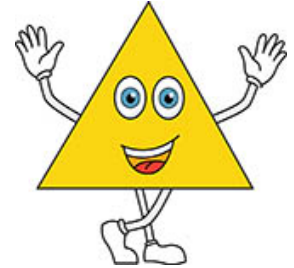


# Don't Make a Triangle



**Math Concepts:** geometry, logic, strategy

**Materials:** Don't Make a Triangle game board, sheet protector, and two dry erase markers of different colors

**Players:** two

**Recommended Grades:** 2-8

**Time:** about 5 minutes per game

**Common Core Standards:** MP1, MP3, MP6

## Why We Love Don't Make a Triangle

Don't Make a Triangle is very quick to learn, but deceptively tricky to play. It gets kids looking for triangles of all types, and forces them to pay close attention to what is happening on the page.

## How to Play

1. Players chose their color and take turns.
2. On a turn, connect two of the six dots on the board using your color.
3. If a player creates a triangle in their color that touches three of the six starting dots, the other player wins.

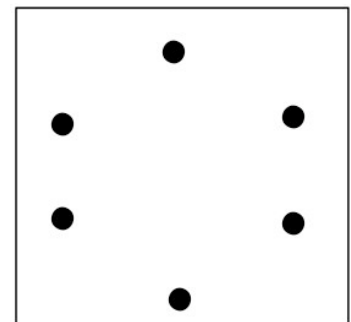
*\*Remember that the only triangles we are trying to avoid are those with all three vertices on the original six dots that are also colored in a single color.*

## Hints and Questions

- Is it better to go first or second? Why?
- Does it matter where you start?
- Is it possible to end in a draw (tie)?
- How many turns does a game of Don't Make a Triangle take?
- How many possible line segments can be made with six points?
- Is there a strategy that can help you win every time?

## Variations

1. Play with fewer than six points on a game board.
2. Play with more than six points on a game board.
3. Play with 3 players on a game board with many points.  
*\* Explore how these changes affect the game.*



## About the Game

Adapted from Math for Love

# Don't Make a Triangle

