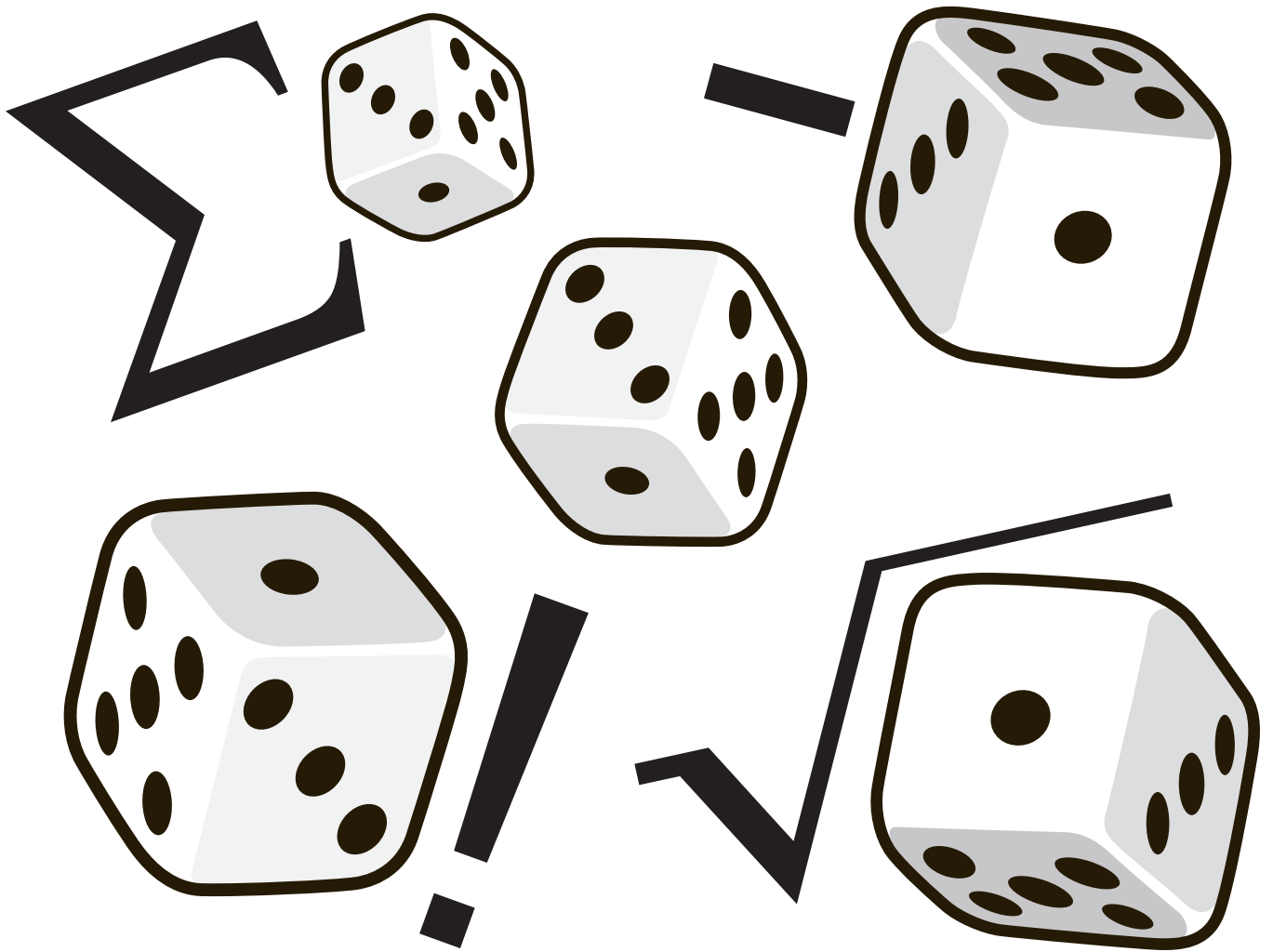


Dice Activities for Mathematical Thinking

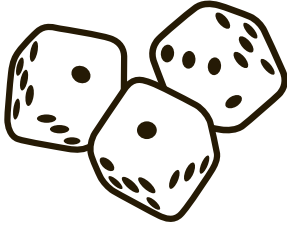
Fluency • Understanding • Engagement



Mary Saltus and Chet Delani

Square Number Chart – 1 to 144

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130
131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150



