THE CARTOON BOOK OF

POLO



ANIMAL

SPORT ON EARTH

Sport on Earth Books · The Animal sports Family

Original illustrations · No characters were copied in the making of this book

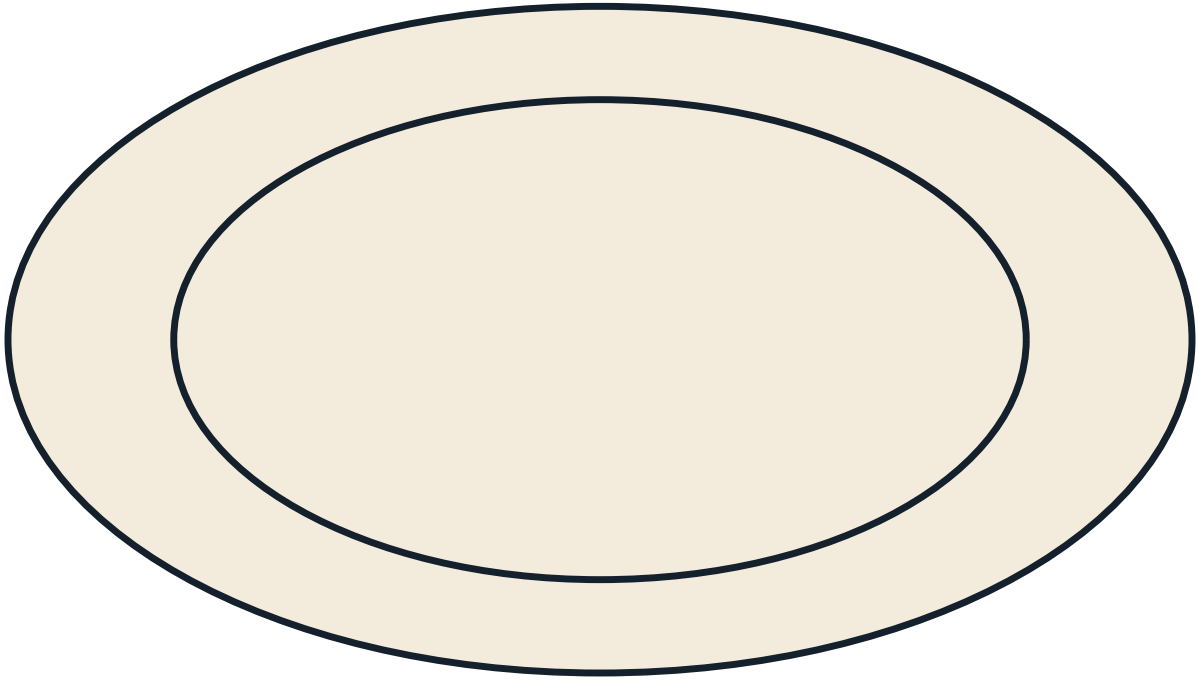
Meet Polo!

Mounted team game; Argentina is the leading nation.



Where It Is Played

A full-size grass field of play bounded by side lines or boards (about 11 inches high), with a safety zone 10 yards beyond the side lines and 30 yards behind the back lines and goals 8 yards wide at each end.



The Gear

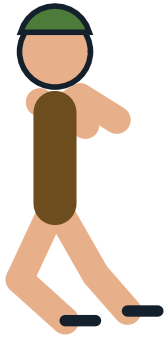
Polo pony, mallet, ball (3-3.5 inches, 4.25-4.75 oz), approved helmet with chinstrap, boots, breeches and kneepads.





How It Starts

Take riding and polo lessons at an HPA-affiliated club, gain a club handicap through assessed play, and join instructional chukkas before tournament play.



How to Play

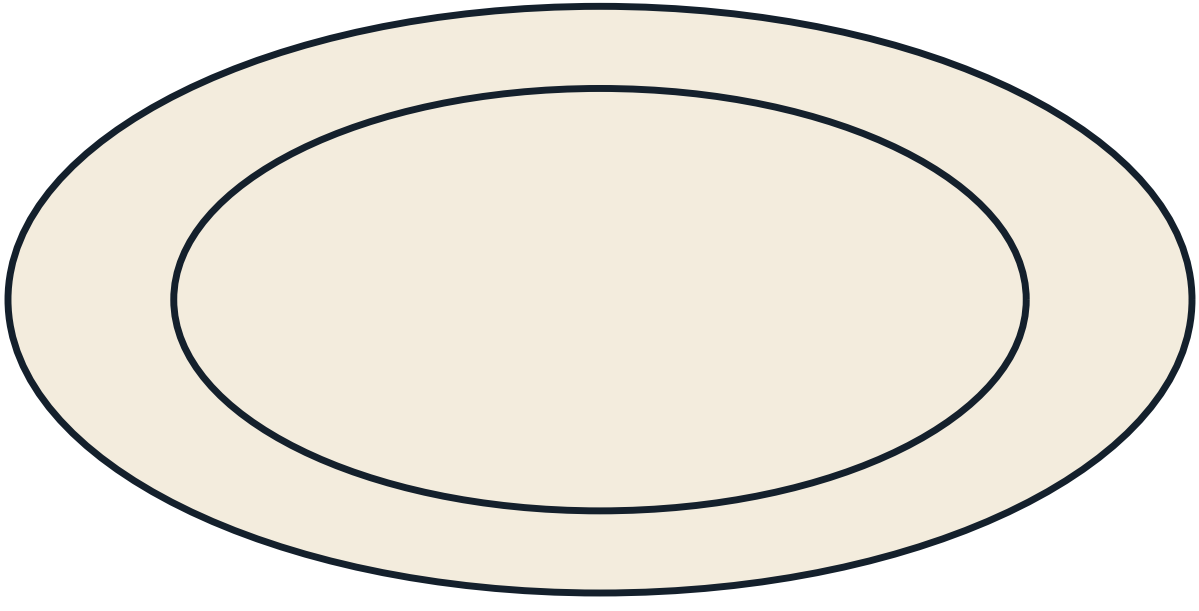
- Format: two teams of no more than 4 players on horseback (3 per team in arena / winter polo) play a match divided into chukkas, hitting a ball with long mallets to score in the opponents' goal.
- Scoring: a goal is scored when the ball passes between the goal posts, which are 8 yards apart and 10 ft high and built to collapse safely if hit; the team with the most goals at the end wins, with handicaps applied in handicap tournaments.
- The Line of the Ball (LOB) — the extended path along which the ball has travelled or is travelling — is the reference for precedence between players (HPA Rule 27).
- A player on the exact LOB with the ball on the offside has precedence over other players; no player may enter in front of the player on the LOB except at a speed and distance involving not the slightest risk of collision.

