THE CARTOON BOOK OF

STOOLBALL



BAT-AND-BALL

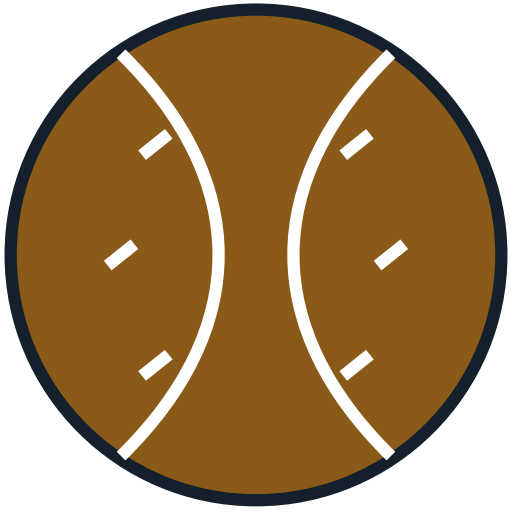
SPORT ON EARTH

Sport on Earth Books · The Bat, stick & racket Family

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

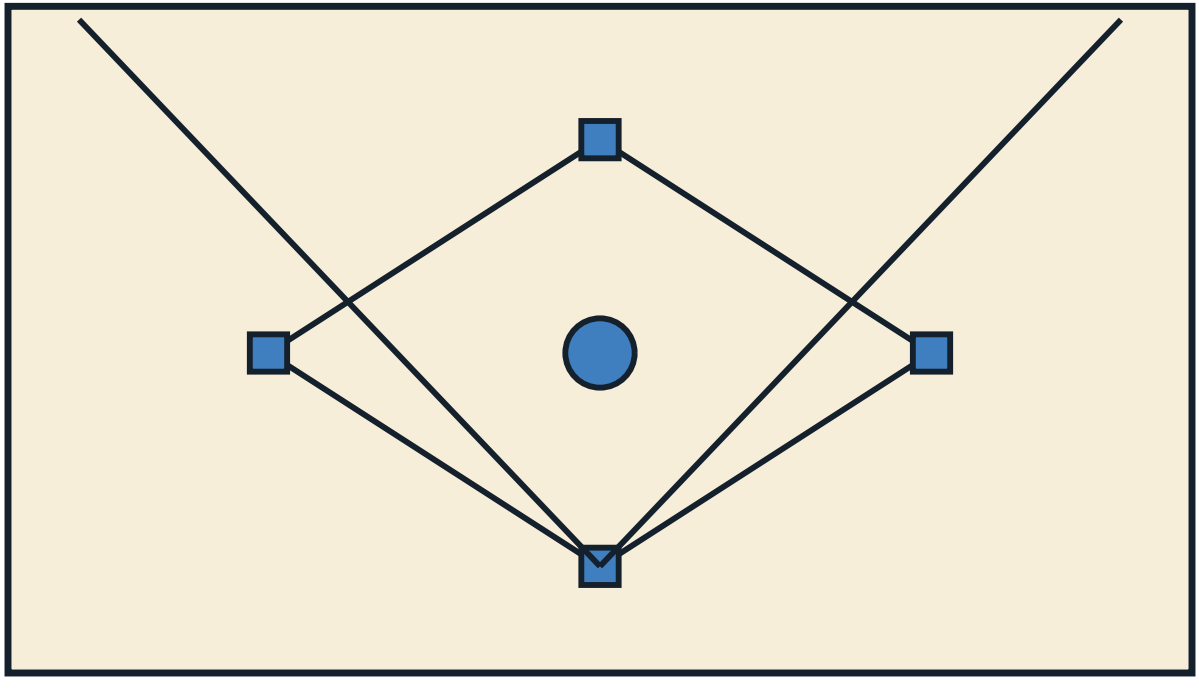
Meet Stoolball!

Old English bat-and-ball game that predates cricket.