Prime Number Chart – 1 to 100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Directions for Four in a Row Activities

Objectives



- Develop a working knowledge of the mathematical concepts of:
 - Square numbers
 - Square roots
 - Prime numbers
 - Factorials
 - Summations
 - Positive and negative integers
- Develop an awareness of an opponent's possible moves.
- Analyze an opponent's possible moves in order to develop a blocking strategy.
- Identify the role of luck versus skill in an activity using dice.
- Develop communication and cooperation skills by working in teams of two students.

Introduce the **Four in a Row** activities by demonstrating on an overhead and playing against the class. Two teams with two students on a team are suggested. Teams give students an opportunity to discuss moves and strategies and provide a check on correct computation.

How to Play

- Teams toss die or dice, depending on the activity, and perform the required computation—operations differ for each activity. For example:

In the square root activities, if the sum of the two dice tossed is 7, then players look for the number for which 7 is the square root.

In the factorial activities, if the sum of the two dice tossed is 5, then players look for 5!, or 120 ($5! = 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 120$).

- Teams attempt to line up four tokens vertically, horizontally, or diagonally before the opposing team does.
- The first team to align four tokens in a row wins.

Suggestions

- Before placing a token on the chart, team members explain how they arrived at a solution.
- If students are struggling with determining the closest square number or prime number, suggest that they refer to the Square Number Chart and Prime Number Chart on pages viii–ix.

Discussion

- This activity is similar to the games *Othello* and *Pente*, where defense is important. How does the toss of the dice influence strategy? Is this activity more a game of defense or offense?
- Does this activity involve more luck or skill?
- Keep a recording of each dice toss. Which combinations were tossed the most? The least?

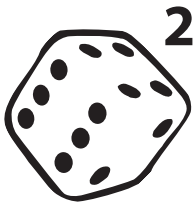
Four in a Row

Square the Die Chart

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.

How to Play

1. Toss a die. Square the number (multiply the number by itself—for example, 7×7).
2. Place a token on the square number.
3. The first team to get 4 tokens in a row, vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, wins.



36	1	16	25	9	4	16
25	9	36	1	4	16	1
1	16	4	9	25	26	4
4	25	9	16	36	1	25
9	36	1	4	16	25	9
16	4	25	36	1	9	36
25	9	16	1	36	4	25

Four in a Row

Square Two Dice Chart

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.

How to Play

1. Toss 2 dice. Find the sum. Square the sum (multiply the sum by itself—for example, 7×7).
2. Place a token on the square number.
3. The first team to get 4 tokens in a row, vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, wins.



36	121	9	25	81	16	4
49	64	144	100	36	25	81
25	49	36	64	4	81	64
64	36	81	49	121	16	49
100	25	4	16	36	49	144
16	81	121	49	100	9	64
9	36	64	144	49	25	100

Four in a Row

One-Die Square Root Chart

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.



How to Play

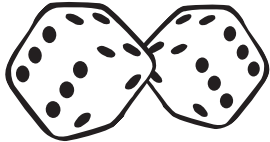
1. Toss a die. The number tossed is the solution to which square root expression on the chart?
2. Place a token on that expression.
3. The first team to get 4 tokens in a row, vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, wins.

