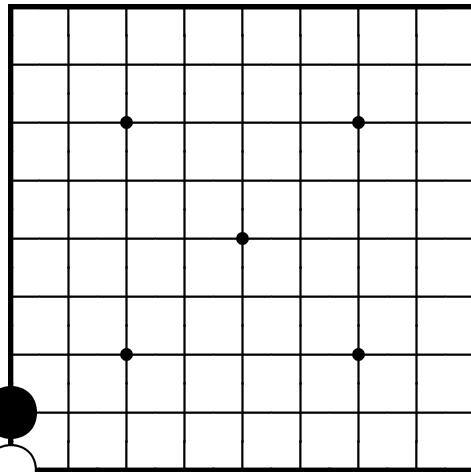
White to play. Capture.



How many stones did you capture?

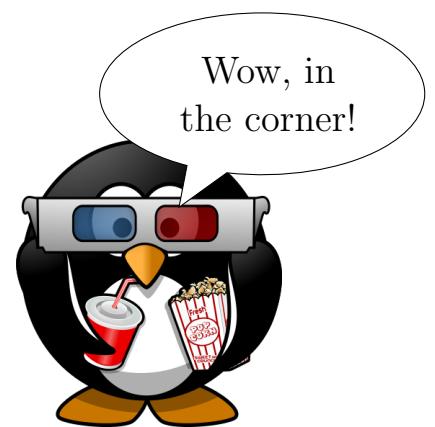
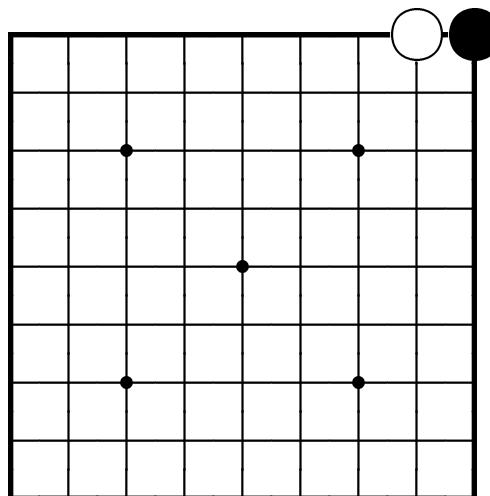
Black to play. Capture.

Pay attention!



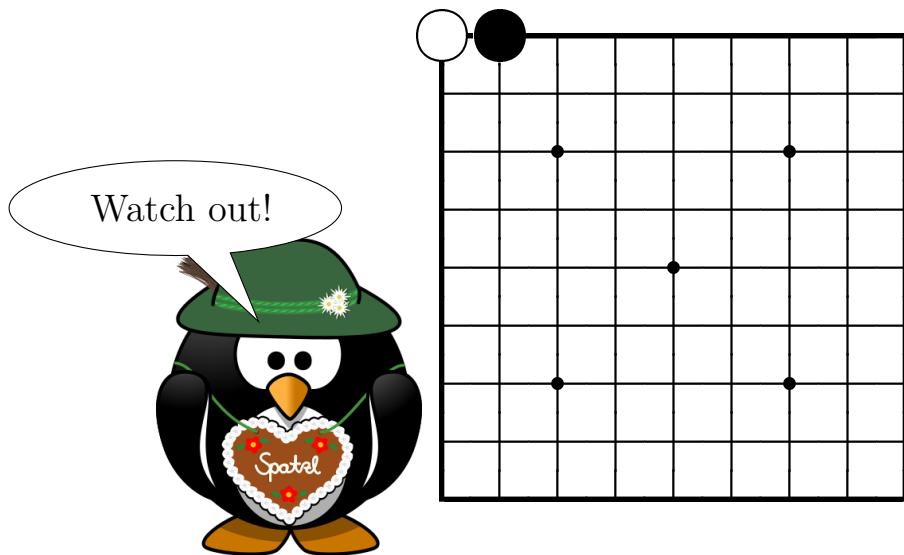
How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.



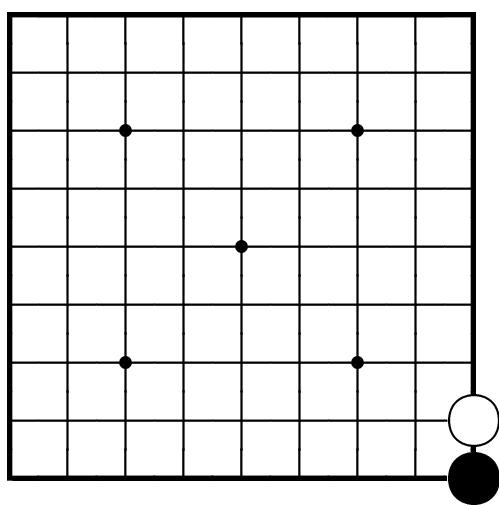
How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.



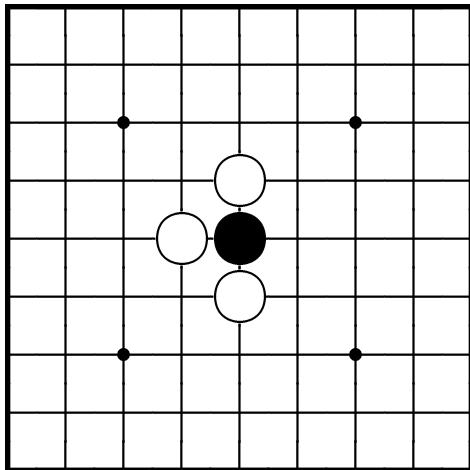
How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.

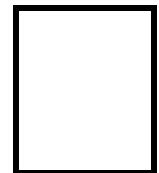


How many stones did you capture?

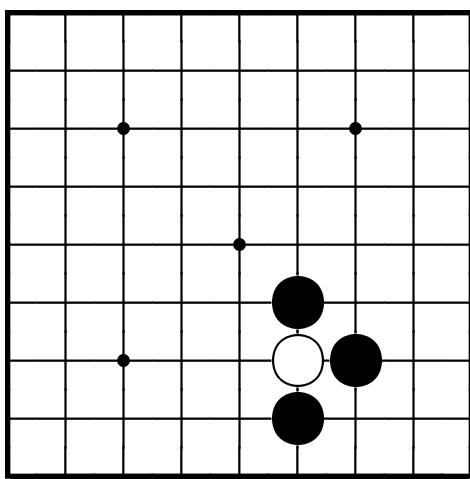
Black to play. Defend.



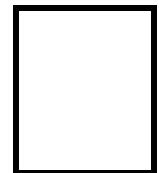
How many stones did you save?



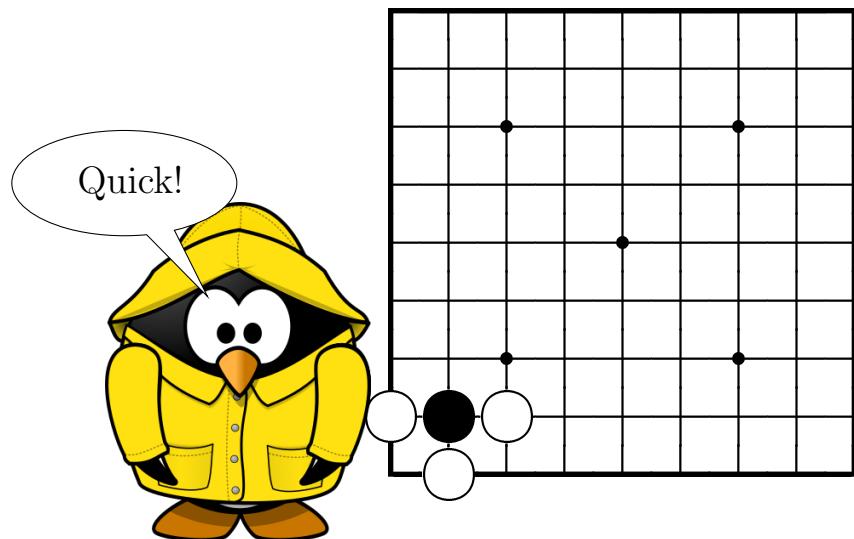
White to play. Defend.



How many stones did you save?

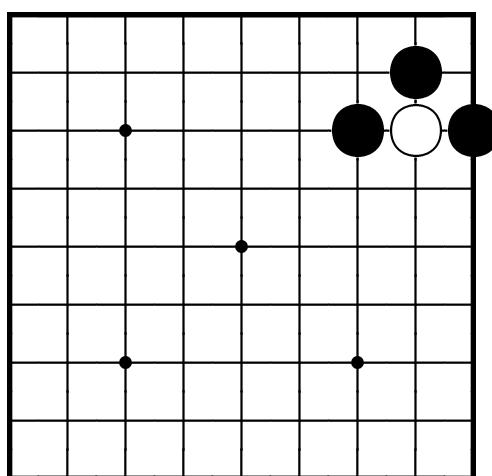


Black to play. Defend.



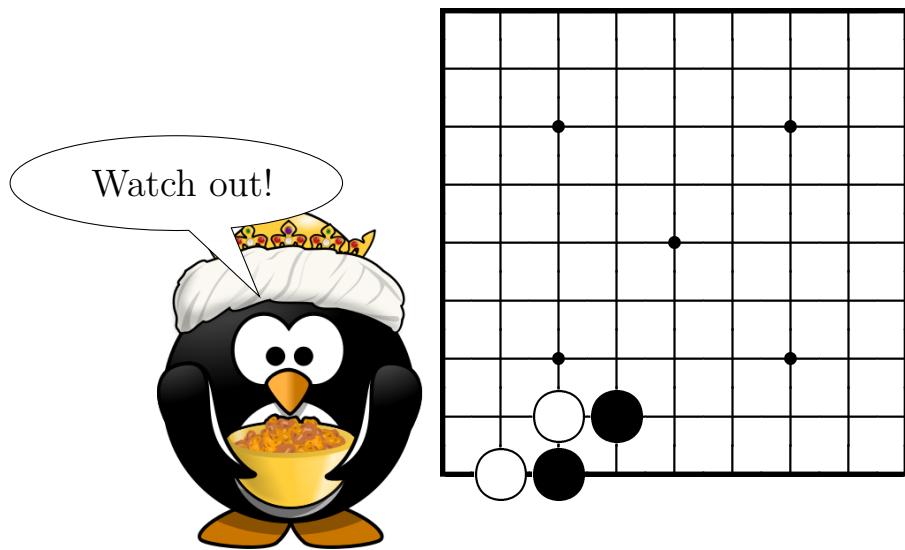
How many stones did you save?

White to play. Defend.

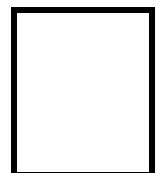


How many stones did you save?