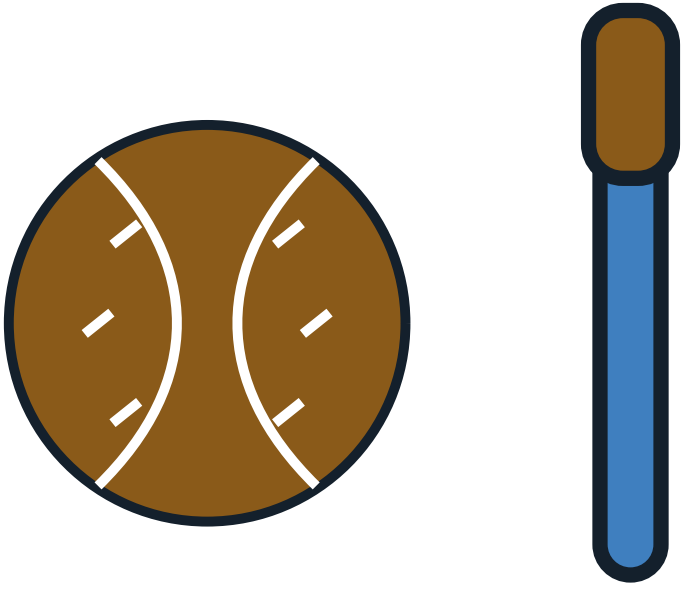
Where It Is Played

Grass field with the boundary, where possible, 40 metres (45 yards) from the centre of the pitch; the bowling crease is 9.15 m (10 yards) from the batting wicket.



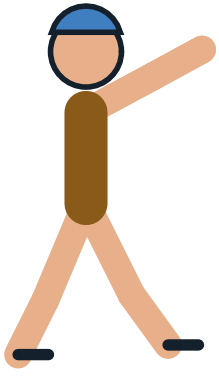
The Gear

A wooden stoolball bat not exceeding 483 mm in length, and a Stoolball England approved ball weighing 70-85 g with a circumference of 178-197 mm.



How It Starts

Set the two board wickets 16 yards apart, toss for first innings, and bowl underarm on the full at the striker's wicket.



How to Play

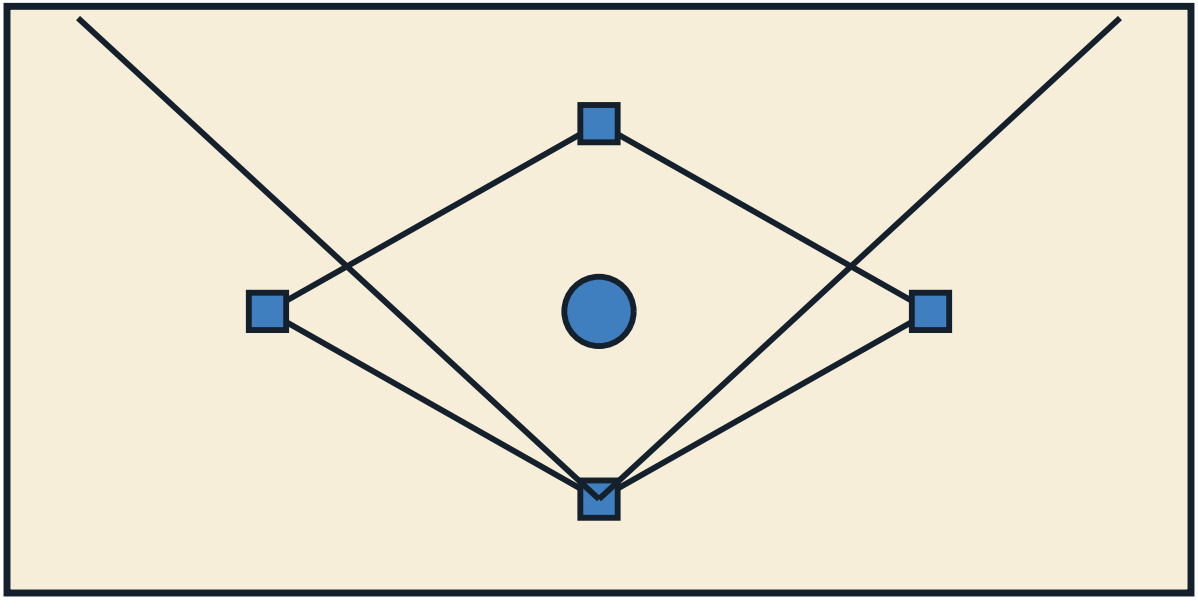
- A match is played between two teams of not more than eleven players, with a maximum of six men per team in a mixed match, each team playing under a captain who tosses a coin for the choice of first innings.
- A match is won by the team that scores the most runs within an agreed number of overs; if the final scores are equal, the match is a tie.
- The wickets are two boards, each 305 mm square and 12 mm thick, mounted on stakes so the top of the wicket is level and 1.42 m from the ground, pitched opposite and parallel at 14.6 m (16 yards) apart.
- An over consists of eight legitimate deliveries, overs are bowled alternately to each wicket, and bowlers are not allowed to bowl consecutive overs.