$\sqrt{36}$	$\sqrt{1}$	$\sqrt{16}$	$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{9}$	$\sqrt{4}$	$\sqrt{16}$
$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{9}$	$\sqrt{36}$	$\sqrt{1}$	$\sqrt{4}$	$\sqrt{16}$	$\sqrt{1}$
$\sqrt{1}$	$\sqrt{16}$	$\sqrt{4}$	$\sqrt{9}$	$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{26}$	$\sqrt{4}$
$\sqrt{4}$	$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{9}$	$\sqrt{16}$	$\sqrt{36}$	$\sqrt{1}$	$\sqrt{25}$
$\sqrt{9}$	$\sqrt{36}$	$\sqrt{1}$	$\sqrt{4}$	$\sqrt{16}$	$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{9}$
$\sqrt{16}$	$\sqrt{4}$	$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{36}$	$\sqrt{1}$	$\sqrt{9}$	$\sqrt{36}$
$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{9}$	$\sqrt{16}$	$\sqrt{1}$	$\sqrt{36}$	$\sqrt{4}$	$\sqrt{25}$

Four in a Row

Two-Dice Square Root Chart

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.



How to Play

1. Toss 2 dice. Find the sum. The sum is the solution to which square root expression on the chart?
2. Place a token on that expression.
3. The first team to get 4 tokens in a row, vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, wins.

$\sqrt{36}$	$\sqrt{121}$	$\sqrt{9}$	$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{81}$	$\sqrt{16}$	$\sqrt{4}$
$\sqrt{49}$	$\sqrt{64}$	$\sqrt{144}$	$\sqrt{100}$	$\sqrt{36}$	$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{81}$
$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{49}$	$\sqrt{36}$	$\sqrt{64}$	$\sqrt{4}$	$\sqrt{81}$	$\sqrt{64}$
$\sqrt{64}$	$\sqrt{36}$	$\sqrt{81}$	$\sqrt{49}$	$\sqrt{121}$	$\sqrt{16}$	$\sqrt{49}$
$\sqrt{100}$	$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{4}$	$\sqrt{16}$	$\sqrt{36}$	$\sqrt{49}$	$\sqrt{144}$
$\sqrt{16}$	$\sqrt{81}$	$\sqrt{121}$	$\sqrt{49}$	$\sqrt{100}$	$\sqrt{9}$	$\sqrt{64}$
$\sqrt{9}$	$\sqrt{36}$	$\sqrt{64}$	$\sqrt{144}$	$\sqrt{49}$	$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{100}$

Four in a Row

Positive and Negative Numbers Chart

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.

How to Play

Green die = positive number
Red die = negative number



1. Toss a green die and a red die. Compute the sum or difference.

Example: green die = 3, red die = 5. Compute: $(+3) + (-5) = -2$.

2. Place a token on the positive or negative integer.

3. The first team to get 4 tokens in a row, vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, wins.

+3	-4	+1	+4	-1	-3	+2
-3	-1	-2	0	+1	+5	-4
-5	0	+2	-1	+2	-2	+3
+4	+1	0	-2	-3	-1	0
-1	+4	-2	+3	-4	0	+5
0	+2	+1	-3	0	+3	-1
+1	-5	-2	0	+2	-4	+1

Directions for Square Off Activities

Objectives



- Develop a working knowledge of the mathematical concepts of:
 - Square numbers
 - Square roots
 - Prime numbers
 - Factorials
 - Summations
 - Positive and negative integers
- Develop an awareness of an opponent's possible moves.
- Analyze an opponent's possible moves in order to develop a blocking strategy.
- Identify the role of luck versus skill in an activity using dice.
- Develop communication and cooperation skills by working in teams of two students.



Introduce the **Square Off** activities by demonstrating on an overhead and playing against the class. Two teams with two students on a team are suggested. Teams give students an opportunity to discuss moves and strategies and provide a check on correct computation.

Examples:

$$\text{Seven squared equals } 7 \times 7 = 49$$

$$5! = 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 120$$

- If students are struggling with determining the closest square number or prime number, suggest that they refer to the Square Number Chart and Prime Number Chart on page viii–ix.

How to Play

- Each team tosses a die. The higher number goes first.
- Teams toss die or dice and perform the required computation—operations differ for each activity.
- Teams attempt to arrange four tokens to form any size square, 2-by-2, 3-by-3, 4-by-4, and so on. Orientation of the square can be on the diagonal.
- The first team to form three squares wins.