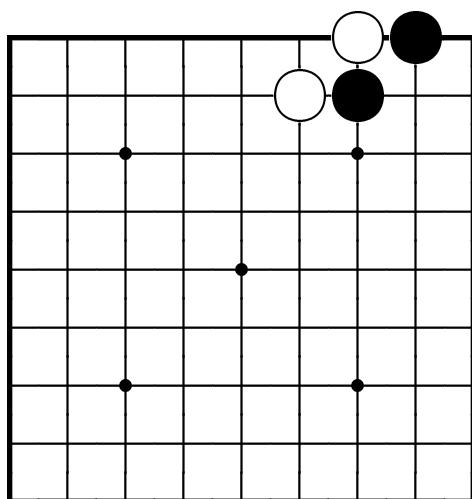
Black to play. Defend.



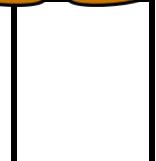
How many stones did you save?



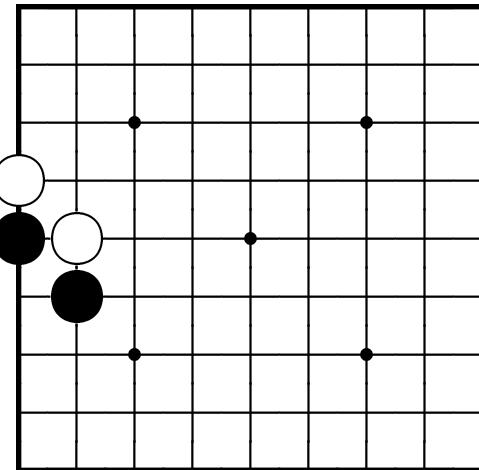
White to play. Defend.



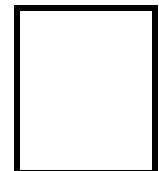
How many stones did you save?



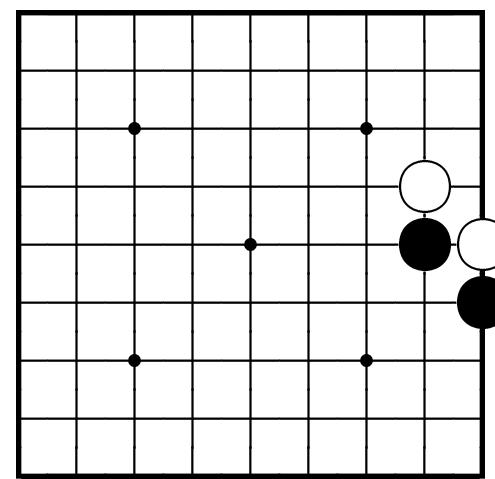
Black to play. Defend.



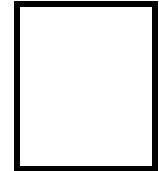
How many stones did you save?



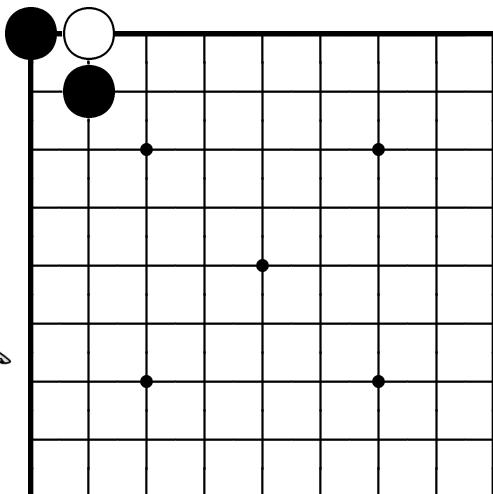
White to play. Defend.



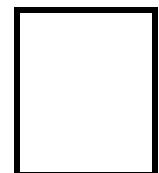
How many stones did you save?



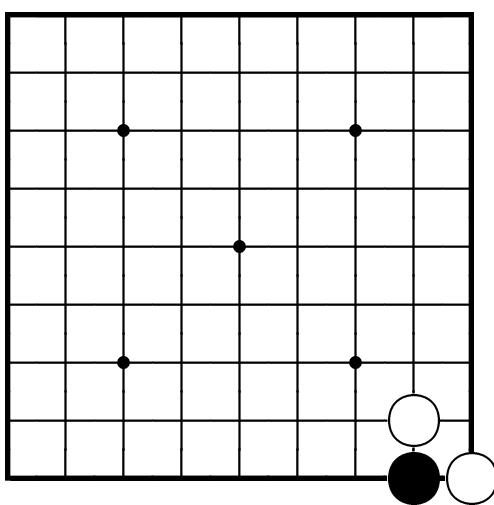
Black to play. Defend.



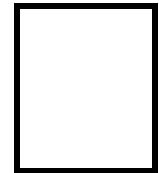
How many stones did you save?



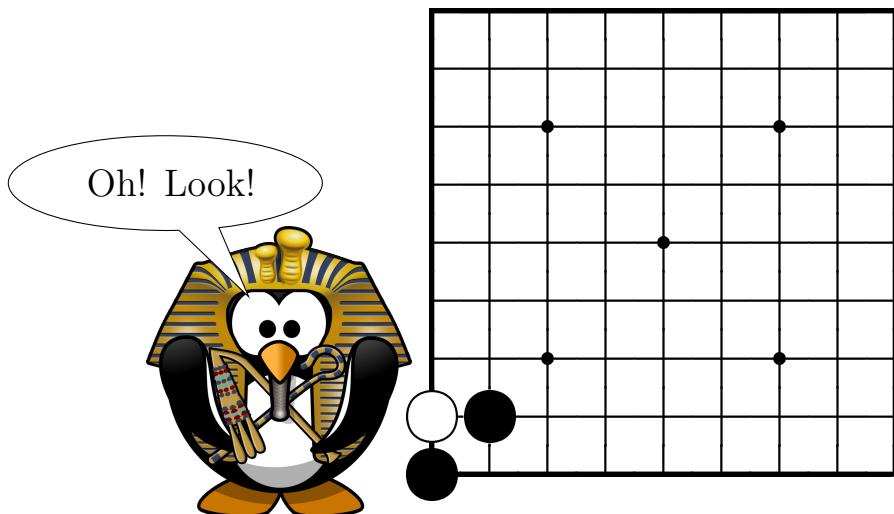
White to play. Defend.



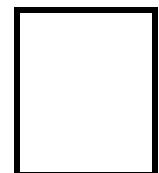
How many stones did you save?



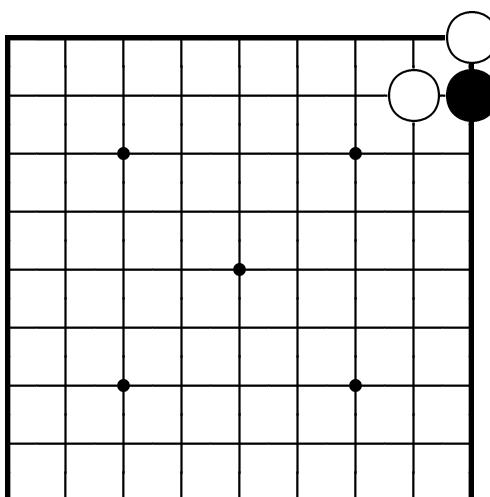
Black to play. Defend.



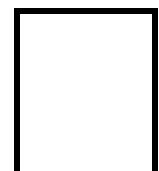
How many stones did you save?



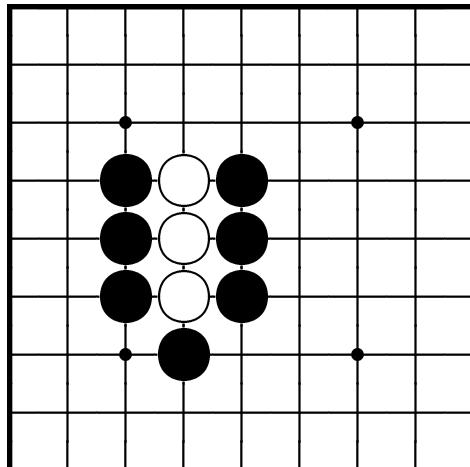
White to play. Defend.



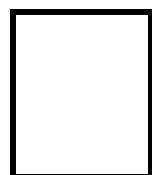
How many stones did you save?



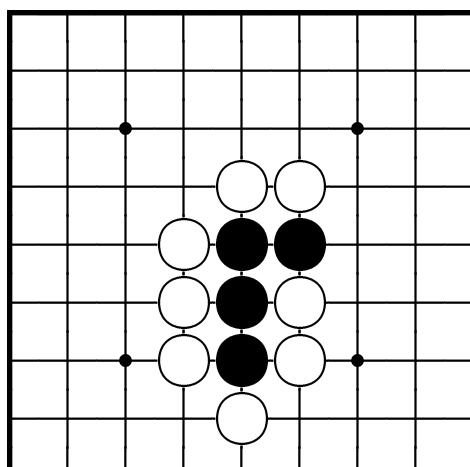
Black to play. Capture.



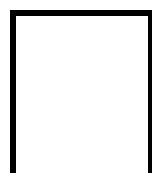
How many stones did you capture?



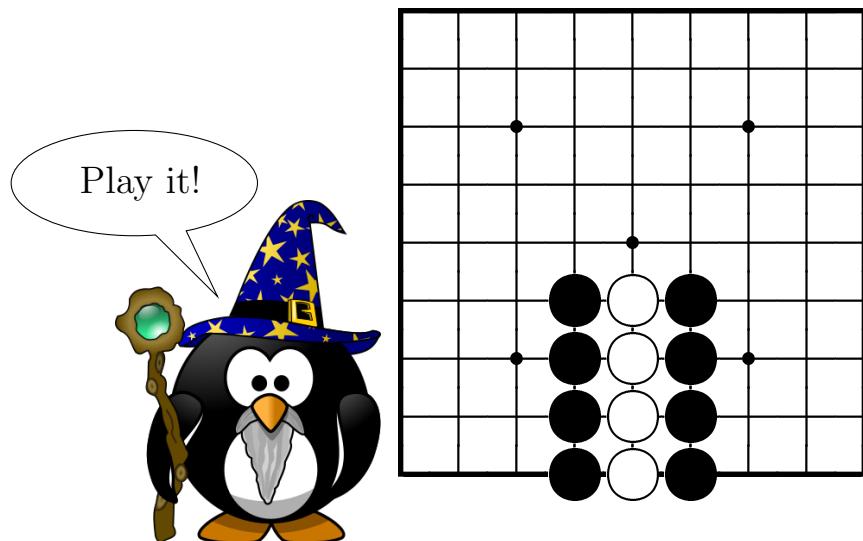
White to play. Capture.



How many stones did you capture?

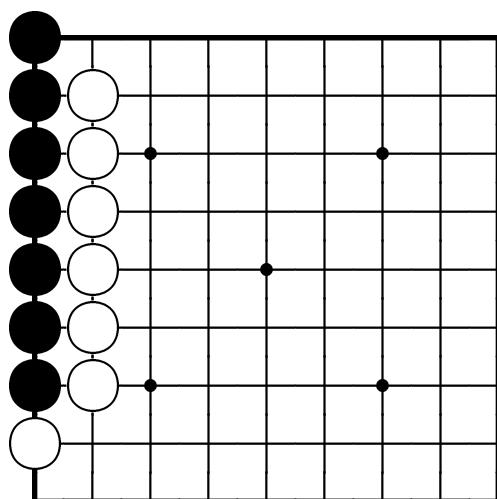


Black to play. Capture.