More of the Game

- No player may play with the left hand.
- Players must wear an approved helmet with chinstrap, and ponies, tack and spurs / whips are regulated; misuse of the stick, hooking, dangerous riding and riding-off are fouls under Rules 35-37.
- Fouls are punished from the penalty scale: Penalty 1 is a penalty goal; Penalties 2, 3 and 4 are free hits from 30, 40 and 60 yards; Penalty 5 is a hit from the spot or the centre; Penalty 10 is a player sent off.
- Matches are controlled by two mounted umpires whose decisions are final, with a referee (third man) adjudicating if the umpires disagree, plus goal judges and a timekeeper / scorer.

The Shape of a Match

Four-a-side mounted teams play chukkas on a large grass field, striking the ball with mallets through 8-yard goals; most goals (after handicap) wins.



More of the Animal sports Family

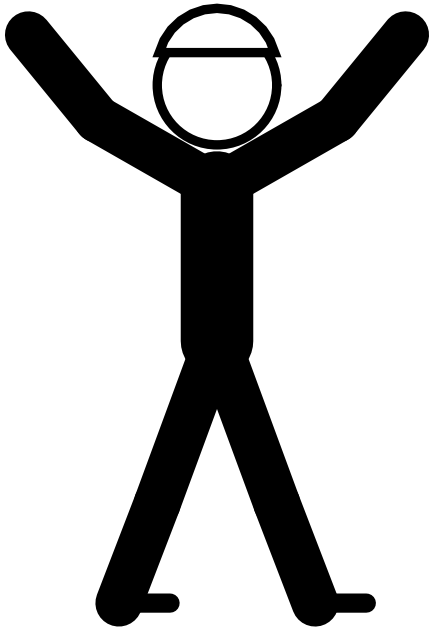
- Horse Racing — Thoroughbred and harness racing, with the Triple Crown and Breeders' Cup.
- Rodeo and Bull Riding — PBR and rodeo circuits of riding events.
- Polocrosse — Polo and lacrosse hybrid on horseback.
- Cycle Polo — Polo played on bicycles.
- Dog Agility — Dogs run obstacle courses with handlers.
- Sled Dog Racing — Endurance mushing, including the Iditarod.

A Note on the Rules

Polo is governed by the HPA (UK), USPA and the FIP internationally under the handicap system (each player rated −2 to 10 goals) that has structured the sport for a century, with chukka and field rules stable; pony welfare rules have tightened by revision. No major documented rule change is carried for polo.