Suggestions

- Before placing a token on the chart, team members explain how they arrived at a solution:

Discussion

- Is this more a game of luck or skill?
- Is there more opportunity in **Square Off** than in **Four in a Row** or **Cross Over** to play defensively—that is, to prevent the opposing team from forming a square?
- Which of the three activities—**Square Off**, **Four in a Row**, or **Cross Over**—offers more opportunities to block the other team? Why is that?
- What math or strategies have you and your team partner learned from each other?
- Would you prefer to play these games with a partner or without? Why?

Square Off One-Die Factorial (!) Chart

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.

$1! = 1$

$2! = 2 \times 1$

$3! = 3 \times 2 \times 1$

$4! = 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$

$5! = 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$

$6! = 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$

How to Play



1. Toss a die.
2. Place a token on the factorial of the number tossed.
3. Teams attempt to place tokens to form a square. Squares can be 2-by-2, 3-by-3, 4-by-4, and so on. Orientation of the square can be on the diagonal.
4. The first team to place tokens forming 3 squares wins.

720	1	24	120	6	2	24
120	6	720	1	2	24	1
1	24	2	6	120	720	2
2	120	6	24	720	1	120
6	720	1	2	24	120	6
24	2	120	720	1	6	720
120	6	24	1	720	2	120

Square Off

One-Die Summation (Σ) Chart

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.



How to Play

1. Toss a die. Place a token on the **summation** (Σ) of the number tossed.

$$\Sigma 1 = 1$$

$$\Sigma 2 = 2 + 1$$

$$\Sigma 3 = 3 + 2 + 1$$

$$\Sigma 4 = 4 + 3 + 2 + 1 \quad \Sigma 5 = 5 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1 \quad \Sigma 6 = 6 + 5 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1$$

2. Teams attempt to place tokens to form a square. Squares can be 2-by-2, 3-by-3, 4-by-4, and so on. Orientation of the square can be on the diagonal.

3. The first team to place tokens forming three squares wins.

21	1	10	15	6	3	10
15	6	21	1	3	10	1
1	10	3	6	15	21	3
3	15	6	10	21	1	15
6	21	1	3	10	15	6
10	3	15	21	1	6	21
15	6	10	1	21	3	15

Directions for Tic-Tac-Toe/ Four-Grid Tic-Tac-Toe Activities

Objectives

16	25	1	36	4	9
25	4	36	9	16	1
9	1	16	36	1	25
9	36	4	9	25	4
4	25	16	16	36	1
36	1	9	25	4	16

- Develop a working knowledge of the mathematical concepts of:
 - Square numbers
 - Square roots
 - Prime numbers
 - Factorials
 - Summations
 - Positive and negative integers
- Analyze an opponent's possible moves in order to develop a blocking strategy.
- Identify the role of luck versus skill in an activity using dice.
- Develop communication and cooperation skills by working in teams of two students.
- Provide an opportunity for reflection and self-correction through teamwork.

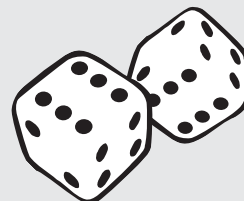
Tic-Tac-Toe is a familiar game form. These Tic-Tac-Toe activities provide a challenging and playful variation to use in mastering powerful and important math concepts.

The **Tic-Tac-Toe** activity is paired with a **Four-Grid Tic-Tac-Toe** activity providing a way to diversify while reinforcing specific mathematical concepts. This presents opportunities for students to practice playing **Tic-Tac-Toe** with each of the mathematical concepts before moving on to the more complicated **Four-Grid Tic-Tac-Toe**.

How to Play: Tic-Tac-Toe Activity

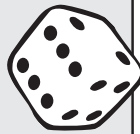
- Introduce the **Tic-Tac-Toe** activity by demonstrating on an overhead and playing against the class.
- Two teams with 2 students on a team are suggested. Teams give students an opportunity to discuss moves and strategies and provide a check on correct computation.
- Decide which team will use the X and which will use the O.