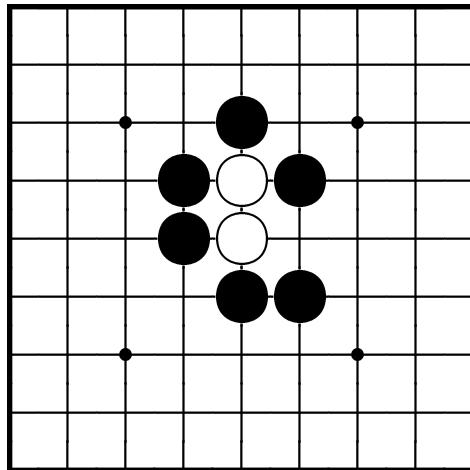
How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.



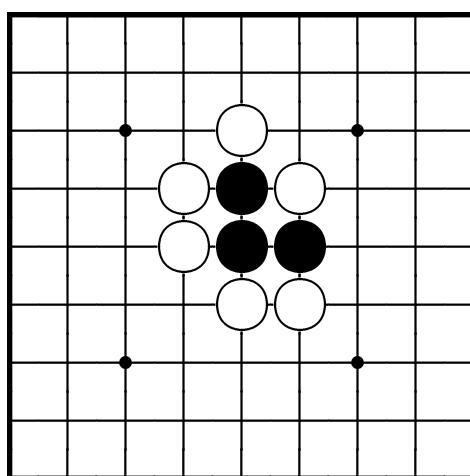
How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.



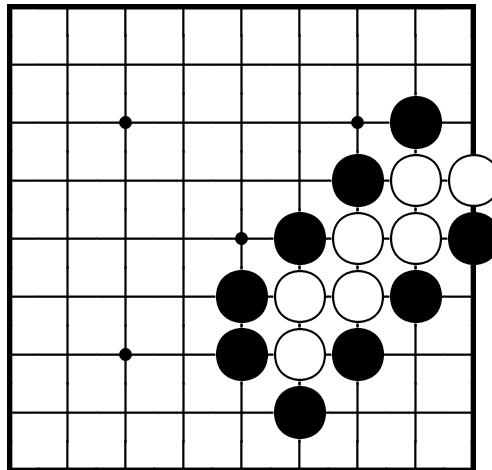
How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.

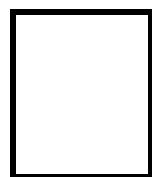


How many stones did you capture?

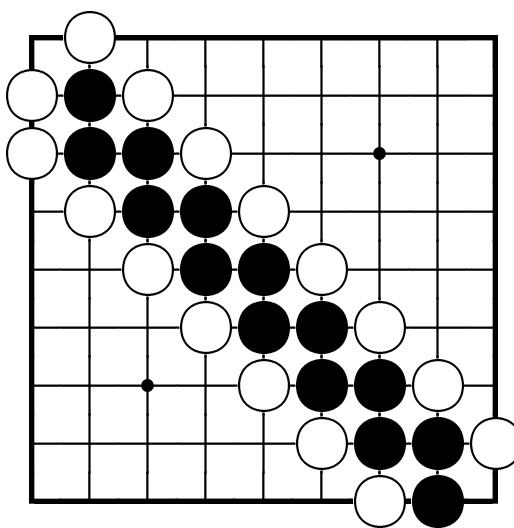
Black to play. Capture.



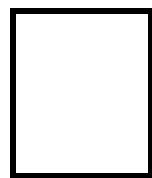
How many stones did you capture?



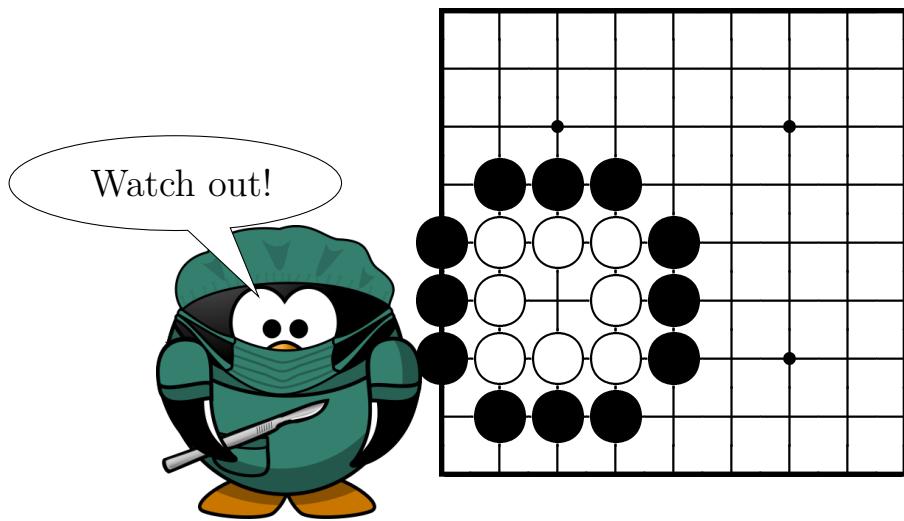
White to play. Capture.



How many stones did you capture?

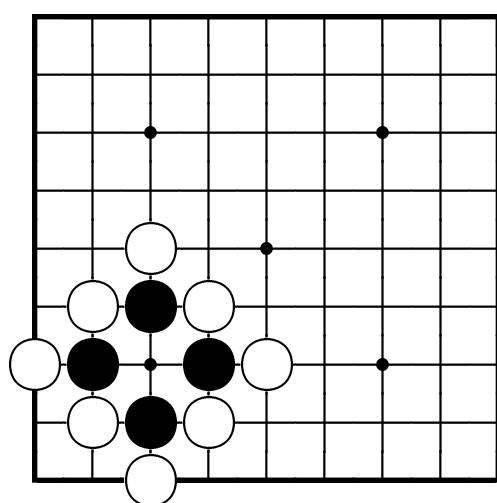


Black to play. Capture.



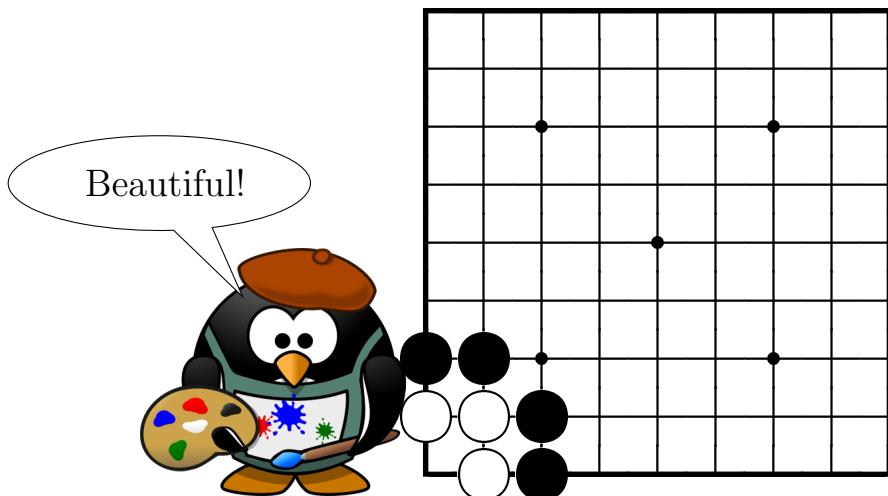
How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.



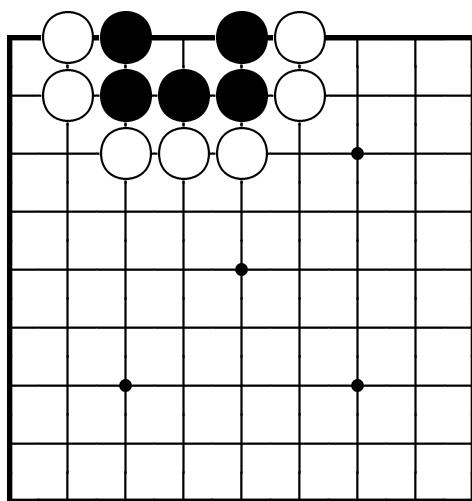
How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.



How many stones did you capture?

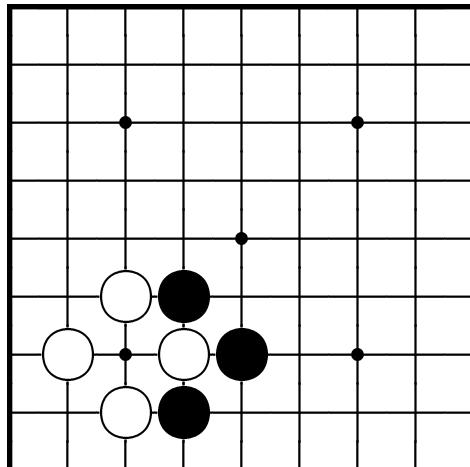
White to play. Capture.



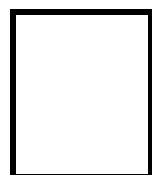
How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.

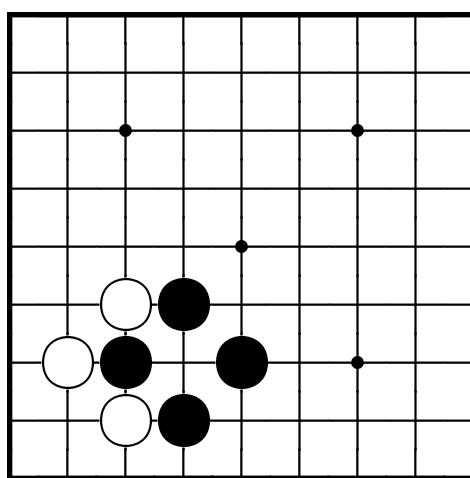
A gift stone!



How many stones did you capture?



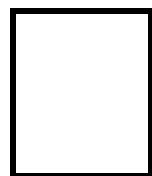
White to play. Capture.



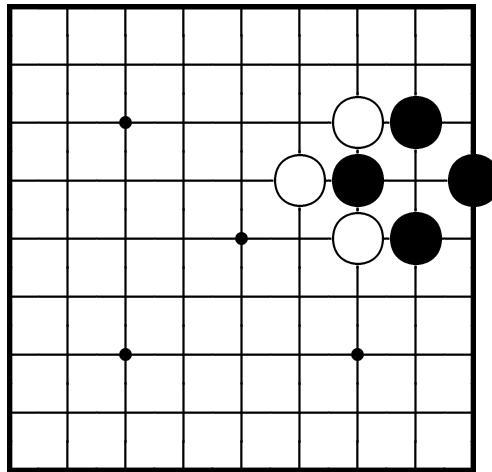
Wow! It
comes back!