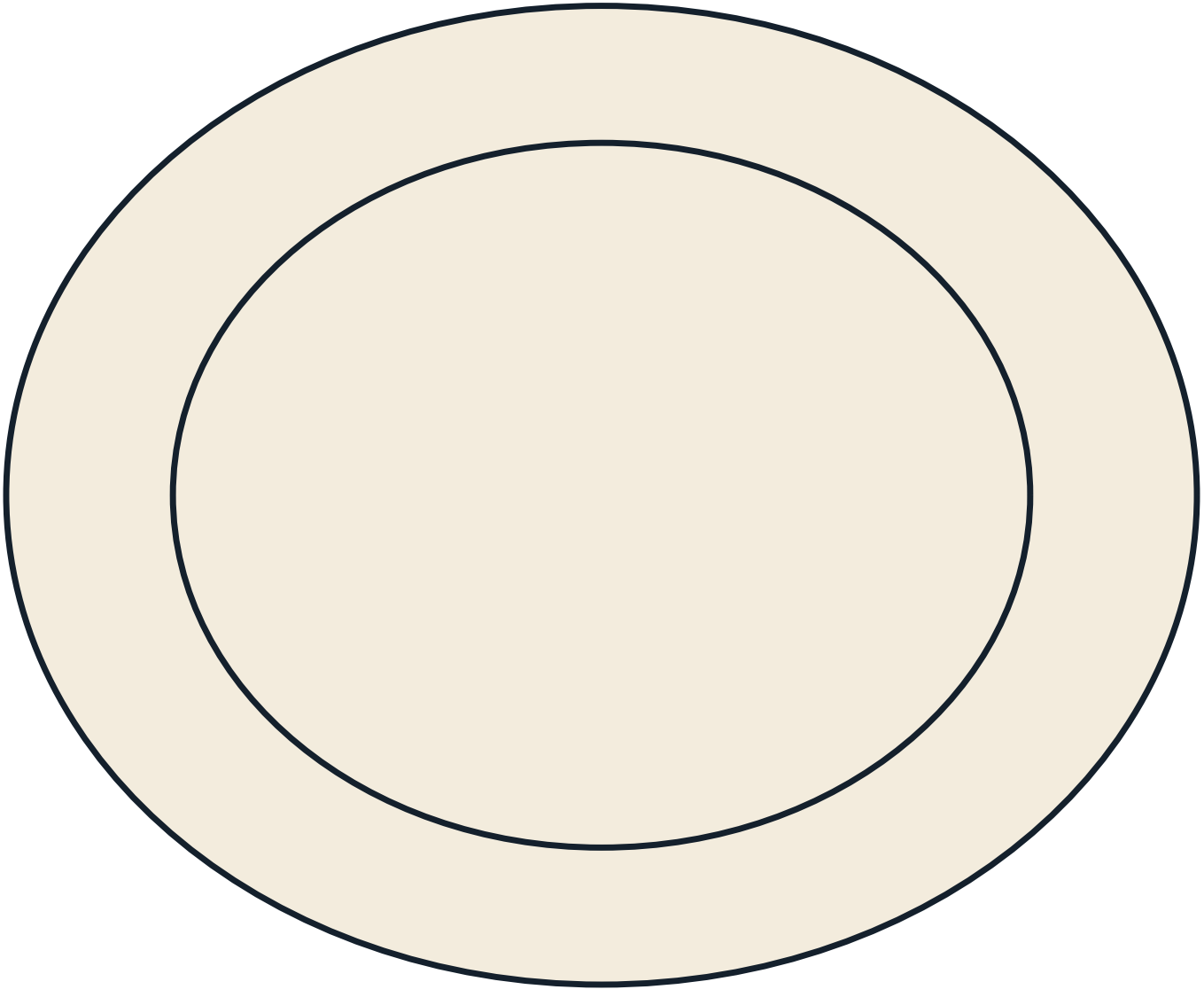


Colour the Action

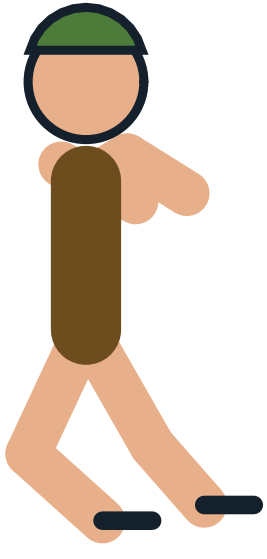


Psst — this page is a colouring page!

