

Modified Tic-Tac-Toe

Object: to be the first player to reach the sum of 15 on any three squares

Materials needed: *Modified Tic-Tac-Toe* game board and game pieces for each pair of players

Number of players: 2

Teacher Preparation

Print out, copy, and cut out a *Modified Tic-Tac-Toe* game board and game pieces for each pair of players. You may want to mount the game pieces on card stock before cutting them out.

Game Play

• **Playing the game**

A player places one *X* card and one *O* card face down for the other player to choose from and then gets the remaining card. The player who gets the *X* card goes first.

Player 1 places an *X* card on one of the squares numbered 1 through 9. Player 2 then places an *O* card on one of the remaining squares.

During the next round, player 1 places a second *X* card on one of the remaining squares. Player 2 places a second *O* card and should try to place it so that player 1 cannot reach the sum of 15 on his or her next turn. For example, if player 1 places *X* cards on 7 and 5 in the first two rounds, then player 2 might place an *O* card on 3. ($7 + 5 + 3 = 15$)

The game continues as each player tries to reach the sum of 15 on any three squares before the other player does. If neither player reaches 15 before all of the squares are selected, then the game ends in a tie.

• **Winning the game**

The first player to reach the sum of 15 on any three squares wins the game.

• **Variation**

Play the game with a game board numbered 1 through 16 and a sum goal of 34.

Discussion

Encourage students to analyze and explain their strategies. For example, do they focus on the sum of their squares, the sum of their opponent's squares, or both.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	