How many stones did you capture?

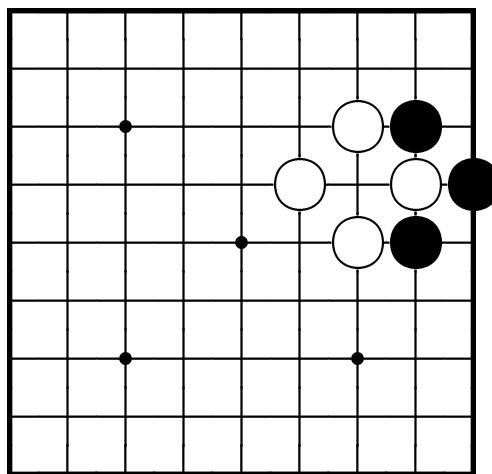


White to play. Capture.



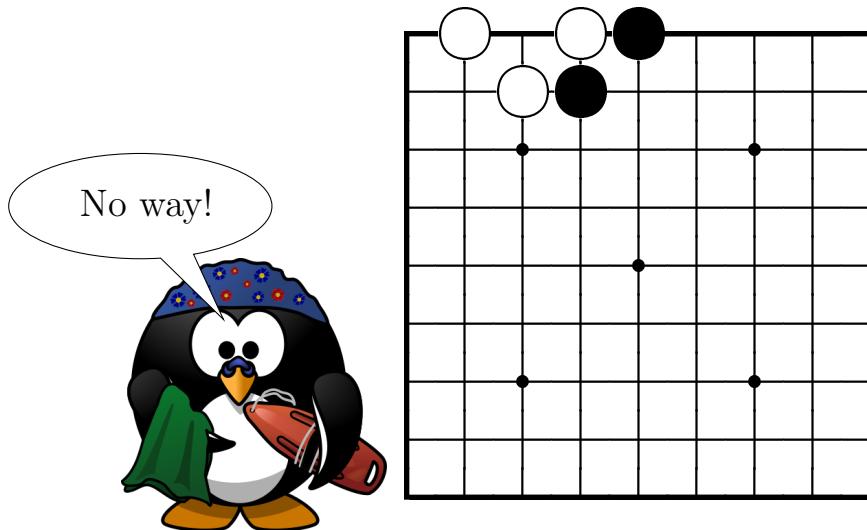
How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.



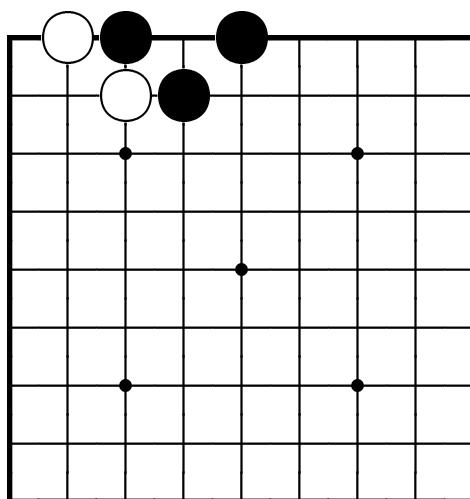
How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.



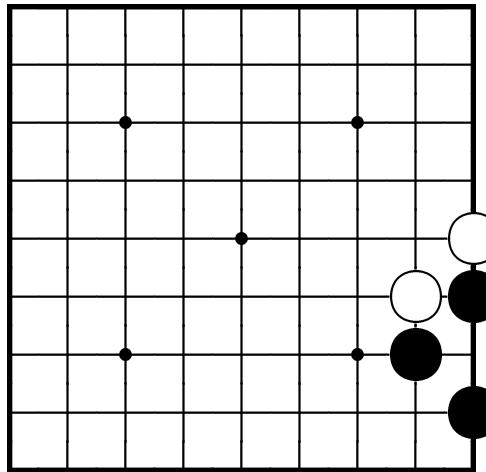
How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.



How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.

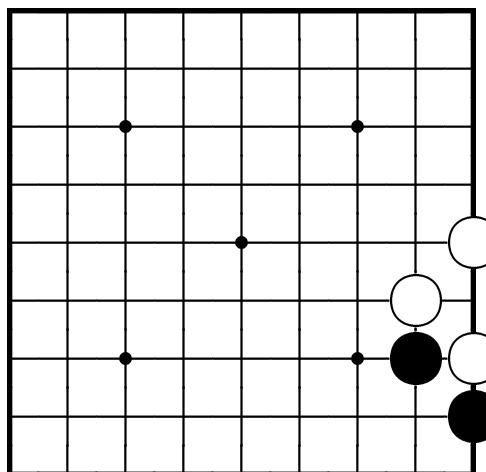


A birthday gift!



How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.



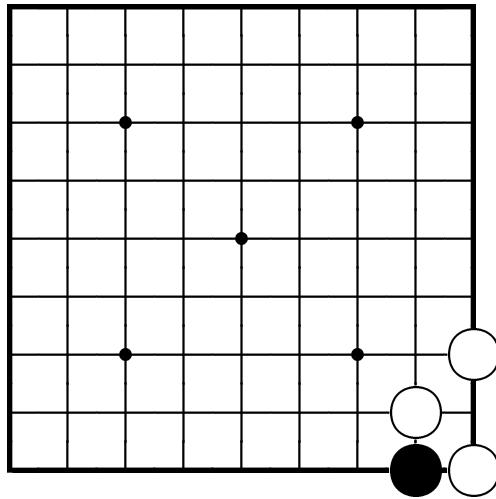
Another gift!?



How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.

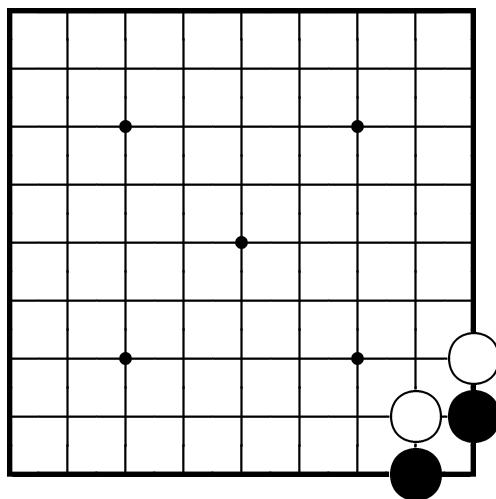
Right there!



How many stones did you capture?

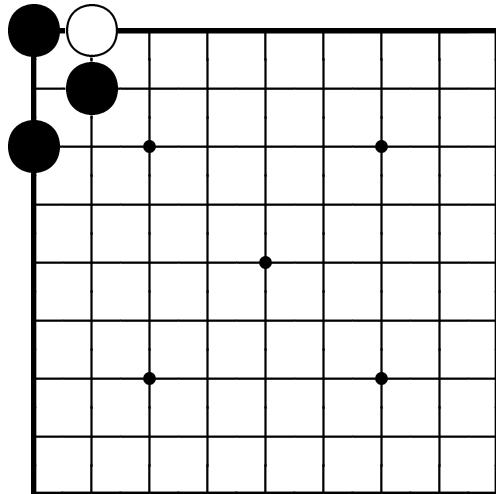
White to play. Capture.

There, again!?

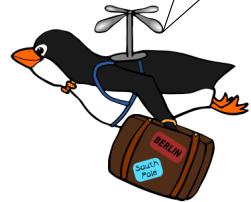


How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.

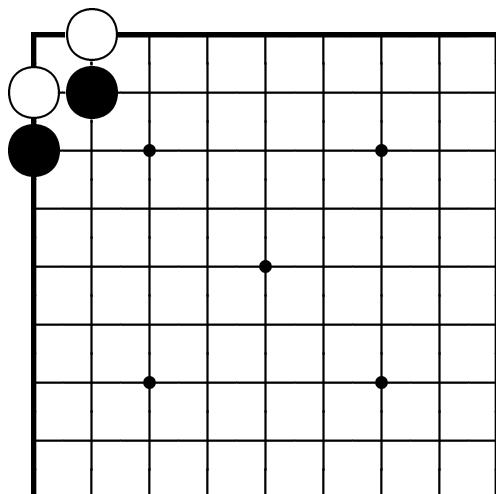


You can do it!

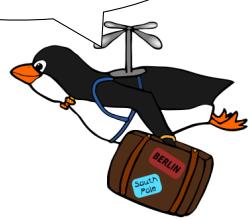


How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.

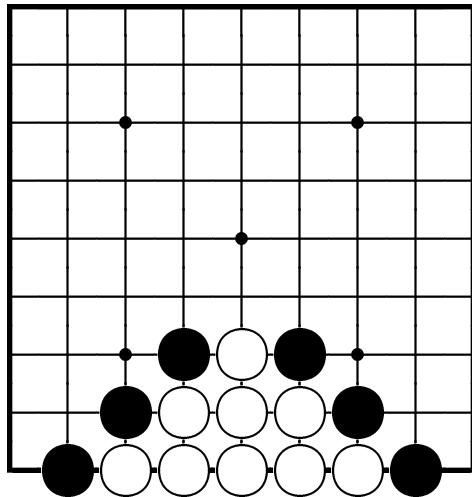


You can do it,
again!



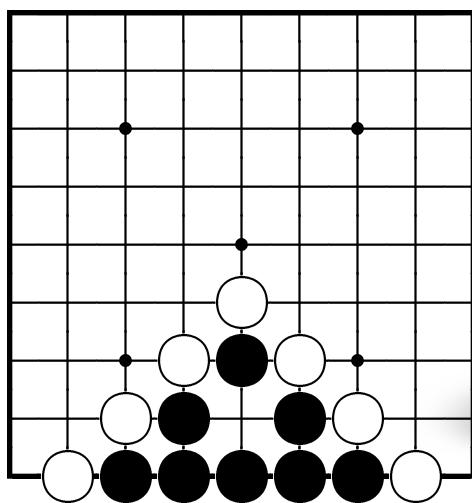
How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.



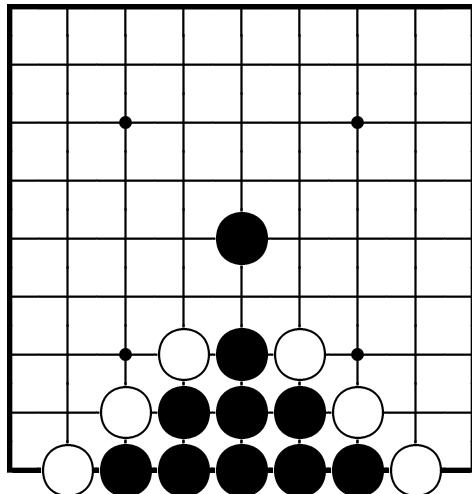
How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.

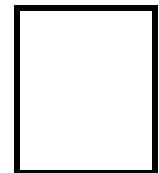


How many stones did you capture?