- Each team chooses a token and tosses a die. The higher number goes first.
- Teams toss a die or dice and perform the required computation. Operations differ for each activity.
- With each toss of the die or dice, the teams attempt to place their tokens in continuous alignment vertically, horizontally, or diagonally to win the game.
- If the solution is not shown on the grid or already has a token on it, the team loses a turn.
- The first team to form a Tic-Tac-Toe vertically, horizontally, or diagonally wins.
- The team winning 2 out of 3 games is the winner.



Suggestions

- Before placing a token on the chart, team members explain how they arrived at a solution. For example:
“Seven squared is 7×7 , which equals 49.”
“Five factorial (5!) is $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5$, or 120.”
- If students are struggling with determining the closest square or prime number, suggest that they refer to the Square Number and Prime Number Charts on pages viii–ix.



Variations

- Teams place a token on every box where the solution appears.
- A team replaces the opposing team's token with their own.

Discussion

- Does the person who goes first have an advantage?
- Is this a game of luck or skill? Does the dice toss influence your strategy?
- Does the dice toss influence the outcome of the game?
- Is there a fair chance of each solution being tossed?

How to Play: Four-Grid Tic-Tac-Toe Activity

- Introduce the Four-Grid Tic-Tac-Toe activity by demonstrating on an overhead and playing against the class.
- Each team chooses a token and tosses a die. The higher number goes first.
- Teams toss a die or dice and perform the required computation. Operations differ for each activity.

- Teams locate the solution on any of the four Tic-Tac-Toe grids and place a token on only one of the solutions.
- With each toss of the die or dice, teams attempt to place their tokens in continuous alignment vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, forming as many Tic-Tac-Toe wins as possible.
- If the solution is not shown on any of the grids or already has a token on it, the team loses a turn.
- When no more plays are possible, the teams count their Tic-Tac-Toe wins. The team with the most Tic-Tac-Toes wins.

Variation

- Teams place a token on every box where the solution appears on all four Tic-Tac-Toe grids.
- Opposing teams agree to use the same strategy to see what happens.
- Opposing teams agree to each use a different strategy to see what happens.

Discussion

- What was your strategy in trying to win? Were you playing offensively or defensively? Did you play on one grid at a time, or did you try to play on all four grids simultaneously?
- Which strategy works best: trying to get the most three tokens in a row or trying to block your opponent?
- Discuss what would happen if both teams used the same strategy throughout the game.
- Discuss what might happen if opposing teams let each other know whether they would play offensively or defensively.

Square the Die Tic-Tac-Toe

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.



How to Play

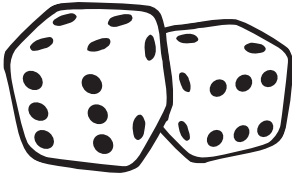
1. Toss a die. **Square** the number (multiply the number by itself—for example, 3×3).
2. Place a token on the square number.
3. If a number is taken, lose a turn.
4. The first team to get three tokens in a row wins the game.
5. Play 3 games. The team winning 2 out of 3 games wins.

36	25	16
4	9	4
25	16	1

Square Two Dice Tic-Tac-Toe

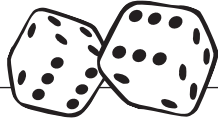
- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.

How to Play



1. Toss 2 dice. Find the sum.
2. Square the sum (multiply the sum by itself—for example, 7×7).
3. Place a token on the square number.
4. If the number is taken, lose a turn.
5. The first team to get three tokens in a row wins the game.
6. Play 3 games. The team winning 2 out of 3 games wins.