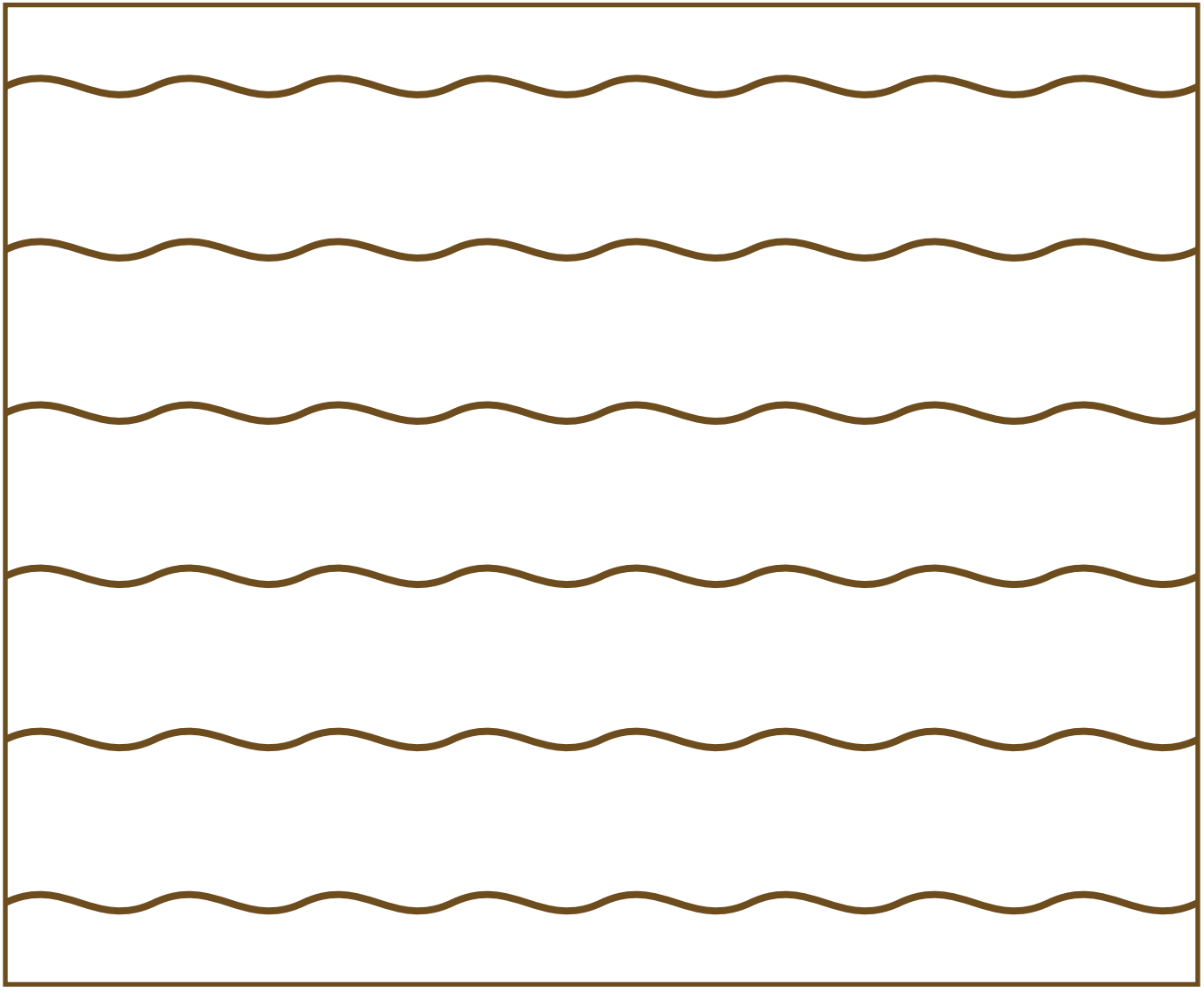
The Sport Today



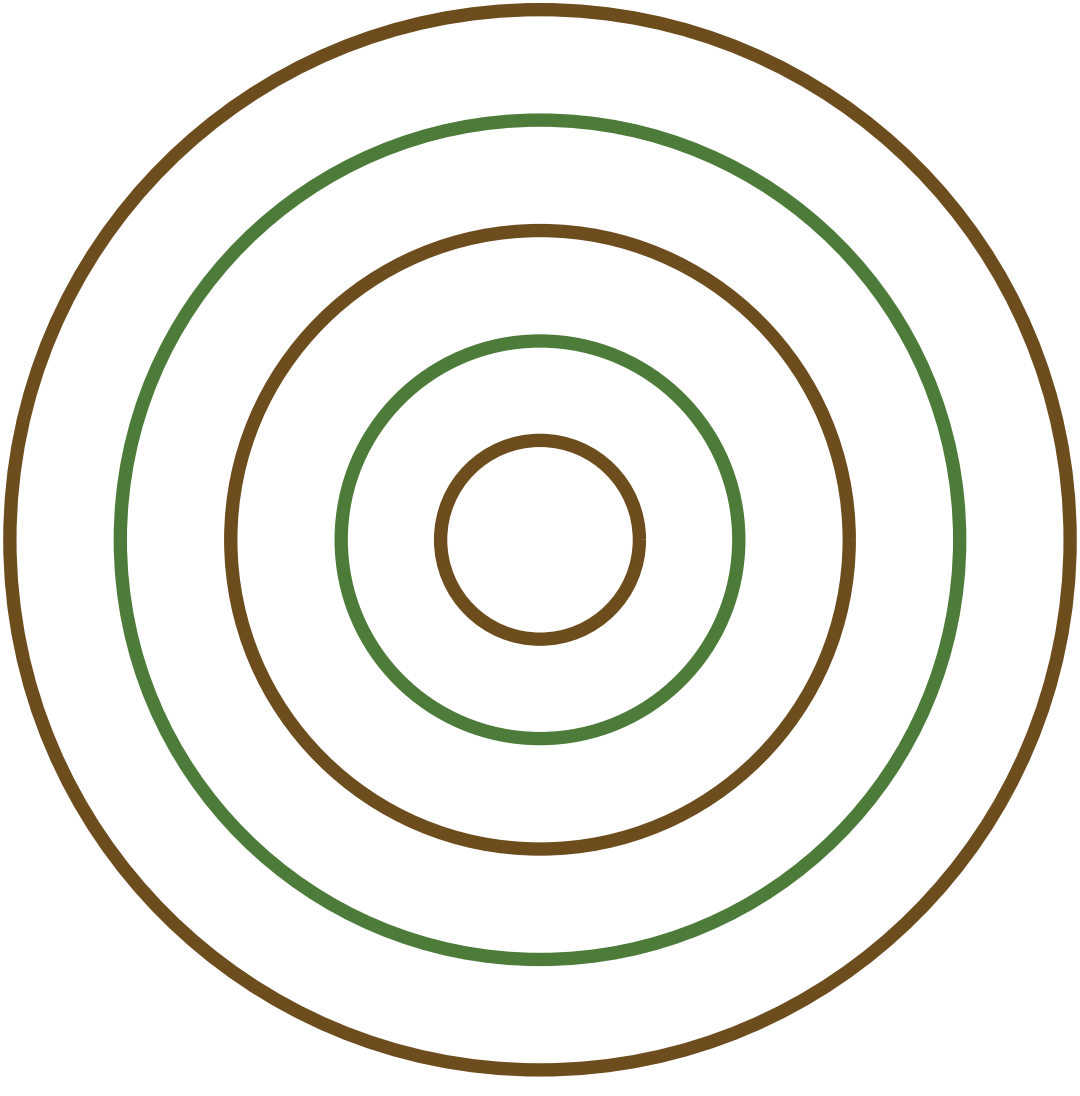
At School and College



Play It Near You



Through the Year

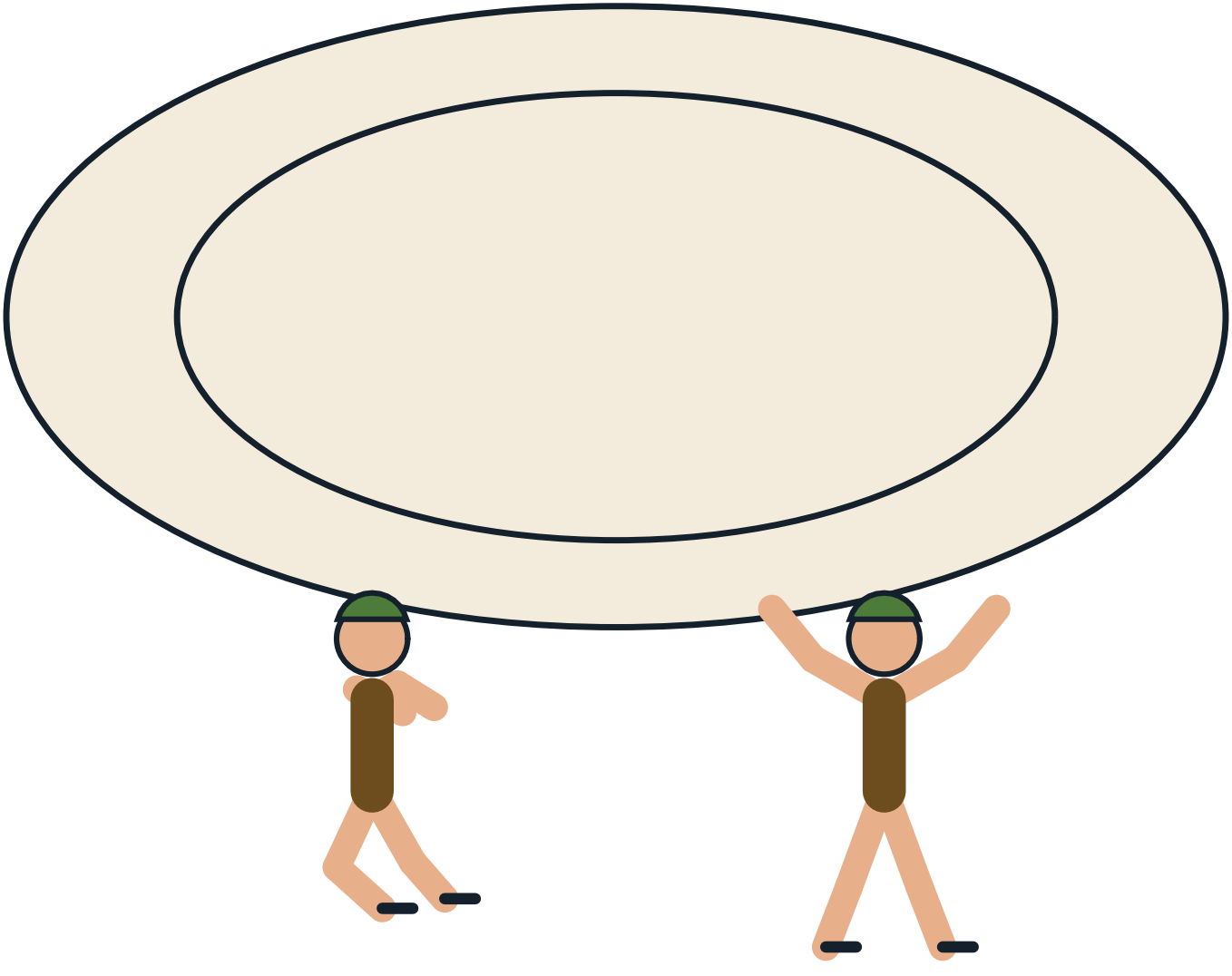


The Animal sports Family

Every sport belongs to a family of games that share its shapes and skills. Here are some of this book's closest relatives — each with a cartoon book and a colouring book of its own.