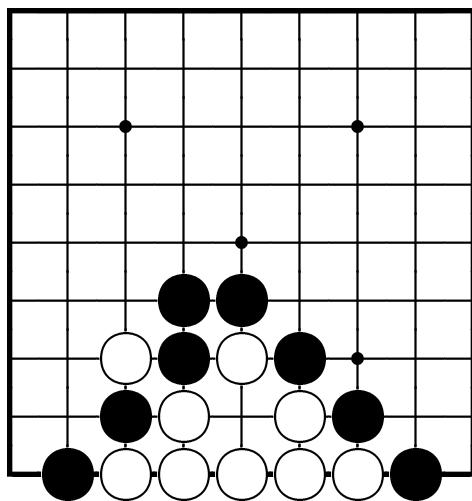
Black to play. Defend.



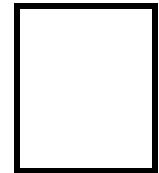
How many stones did you save?



White to play. Defend.

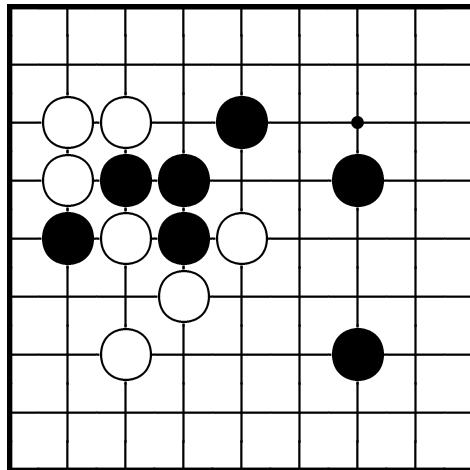


How many stones did you save?

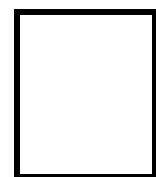


Black to play. Capture.

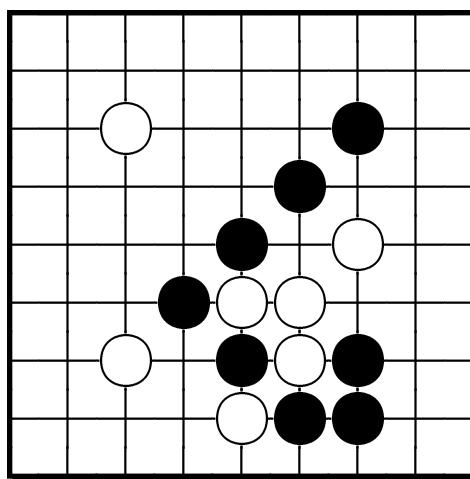
Pay attention!



How many stones did you capture?

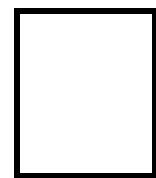


White to play. Capture.

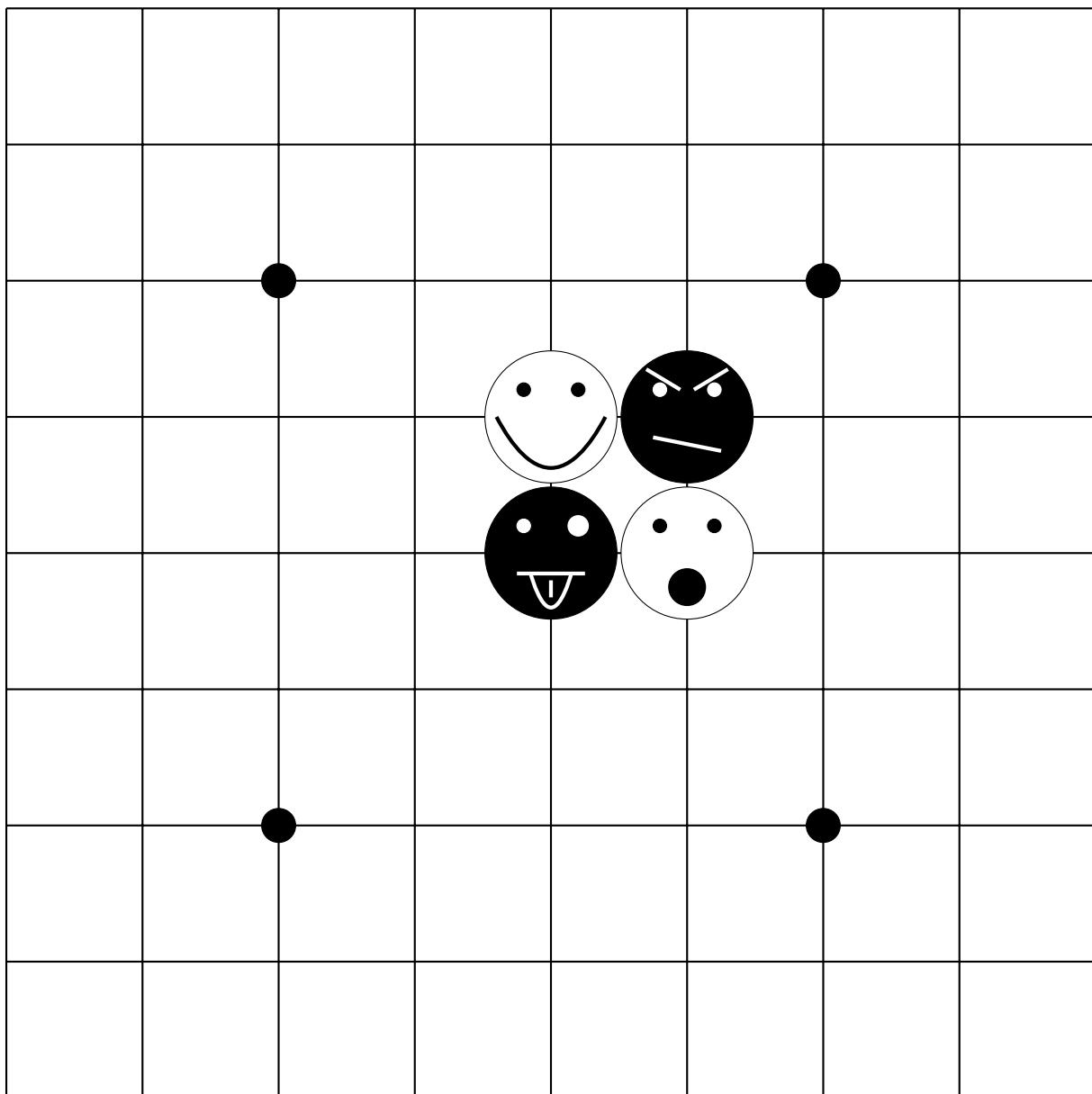


You can do it!

How many stones did you capture?



Play Capture Go



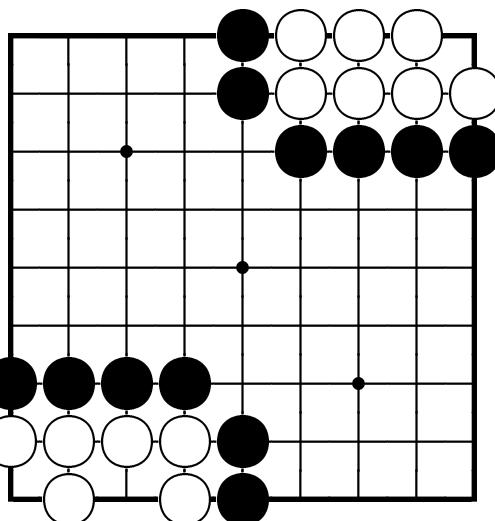
1. Take turns with a friend. One is black, the other white. Black plays first.
2. You can draw only one stone in your turn.
3. First one to capture wins.
4. Feel free to draw funny faces. 😊 😡

Print this page
again to
play more games!



Black to play. Capture.

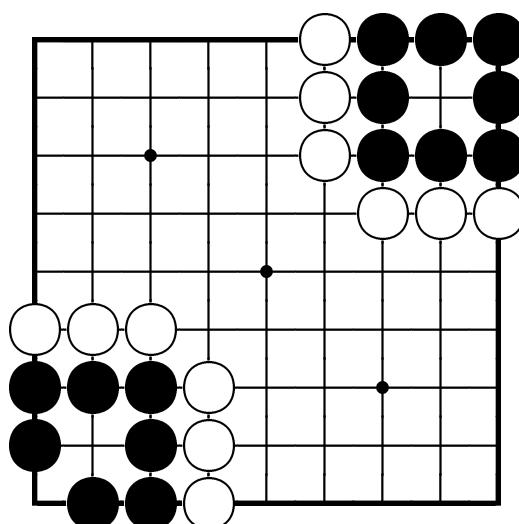
Which group?



How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.

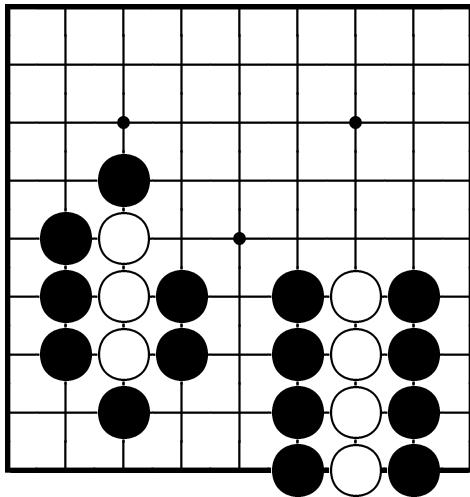
Get the
correct one!



How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture the biggest group.

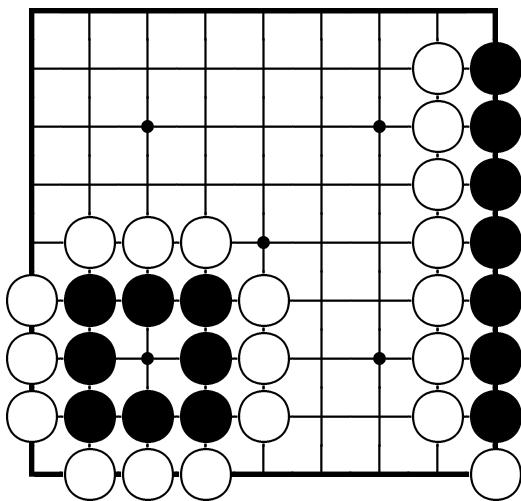
Which is bigger?



How many stones did you capture?

