

GO

A few simple rules,
limitless possibilities...



Go is

- over 3,000 years old
- easy to learn
- challenging to master
- fun for young and old alike
- a national game in Japan, in China (called [Weiqi](#)) and in Korea (called [Baduk](#))

It also has

- a simple handicapping system
- European, World Amateur, Professional and Team Championships

In the UK we have...

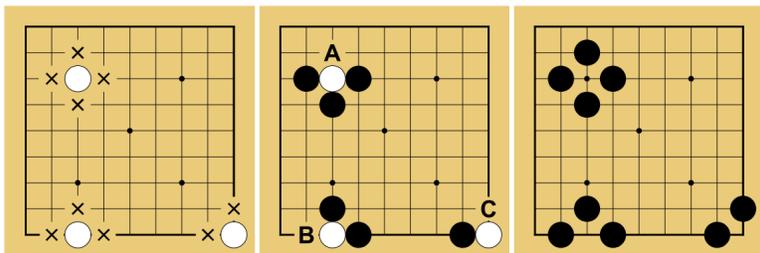
- about 60 clubs
- tournaments most weekends
- junior tournaments
- online team and individual leagues
- teaching events
- a regular magazine

GO

How?

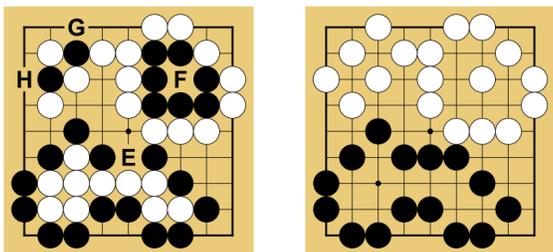
Start with an empty board (usually 19x19, but also 9x9 and 13x13)

- Black plays first
- play pieces (stones) alternately on intersections
- stones don't move after playing
- the player who surrounds the most territory is the winner



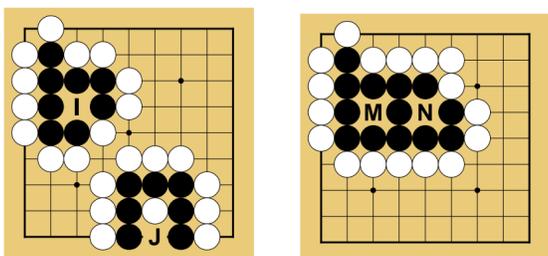
Plays at A, B or C capture the White stones

- capture a stone or string of stones by surrounding them (on the lines)



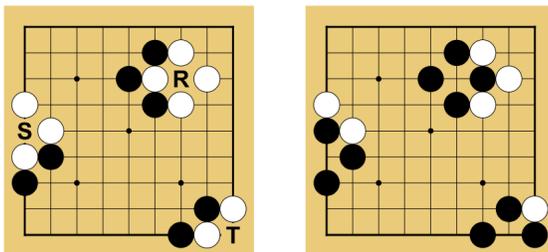
The diagram on the right shows the result after Black plays E and G and White F

- then take them off



White can't play at M or N, but can play at I or J as that would capture the Black stones

- suicide is not allowed



After Black has played R, S or T White is not allowed to retake immediately

- repetition is also not allowed

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Where?

Face to face...

Clubs provide a welcoming teaching environment.

Tournaments are a great way to test your skill and meet other players.

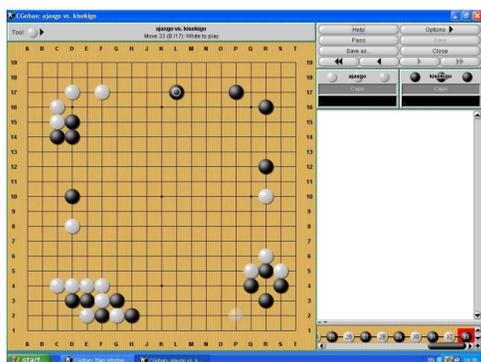


In Pairs...

Pair Go is mixed doubles Go, where the partners cannot confer. A World Championship is held annually in Japan.

On a Computer...

Computers cannot beat experts, but can now beat most amateurs on a small board. There are many Internet servers where you can find an opponents any time.



In Space...

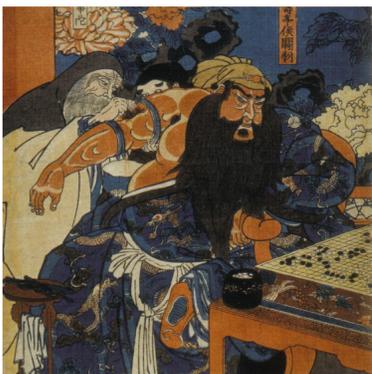
Go was played in the Space Shuttle in 1996 by astronauts Dan Barry and Koichi Wakata. Their paper Go set is on display in Tokyo's Go museum.

GO

In...

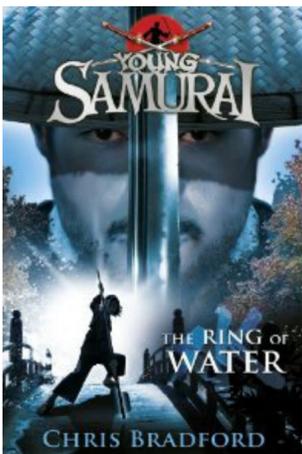
History...

Go spread from China, through Korea to Japan. Go was played by the ruling classes and samurai. It was one of the scholarly arts. Top players were famous, as they are today.



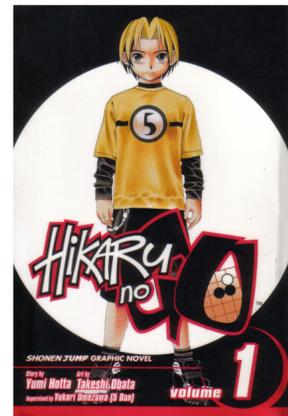
Literature...

Increasing numbers of western novels, films and televisions feature Go as part of their plots.



Art...

Many UK museums have Oriental ceramics that depict Go. Woodblock prints also feature Go, such as the famous Japanese General playing Go whilst being operated on.



Manga...

Go has its own manga and anime called "Hikaru no Go". This is the adventures of a boy trying to become a professional - very popular in Japan and is also available in English.