- Horse Racing — Thoroughbred and harness racing, with the Triple Crown and Breeders' Cup.
- Rodeo and Bull Riding — PBR and rodeo circuits of riding events.
- Polocrosse — Polo and lacrosse hybrid on horseback.
- Cycle Polo — Polo played on bicycles.
- Dog Agility — Dogs run obstacle courses with handlers.

Game Day!



The Sport on Earth Mark

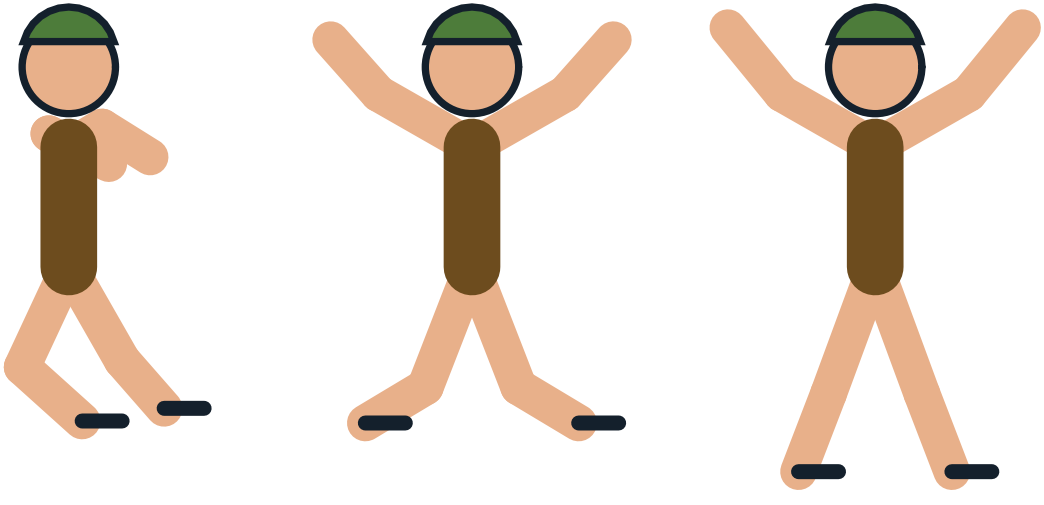
Every sport on Sport on Earth carries its own original mark, drawn for the site. Here is this sport's.