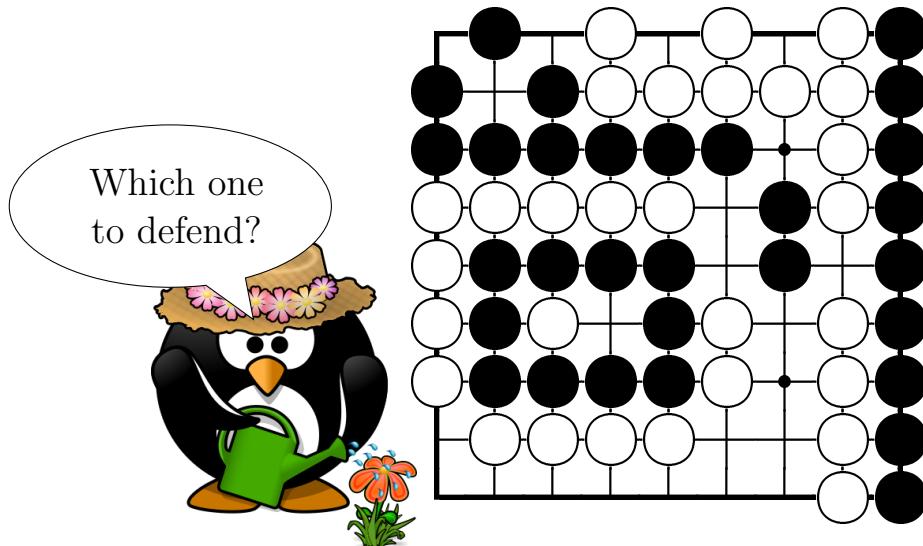
White to play. Capture the biggest group.

So many stones!



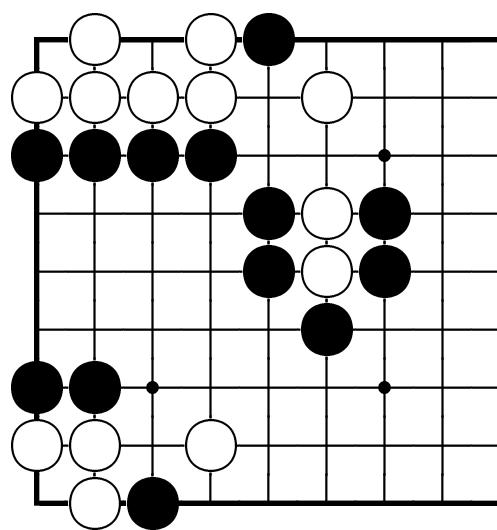
How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Defend the biggest group.



How many stones did you save?

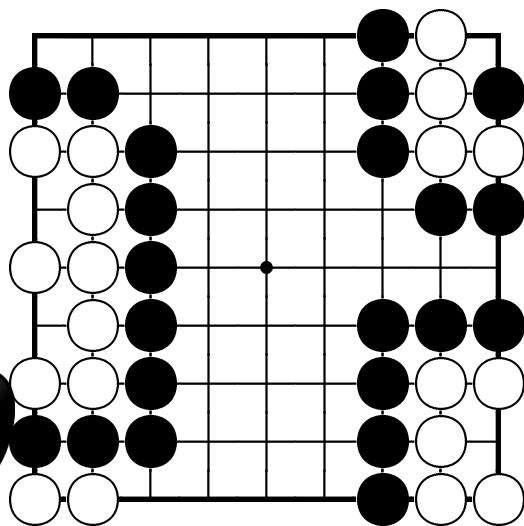
White to play. Defend the biggest group.



How many stones did you save?

Black to play. Capture the biggest group.

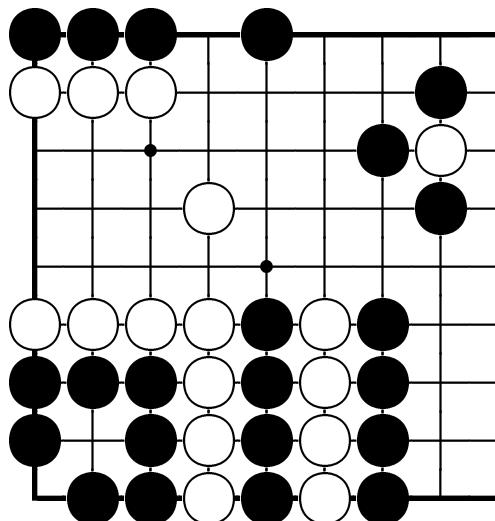
Which one
to capture?



How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture the biggest group.

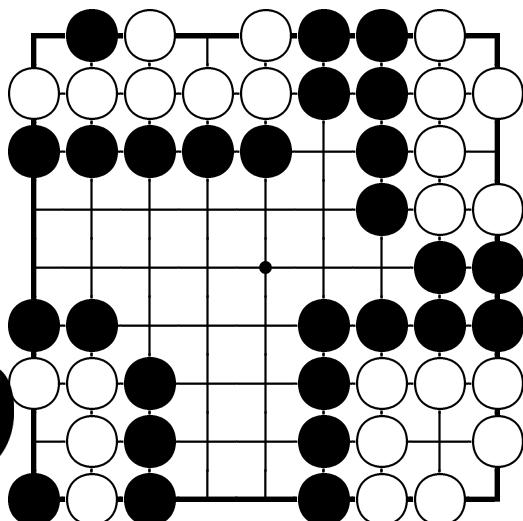
Pay attention!
Which one?



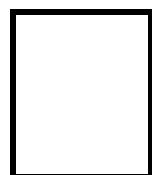
How many stones did you capture?

Black to play. Capture.

So many groups!

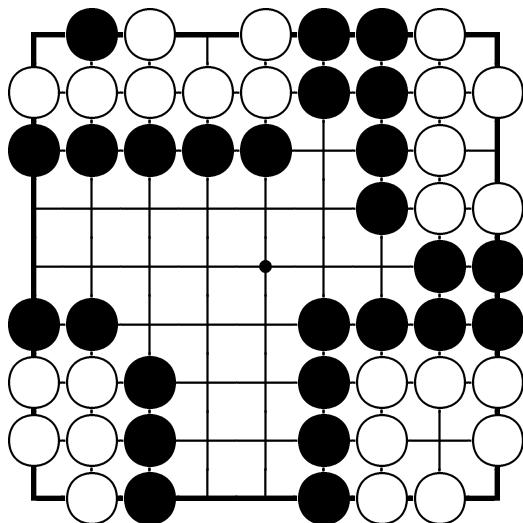


How many stones did you capture?

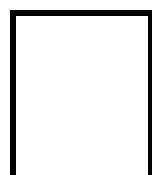


Black to play. Capture.

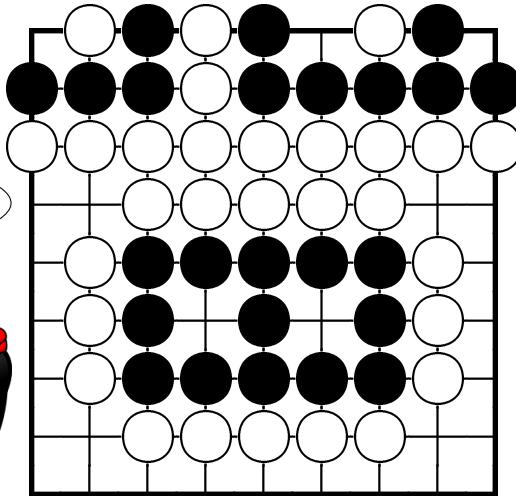
White captured
a stone!?



How many stones did you capture?



White to play. Capture.

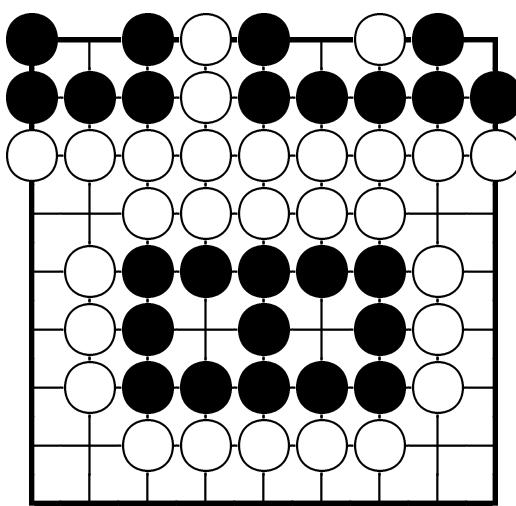


Hmm, which one?



How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.

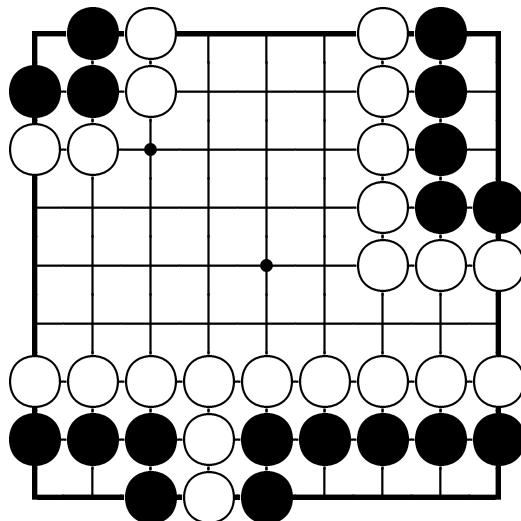


Black captured
a stone!?



How many stones did you capture?

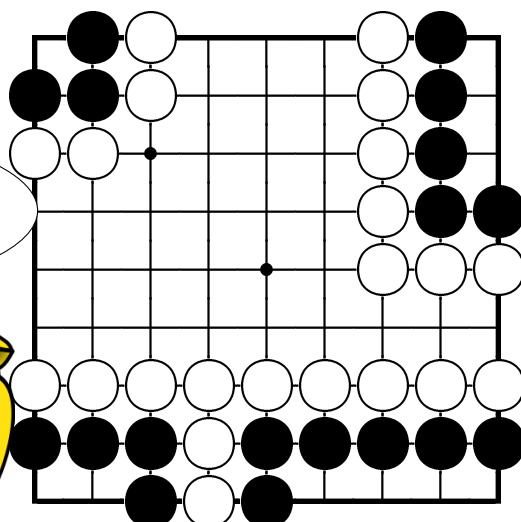
Black to play. Defend your group.



How many stones did you defend?

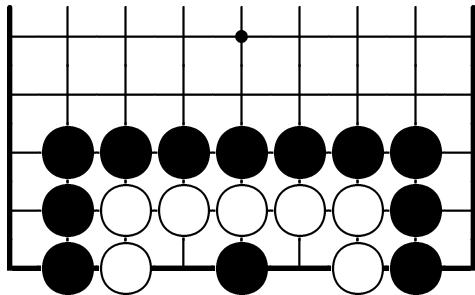
White to play. Kill 3 groups.

Oh! It won't be removed right away.

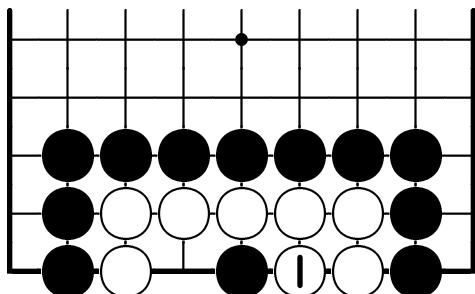


How many stones will be captured?