36	25	121
64	49	9
100	16	81



Closest Square Number Tic-Tac-Toe

1. Toss 2 red dice and find the sum. Toss 2 green dice and find the sum.
2. Multiply the sum of the red dice by the sum of the green dice.
3. Place a token on the square number closest to the product.
4. If the number is taken, lose a turn.
5. The first team to get three tokens in a row wins the game.
6. Play 3 games. The team winning 2 out of 3 games wins.

How to Play

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.

36	25	121
64	49	9
100	16	81

One-Die Square Root Tic-Tac-Toe

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.



How to Play

1. Toss a die. The tossed number is the solution to which square root expression? Find it on the chart.
2. Place a token on that expression.
3. If the expression is taken, lose a turn.
4. The first team to get three tokens in a row wins the game.
5. Play 3 games. The team winning 2 out of 3 games wins.

$\sqrt{36}$	$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{16}$
$\sqrt{4}$	$\sqrt{9}$	$\sqrt{4}$
$\sqrt{25}$	$\sqrt{16}$	$\sqrt{1}$

Two-Dice Square Root Tic-Tac-Toe

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.

How to Play



1. Toss the dice. Find the sum.
2. The sum is the solution to which square root expression? Find it on one of the grids.
3. Place a token on that expression.
4. If the square root expression is taken, lose a turn.
5. The first team to get three tokens in a row wins the game.
6. Play 3 games. The team winning 2 out of 3 games wins.

$$\sqrt{36}$$

$$\sqrt{25}$$

$$\sqrt{121}$$

$$\sqrt{64}$$

$$\sqrt{49}$$

$$\sqrt{9}$$

$$\sqrt{100}$$

$$\sqrt{16}$$

$$\sqrt{81}$$

Die × Die + or –1 Prime Number

Tic-Tac-Toe

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.

How to Play

1. Toss 2 dice. Find the product. Either add 1 to the product or subtract 1 from the product.
2. If that number is a prime number, place a token on the number.
3. If the number is not prime, or the prime number has a token on it, lose a turn.
4. The first team to get three tokens in a row wins the game.
5. Play 3 games. The team winning 2 out of 3 games wins.



7	13	29
2	11	5
3	23	19

One-Die Factorial (!) Tic-Tac-Toe

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.



How to Play

1. Toss a die.
2. Place a token on the factorial of the number tossed.
 $1! = 1$ $2! = 2 \times 1$ $3! = 3 \times 2 \times 1$
 $4! = 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$ $5! = 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$ $6! = 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$
3. If the factorial has a token on it, lose a turn.
4. The first team to get three tokens in a row wins the game.
5. Play 3 games. The team winning 2 out of 3 games wins.

720	120	24
2	6	2
120	24	1

Tic-Tac-Toe

One-Die Summation (Σ)

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.

How to Play



1. Toss a die. Place a token on the **summation** (Σ) of the number tossed.

$$\Sigma 1 = 1$$

$$\Sigma 2 = 2 + 1$$

$$\Sigma 3 = 3 + 2 + 1$$

$$\Sigma 4 = 4 + 3 + 2 + 1 \quad \Sigma 5 = 5 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1 \quad \Sigma 6 = 6 + 5 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1$$

2. If the **summation** is already taken, lose a turn.

3. The first team to get three tokens in a row wins.

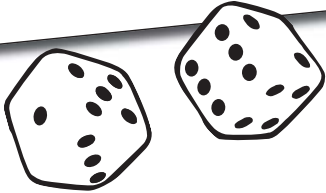
4. Play 3 games. The team winning 2 out of 3 games wins.

21	15	10
3	6	3
21	10	1

Positive and Negative Numbers

Tic-Tac-Toe

- Each team tosses a die.
- Higher number goes first.
- Each team chooses a color token.



How to Play

1. Toss a green die and a red die. Compute the sum or difference.
Example: green die = 3, red die = -5. Compute: $(+3) + (-5) = -2$.
2. Place a token on the number.
3. If the number is not available, lose a turn.
4. First team to get three tokens in a row wins the game.
5. Play 3 games. Team winning 2 out of 3 games wins.

-2	+1	-3
+3	0	+2
-4	+5	-1