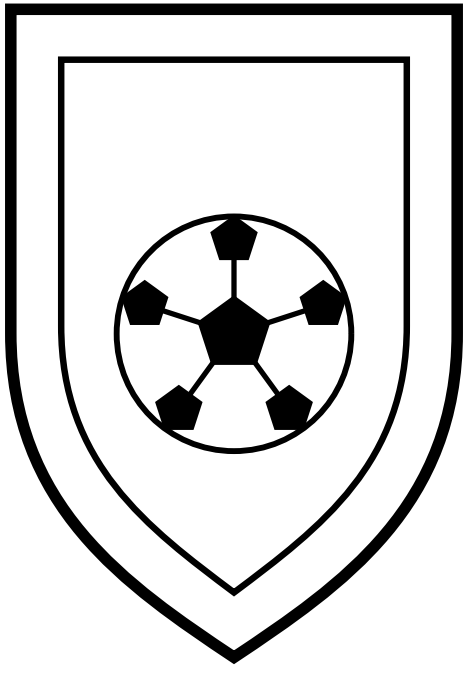
ANIMAL

SPORT ON EARTH

Moves of the Game



Design a Badge



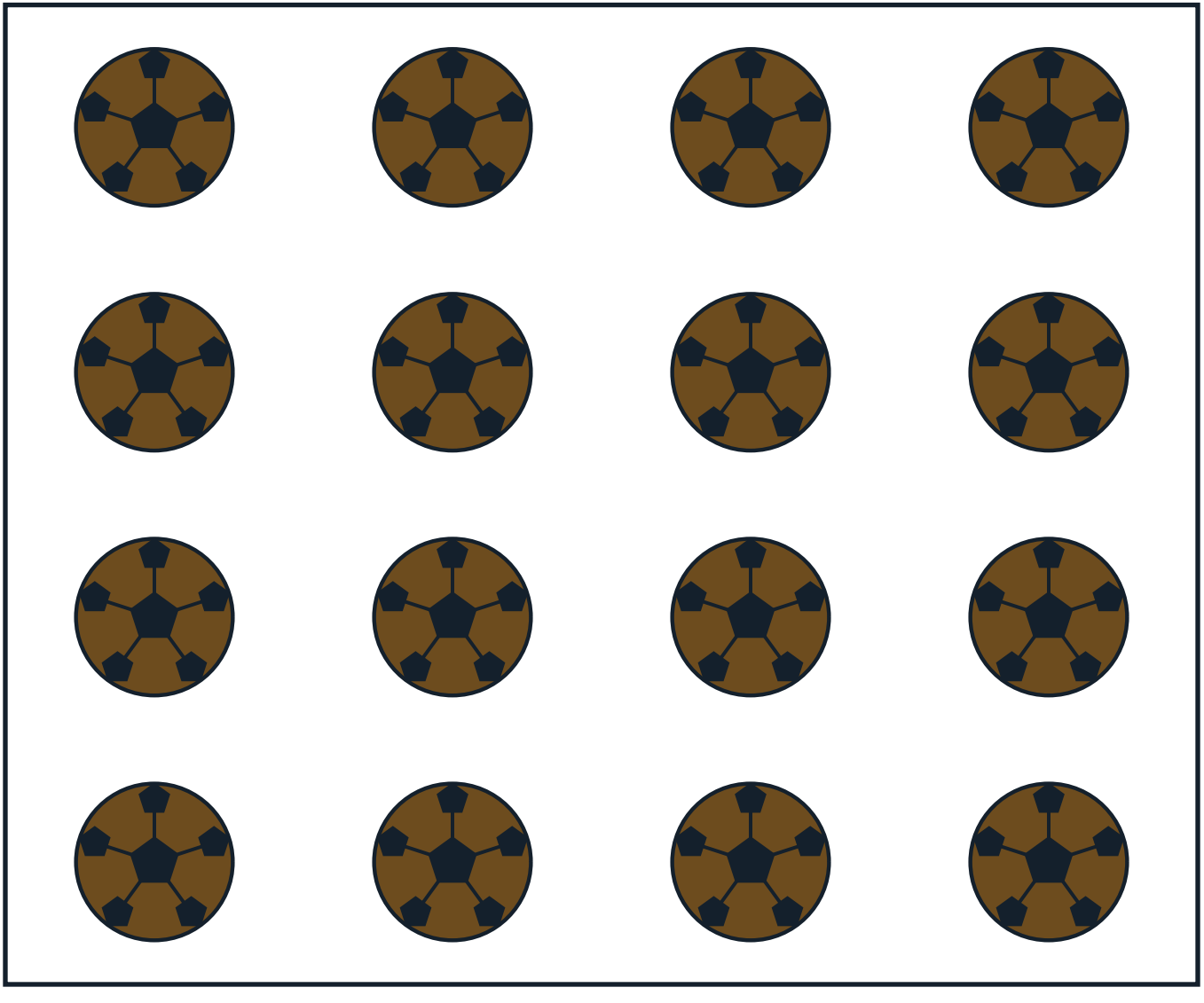
Draw and colour a badge for your own team.

