

## An age-old game

The simple yet strategic game of **noughts and crosses**, also known as **tic-tac-toe**, has been around to fill periods of boredom for longer than you may think. It was played over 2,000 years ago in the Roman Empire where it was called **terni lapilli**. Players just had three stones which they moved around a grid. However, the game may date back even further as there is evidence that the ancient Egyptians played some form of it. Experts believe the name **ticktack** or **tic-tac-toe** came about sometime in the 1800s when the game was played by blindly throwing a pencil at a slate. Historians believe the name derived from the sound the pencil made when it hit the slate.

This classic game has survived the test of time though and in 1952 it was the first game to be played on a computer. So next time you draw yourself a grid, you can thank the ancient Egyptians for easing your boredom.

Make sure  
you read the  
text carefully  
before  
looking at the  
questions.

There is no  
time limit.

Look at the text and choose **one** correct answer box.

What was '**noughts and crosses**' originally known as?

 Read the text.

three stones

classic game

tic-tac-toe

terni lapilli

If you don't know or you want to check, click 'Read the text' to double check.



Look at the text and choose **one** correct answer box.

What was '**noughts and crosses**' originally known as?

 Read the text.

- three stones
- classic game
- tic-tac-toe
- terni lapilli

The key word  
in this  
question is  
**originally.**

Look carefully  
at the  
question  
before rushing  
to answer.



Look at the text and choose **two** correct answer boxes.

In Roman times, what was used to play the game?

 Read the text.

Number of selected options for this question: 0

paper

a pencil

a computer

a grid

stones

Look at your  
copy of the  
text.

The key words  
are **Roman  
times**. Skim  
the text to find  
the mention of  
Roman times.



Look at the text and choose **two** correct answer boxes.

In Roman times, what was used to play the game?

 Read the text.

Number of selected options for this question: 0

paper

a pencil

a computer

a grid

stones

Now that you are looking at the right section, what two items were used to play the game?



Look at the text.

Number these from 1 to 5 to show the order in which they happened.

One has been done for you.

 Read the text.

- It became the first computerised game.
- The game was played in the Roman Empire.
- Noughts and crosses continues to be played today.
- The game was played by ancient Egyptians.
- It was thought to be played with a pencil and slate.

Look at the  
text and find  
each of these  
events.

Now put them  
in order.

Look at the text.

Number these from 1 to 5 to show the order in which they happened.

One has been done for you.



Read the text.

It became the first computerised game.

The game was played in the Roman Empire.

Noughts and crosses continues to be played today.

The game was played by ancient Egyptians.

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Number these from 1 to 5 to show the order in which they happened.

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 Read the text.

- 4 It became the first computerised game.
- 2 The game was played in the Roman Empire.
- 5 Noughts and crosses continues to be played today.
- 1 The game was played by ancient Egyptians.
- 3 It was thought to be played with a pencil and slate.

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