More of the Game

- The bowler must deliver the ball underarm and must not throw or jerk it; a delivery failing the no-ball conditions, or a wide, adds one run to the score and an extra delivery is bowled.
- A run is scored when the batters cross and make good their ground from wicket to wicket, touching the wicket or stake with the hand, or the bat held in the hand, on completing the run.
- The umpire signals four runs when the ball hits or crosses the boundary after first touching the ground, and six runs if the ball clears the field of play and passes over or lands directly on the boundary.
- No run is scored if a batter is caught, and the uncompleted run does not count if a batter is run out.

The Shape of a Match

Two teams of up to eleven play a cricket-like batting game over an agreed number of eight-ball overs, scoring runs between two board wickets.

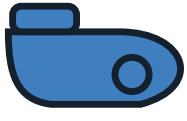


More of the Bat, stick & racket Family

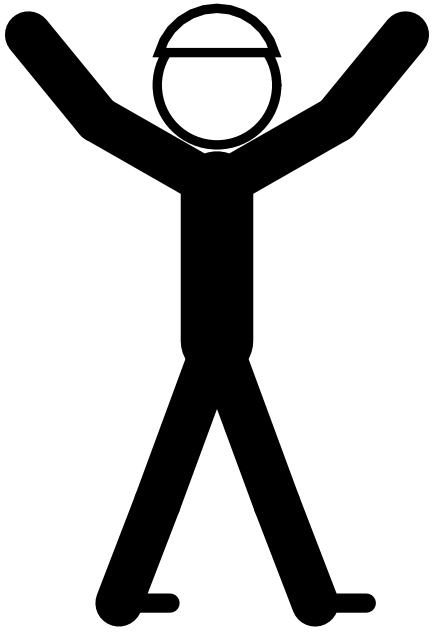
- Cricket — A fielding side tries to dismiss batters and limit runs; batters score by running between wicke.
- Baseball — A pitcher throws to a batter; hit the ball, run the bases, and score runs before three outs.
- Tennis — Players hit a ball over a net into the opponent's court.
- Badminton — Players rally a shuttlecock over a high net. Matches are best of three games to 21.
- Table Tennis — A fast game of spin and reflexes; first to 11 points wins a game; best of five or seven games.
- Padel — Tennis-squash hybrid played in an enclosed glass court.

A Note on the Rules

Stoolball is governed by Stoolball England under laws with genuinely medieval roots (the game is referenced in 15th-century sources): a bat, ball, and two wickets ('stools'), codified for the modern Sussex leagues in the 20th century and essentially stable since. No major documented rule change is carried for stoolball.