The Gear Parade

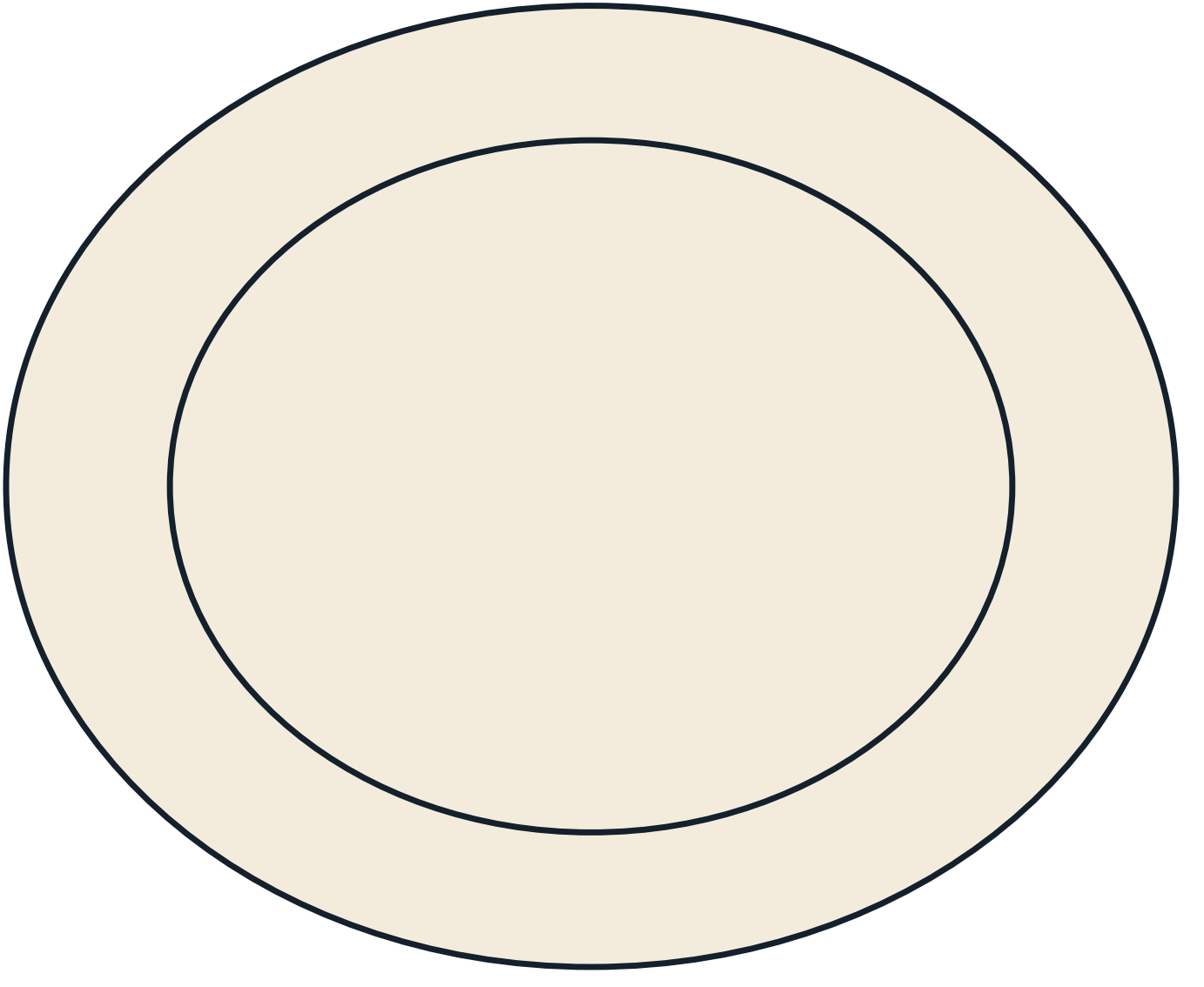




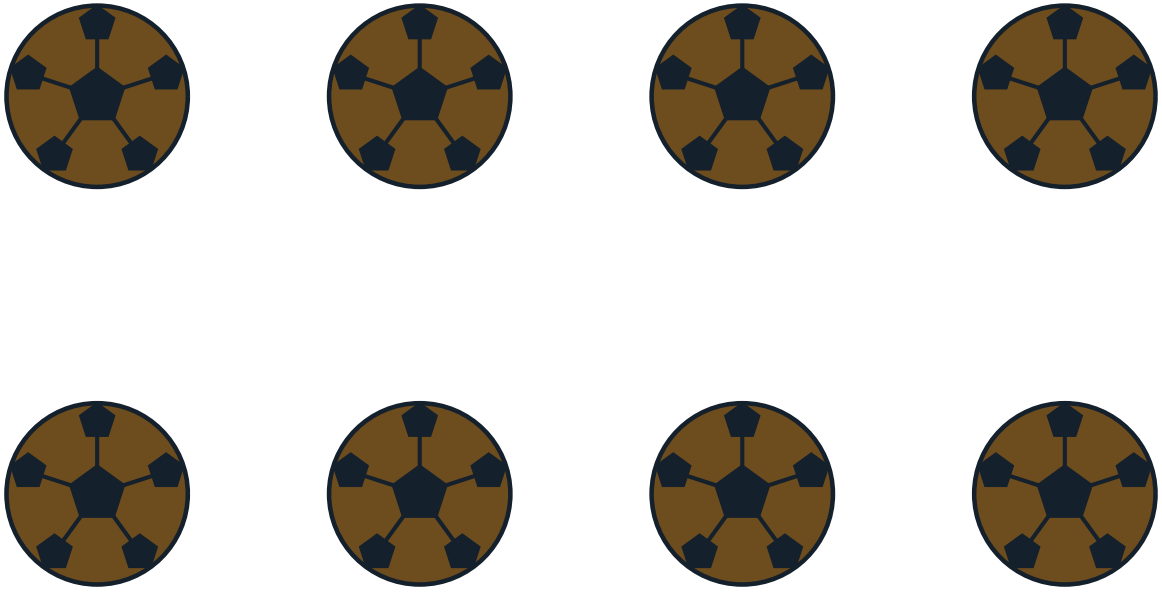
Pattern Play



The Arena From Above



Count the Balls!



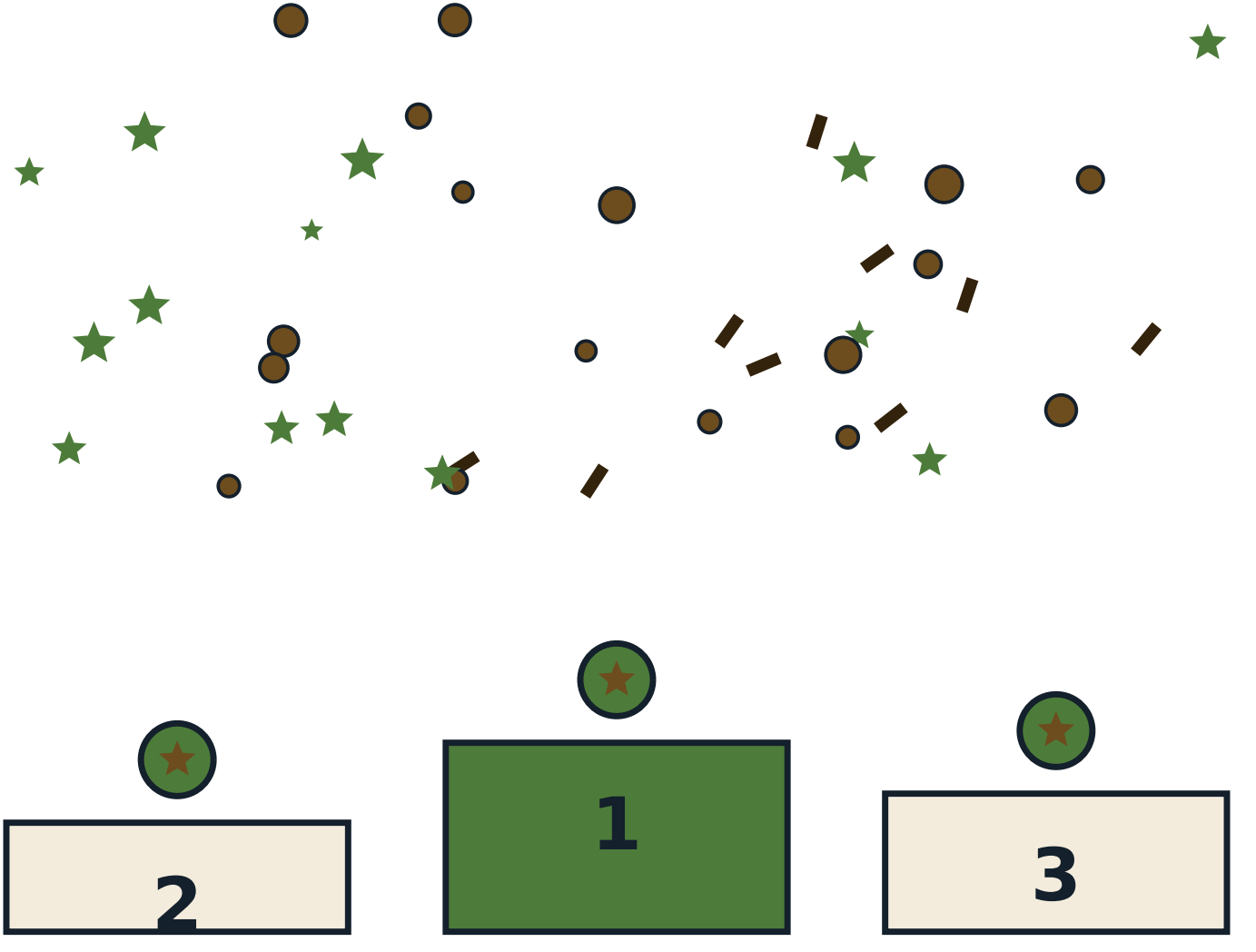
How many can you count? Write the number here: _____

