



Ultimate Tic-Tac-Toe



Topics: Logic, visualization, thinking ahead, strategy

Materials: Ultimate Tic-Tac-Toe game board, sheet protector, and a dry erase marker

Players: two

Recommended Grades: 2-8

Common Core Standards: MP1, MP3, MP6, MP7

This is the same game of Tic-Tac-Toe that you grew up with, taken to a new level of strategy.

Why We Love Ultimate Tic-Tac-Toe

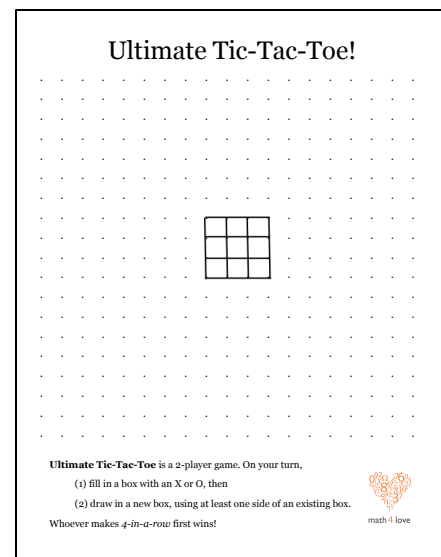
Ultimate Tic-Tac-Toe begins on a traditional tic-tac-toe board but quickly gets everyone thinking outside the box as the board expands on every turn, creating new possibilities and forcing players to rethink their options. Spatial visualization, balancing offensive and defensive play, and connections to deeper mathematical strategy all come into play in this “ultimate” game.

How to Play

Ultimate Tic-Tac-Toe is a game for two players, played on a 3 x 3 table surrounded by a grid of dots. On your turn, place your symbol (either an X or an O) in a box, then add a new box to the game board by using at least one side of an existing box (no connecting new boxes by corners). Players alternate turns in this manner, drawing their symbol in a box and then adding a new box, until someone gets 4 of their symbol in a row, column, or diagonal. The player who scores the 4-in-a-row is the winner of the game.

Prompts and Questions

- Is it better to go first or second?
- What strategies did you try? Were they useful?
- Is it possible to end in a draw (tie)?

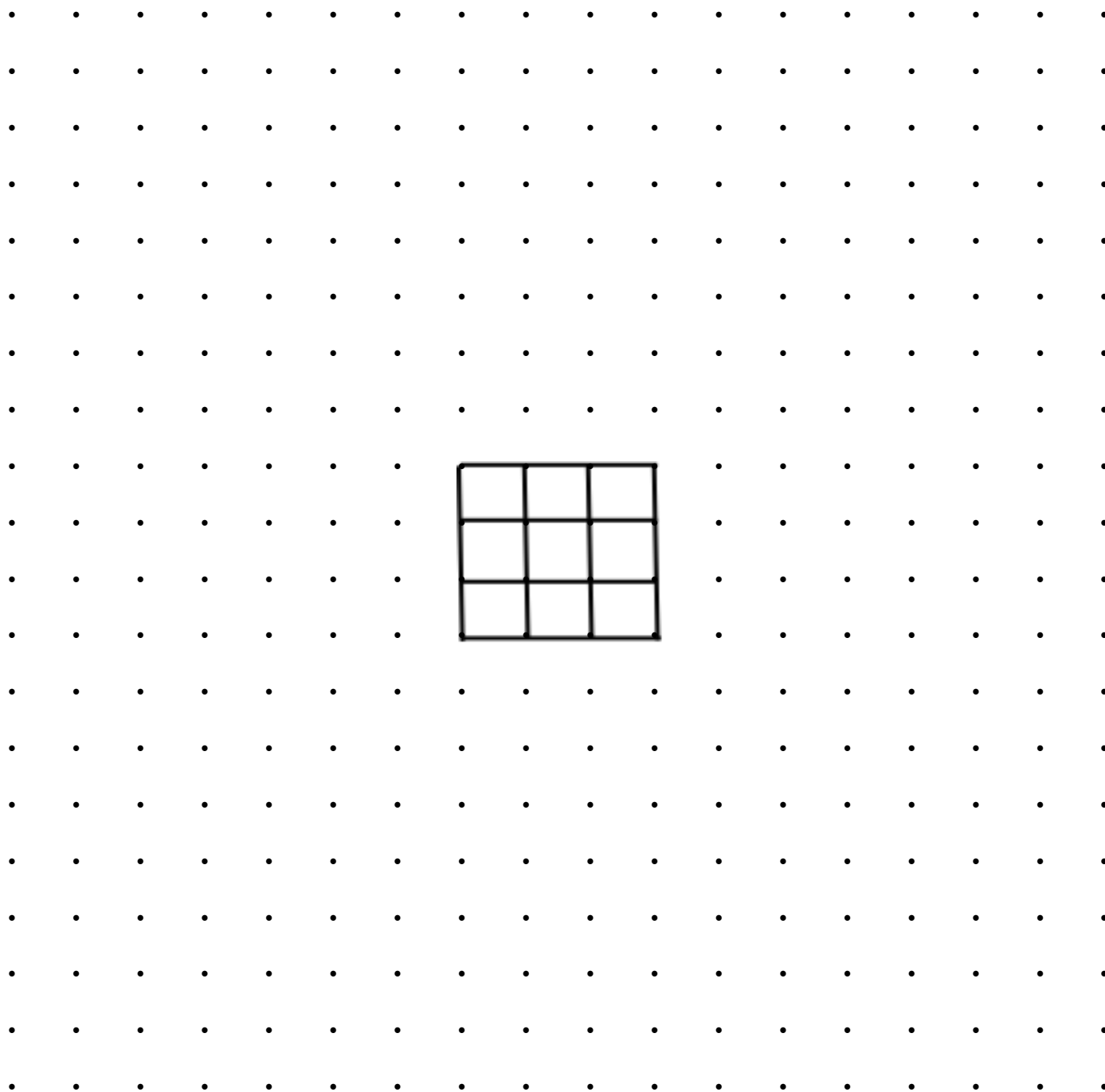


Tips for young children

1. Start by playing traditional tic-tac-toe on a 3 x 3 or a 4 x 4 grid.
2. Verbalize your thinking as you take your turn.
3. Ask, “Why did you choose to do that?” to get your child to verbalize thinking as well.



Ultimate Tic-Tac-Toe!



Ultimate Tic-Tac-Toe is a 2-player game. On your turn,

- (1) fill in a box with an X or O, then
- (2) draw in a new box, using at least one side of an existing box.

Whoever makes *4-in-a-row* first wins!