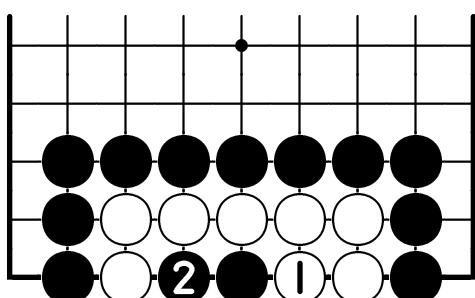
The Stone in the Middle Problem



White cannot capture
the stone in the middle!



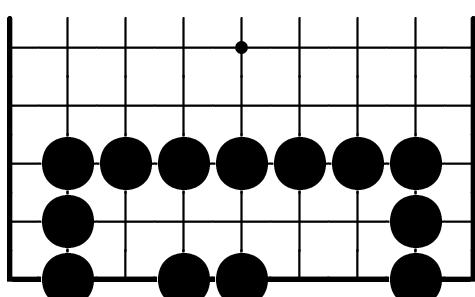
If White tries...

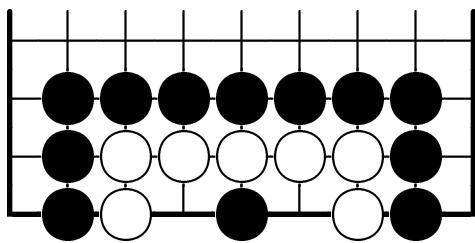


Black replies...

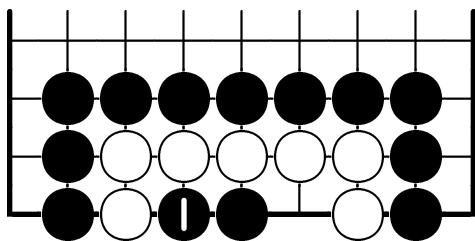


AND GETS
EVERYTHING!

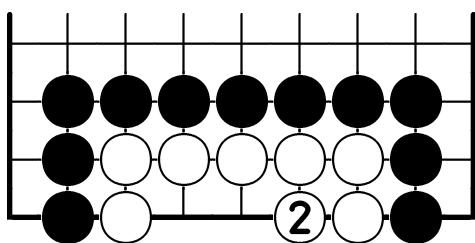




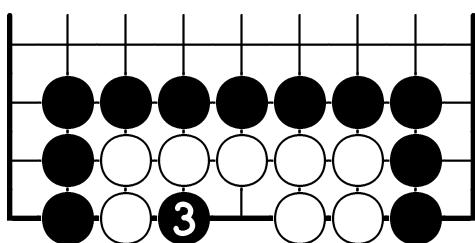
But Black can capture everything!



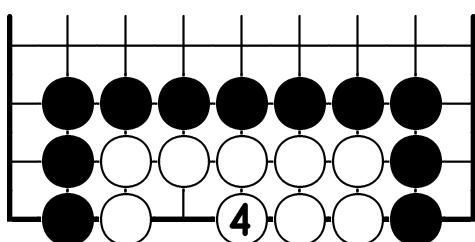
Black threatens...



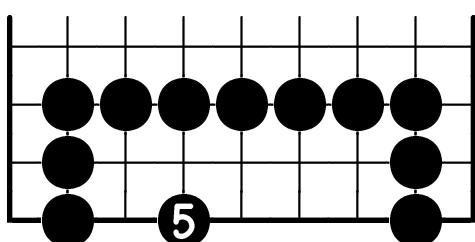
White captures.



Black threatens again...



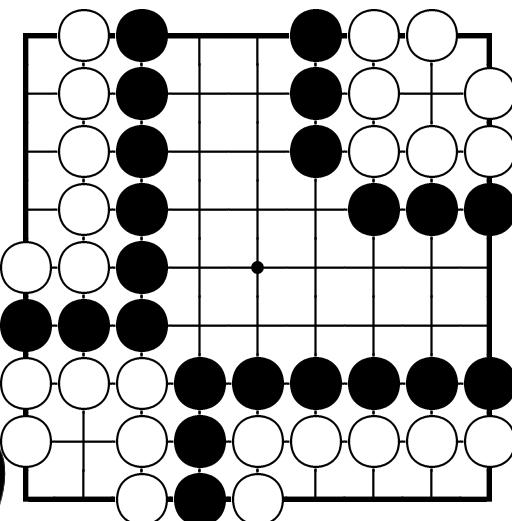
White captures.



AND BLACK GETS EVERYTHING!!!

Black to play. Kill 1 group.

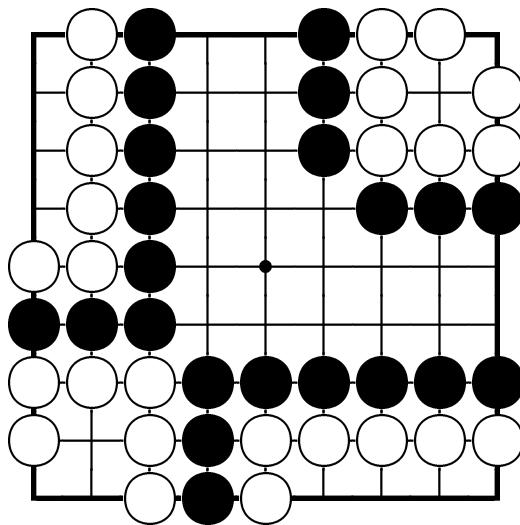
Stone in the middle!



How many stones will be captured?

White to play. Defend your group.

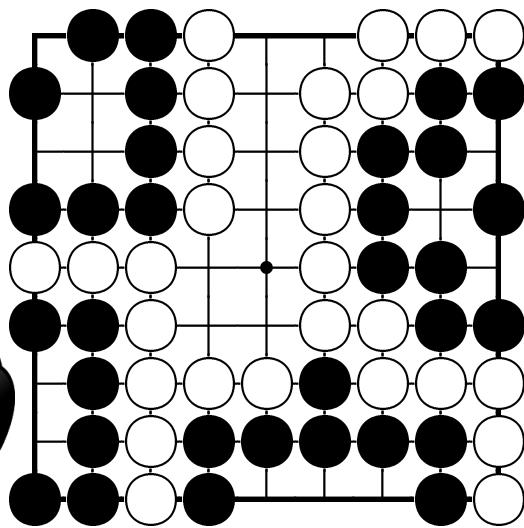
Wow!



How many stones did you save?

White to play. Kill 2 groups.

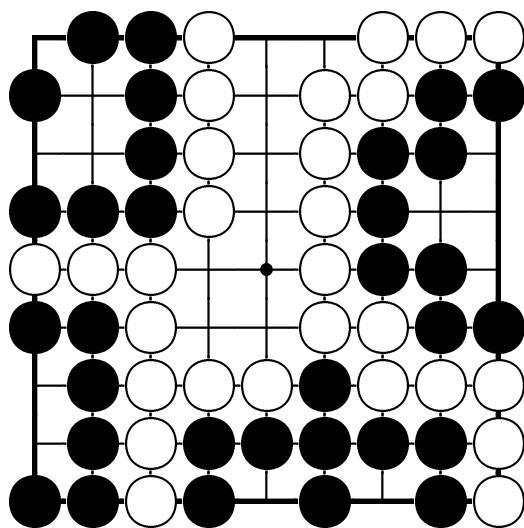
Stone in the middle!



How many stones will be captured?

Black to play. Defend 1 group.

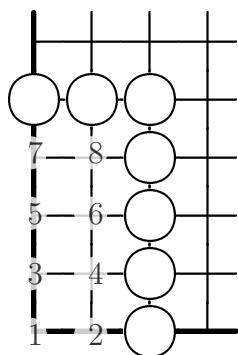
Stone in the middle!



How many stones did you save?

Count Territory

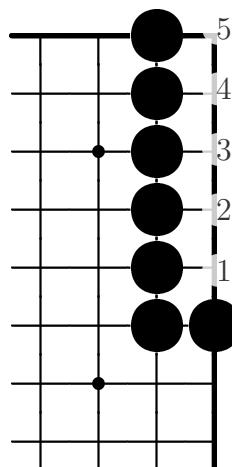
Count carefully!



White has 8 points.

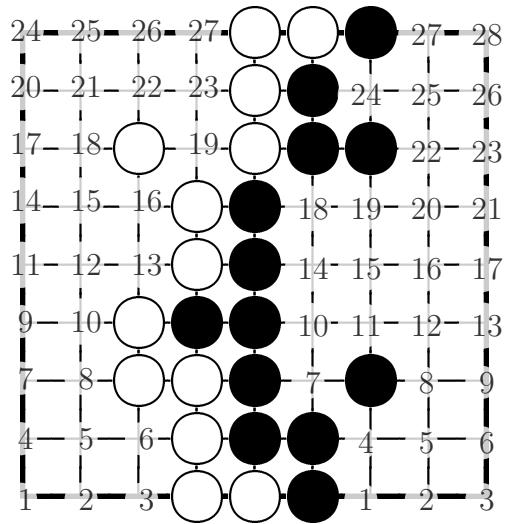
Count Territory

Easy peasy!



Black has 5 points.

Count Territory

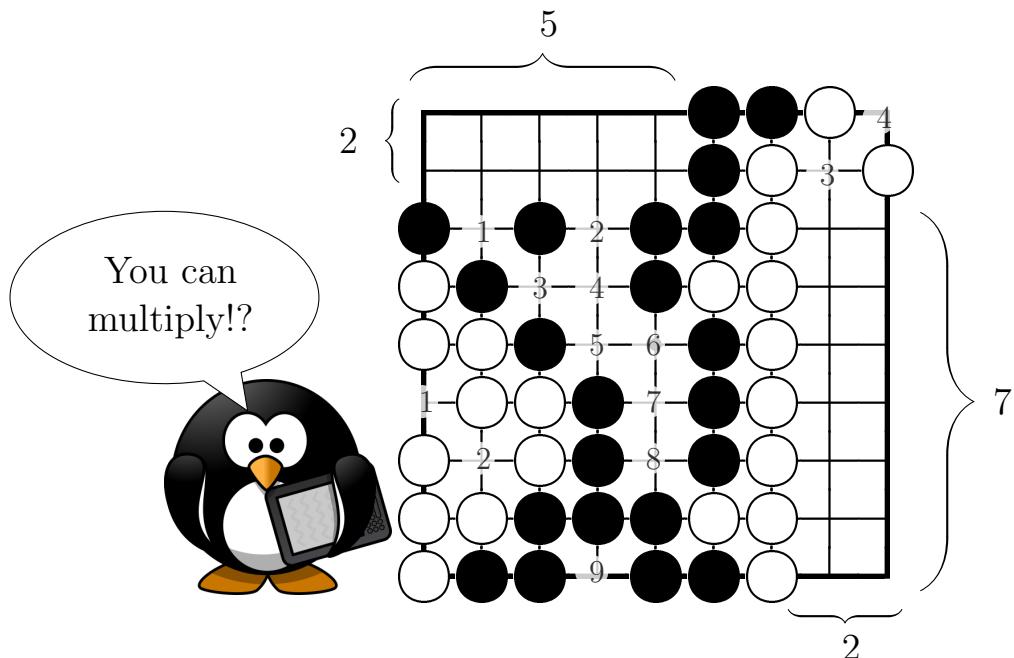


White has 27 points.