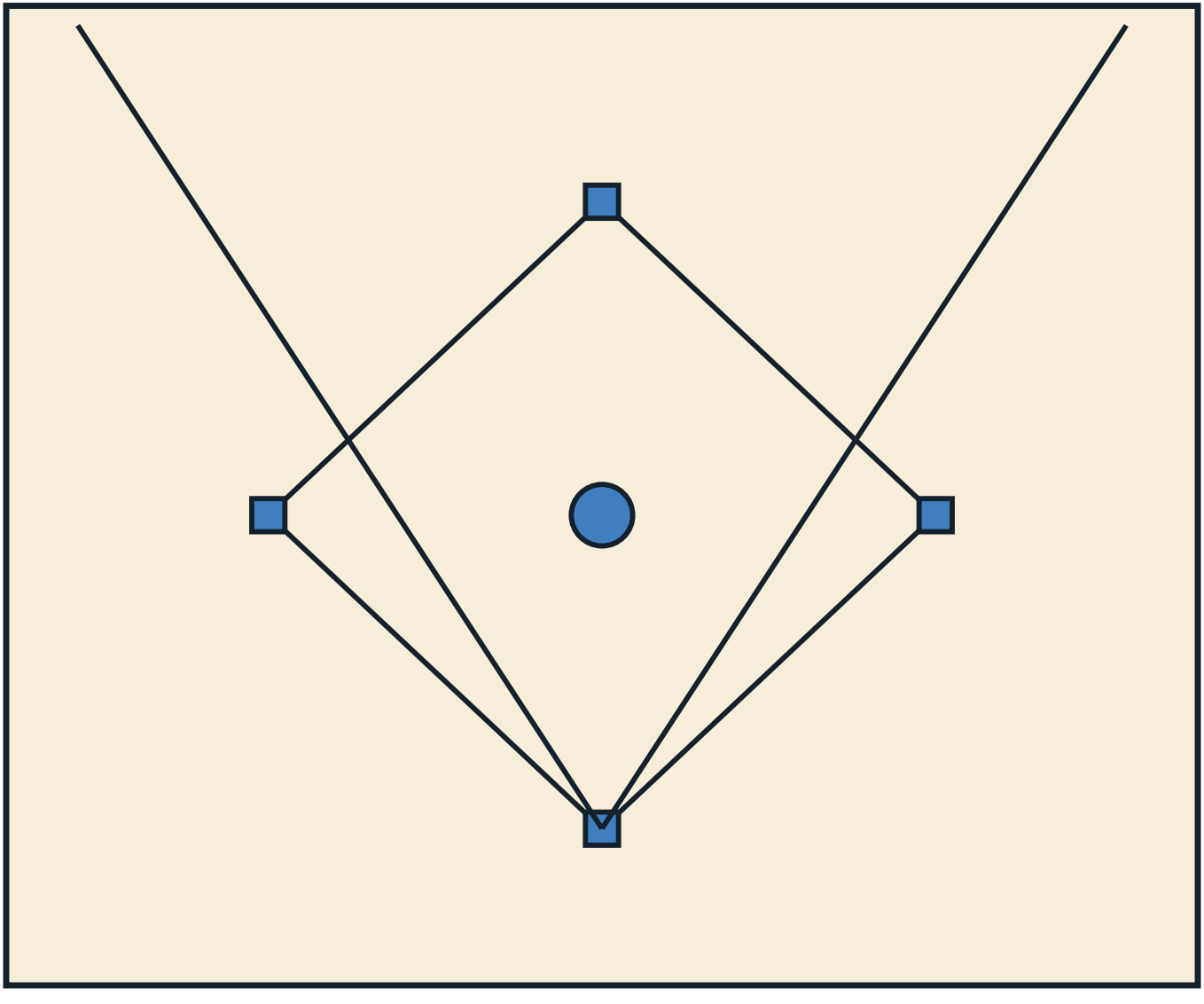


Colour the Action

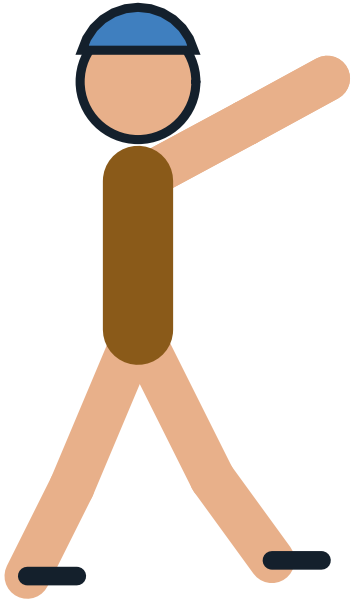


Psst — this page is a colouring page!