My Favourite Part of Polo

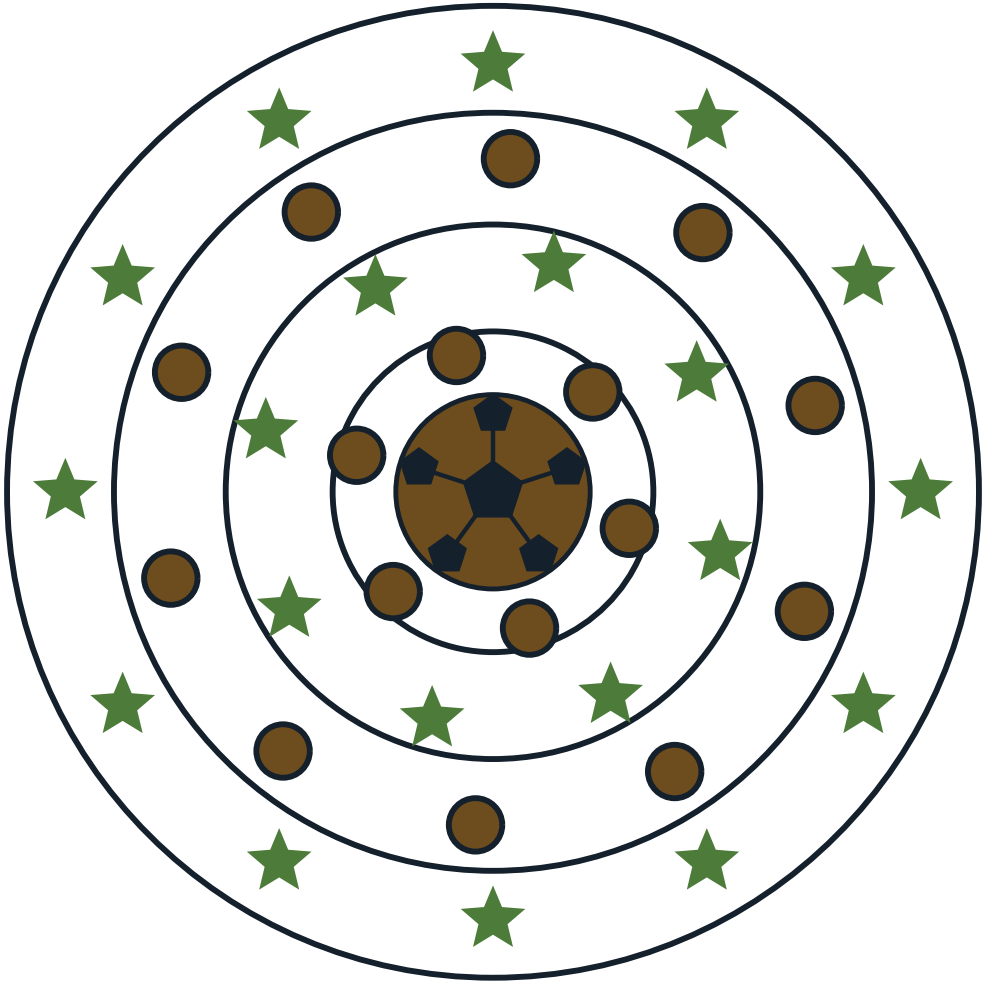
Gear Close-Up



Champions!



The Mandala of the Game



About This Book

Governing body: Hurlingham Polo Association (HPA). Laws edition the site's rules file follows: HPA Rules of Polo (2021 Rules, as reproduced and summarised from the HPA rulebook). Everything in this book comes from Sport on Earth's own verified sport files — the same words you can read on the sport's page at Sport on Earth. The illustrations are original artwork drawn by computer for this book series. They are not pictures of real players, real teams or anybody else's characters.

More Books in the Family

- The Cartoon Book of Horse Racing
- The Cartoon Book of Rodeo and Bull Riding
- The Cartoon Book of Polocrosse
- The Cartoon Book of Cycle Polo
- The Cartoon Book of Dog Agility
- The Cartoon Book of Sled Dog Racing
- The Horse Racing Colouring Book
- The Rodeo and Bull Riding Colouring Book

My Notes

Polo

The Cartoon Book of Polo — a Sport on Earth Book.

Text from Sport on Earth's verified sport files. Illustrations: original programmatic artwork created for this series, including the site's own sport mark. No copyrighted characters, team logos or player likenesses appear in this book.

Collect the whole shelf: a cartoon book and a colouring book for every one of the 442 sports and games on Sport on Earth.