Black has 28 points.

Black wins.

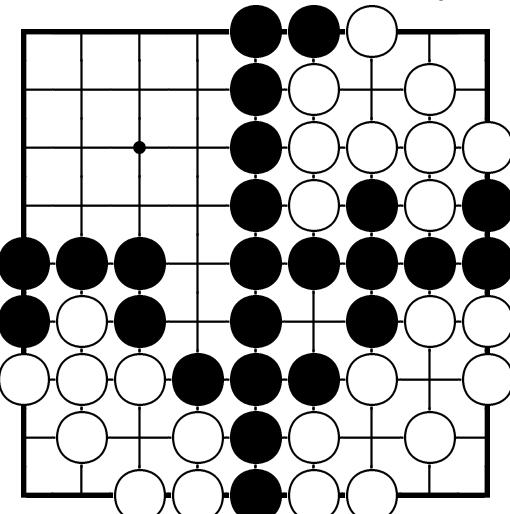
Count Territory



White has $\underline{7} \times \underline{2} + \underline{4} = \underline{7} + \underline{7} + \underline{4} = \underline{18}$ points.
Black has $\underline{5} \times \underline{2} + \underline{9} = \underline{5} + \underline{5} + \underline{9} = \underline{19}$ points.

Black wins.

Count Territory

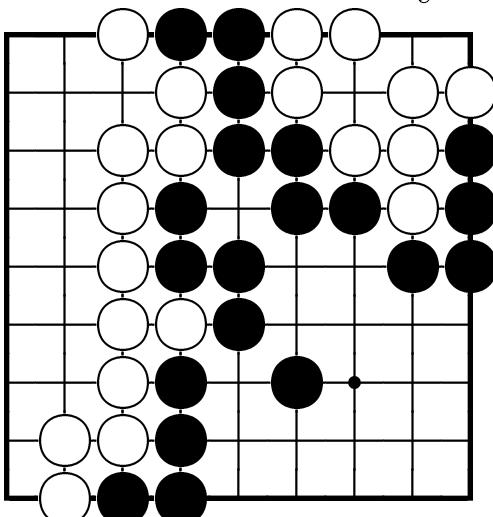


White has + + = points.

Black has × + = points.

_____ wins.

Count Territory



Don't go crazy!



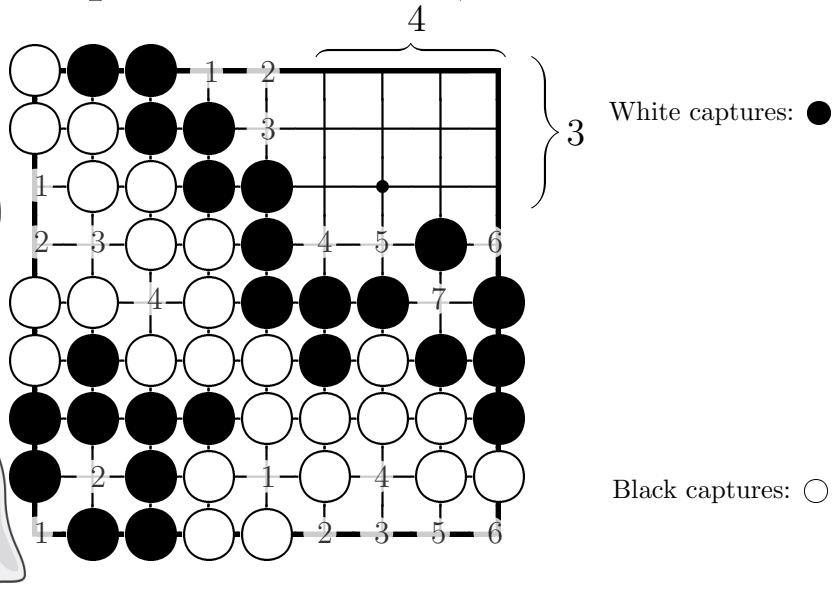
White has × + + = points.

Black has × + = points.

_____ wins.

Subtract Captured Stones, Add Komi

Booo!
Black plays first,
not fair!!!
White needs komi!
Booooooo!



White has 4 + 6 - 1 stone captured by Black = 9.

Black has 4 × 3 + 7 + 2 - 1 stone captured by White = 12 + 8 = 20.

White gets 6.5 extra points! We call this komi.

So White has 9 + 6.5 = 15.5 points.

Black still wins.

Boo... Stop
fighting! There are
different rules!
Booo...

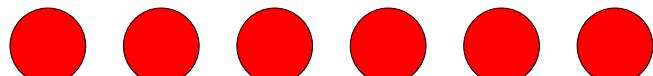
Shouldn't Komi
be 7.5!?

NO!!! 6.5!!!

I think 7.5...



What is 6.5? 6.5 is more than 6, but less than 7.



6 Balls



6.5 Balls

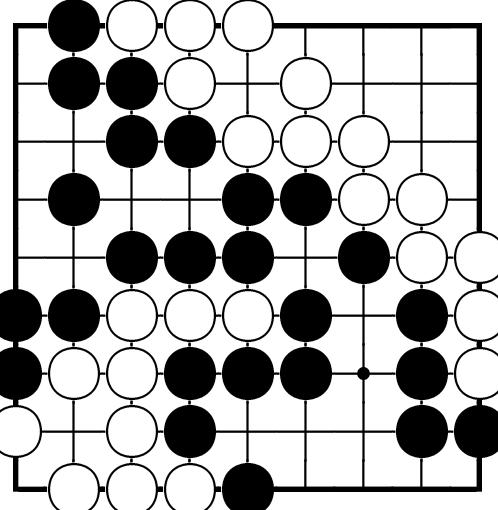


7 Balls

OH!!!

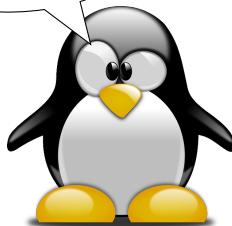


Count Score



White captures: ●

Don't get confused!



Territory Captures Komi

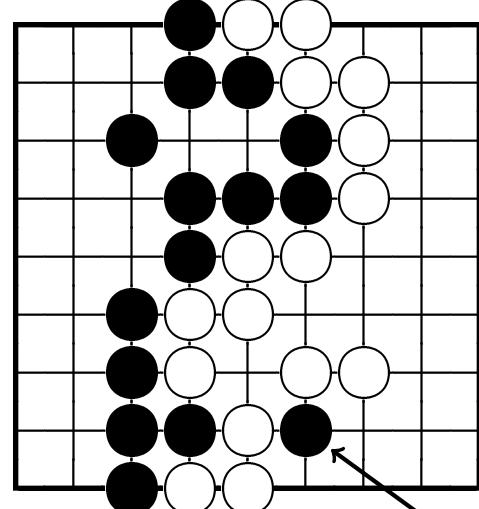
White has - + = points.

Territory Captures

Black has - = points.

_____ wins.

Count Score



White captures: ●

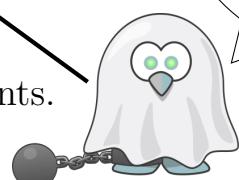
Black captures:

This black stone
can't escape.
It is dead.
It adds 1 capture
for white.

White has - + = points.

Territory Captures Komi

Black has - = points.



_____ wins.

To parents and educators

This book has a series of exercises to learn fundamental concepts of the Go game. It starts with basic captures across the board, but it also gives a first intuition towards important concepts such as ladders, nets, eyes, kos, and counting. The exercises should be straight-forward if you have Go knowledge, but a solution sheet is provided as a separate document.

It is possible to find basic Go problems on-line. However, usually many parents want to limit the time kids spend in front of a screen. Hence, my intention with this book was to give kids an opportunity to practice Go (and Math) in a more classical “paper-and-pencil” setting. Therefore, the original intention is for the book to be printed, to allow the kids to draw in the pages. However, of course, playing it with a pdf editor (e.g., in a tablet) is also possible.

You will find in the middle of the book a “Capture Go” board. Capture Go is a great introduction to Go, and it can be entirely played by drawing stones. I would recommend printing and laminating a 9×9 Go Board with white background, and playing Capture Go by drawing stones over it using white board markers. The stones can be erased afterwards with a wipe, allowing many games to be played by drawing. In that way kids can draw funny faces in the stones, balloons with dialogues, etc, allowing them to play Go and express their creativity and imagination at the same time. After the game is over, most often the board also evolves into a full drawing. That will make it really fun for them! You can find a plain 9×9 Go board to be printed at <http://micans.org/goboard/>.

Credits

Most images come from Open Clipart (<https://openclipart.org>), and are Public Domain:

- Drawing hand: By j4p4n (<https://openclipart.org/detail/321385/doodling-hand>).
- Confused penguin: By zafx (<https://openclipart.org/detail/169173/basetuxg2v12>).
- Other penguins: By Moini (e.g., <https://openclipart.org/detail/174879/wild-penguin>).

Go Board image in the cover is a screenshot of the “Sabaki” application <https://github.com/SabakiHQ/Sabaki>. The game shown is the 6th European Pro Qualification, final match, Lukáš Podpěra vs. Stanisław Frejlak, 2021.

This book was done in L^AT_EX, using several packages, including *Igo* for the Go diagrams, and *TikZ* for the page layout.

Thanks to Ai Guan, Björn Eurenius, and Florian Pein for kindly checking the draft.

Distribution

This book is freely available under the Creative Commons BY-NC-SA 4.0 license. Hence, feel free to distribute it to friends and family.

This book can be downloaded from my website, at www.leandromarcolino.com.br. The source code is available on GitHub, at <https://github.com/sorianom/kids-go-books>.

If you like this book and would like to show appreciation, you can buy me a coffee at <https://buyameacoffee.com/leandromarcolino>

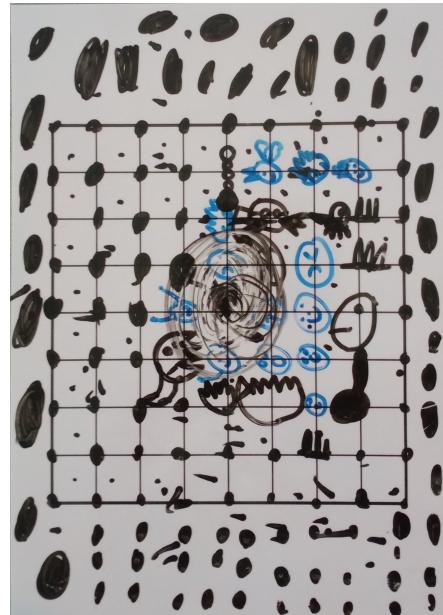


Figure: A Capture Go game in a laminated paper that evolved into a drawing.