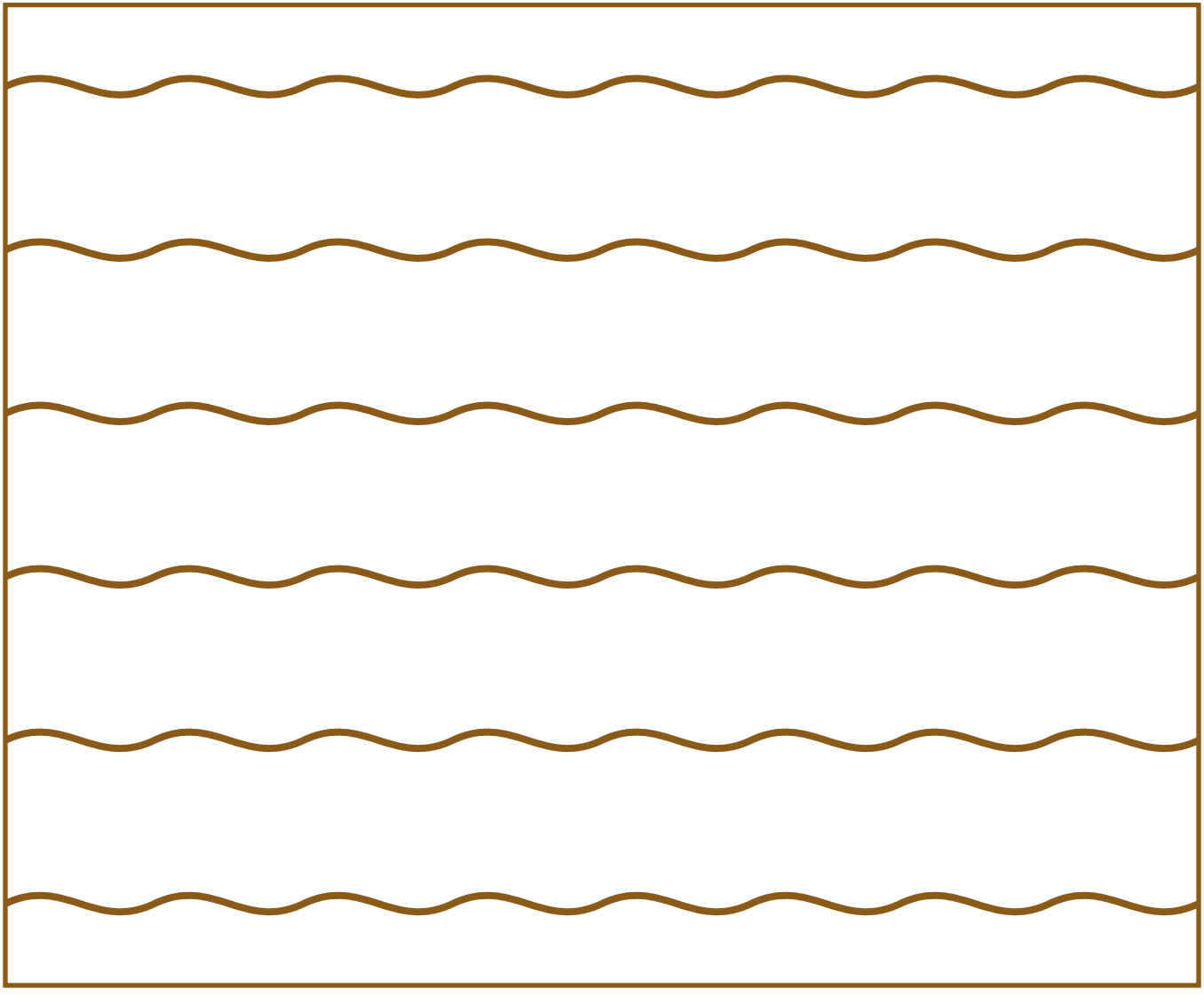
The Sport Today



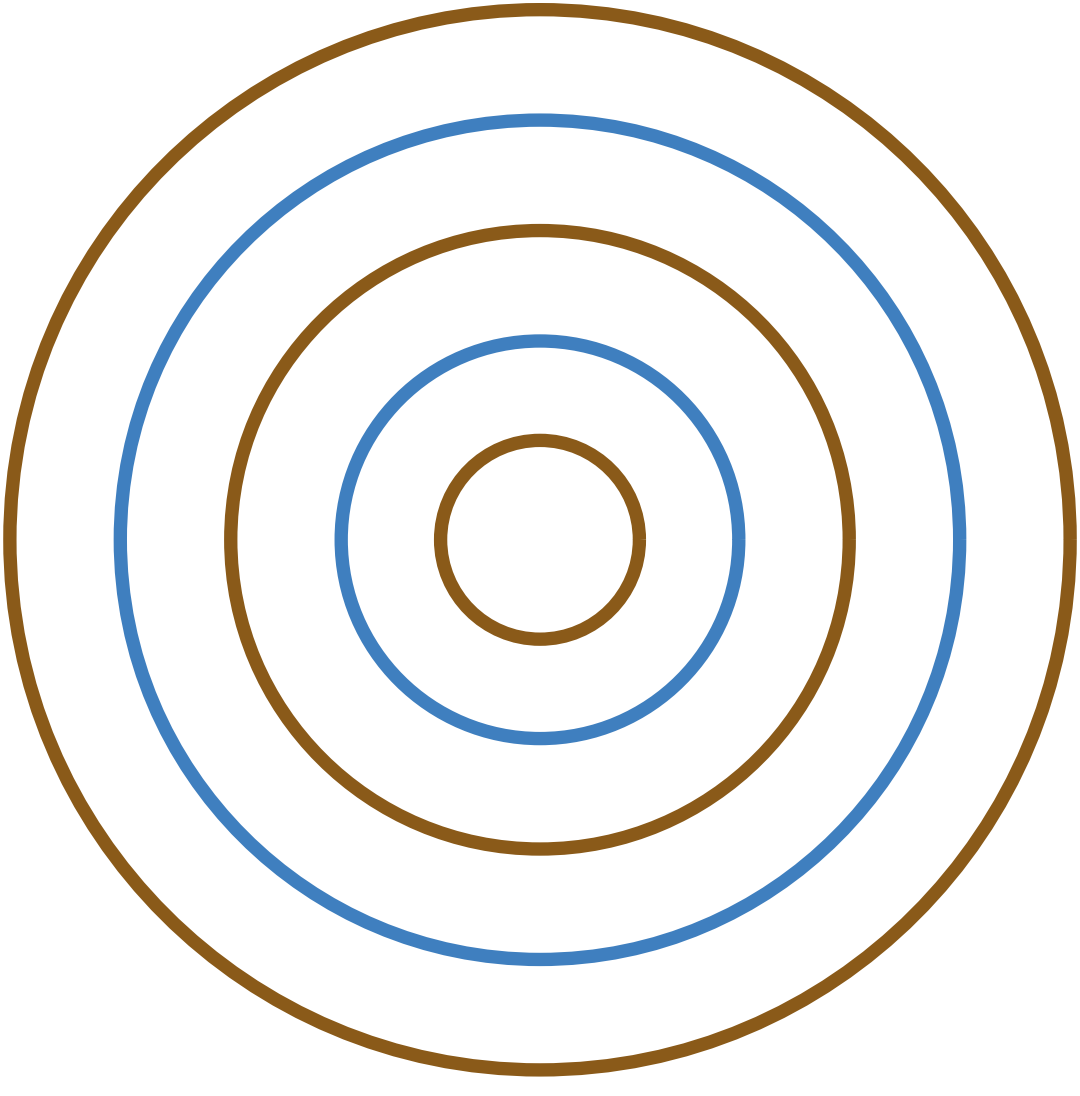
At School and College



Play It Near You



Through the Year



The Bat, stick & racket 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.

- Cricket — A fielding side tries to dismiss batters and limit runs; batters score by running between wicke.
- Baseball — A pitcher throws to a batter; hit the ball, run the bases, and score runs before three outs.
- Tennis — Players hit a ball over a net into the opponent's court.
- Badminton — Players rally a shuttlecock over a high net. Matches are best of three games to 21.
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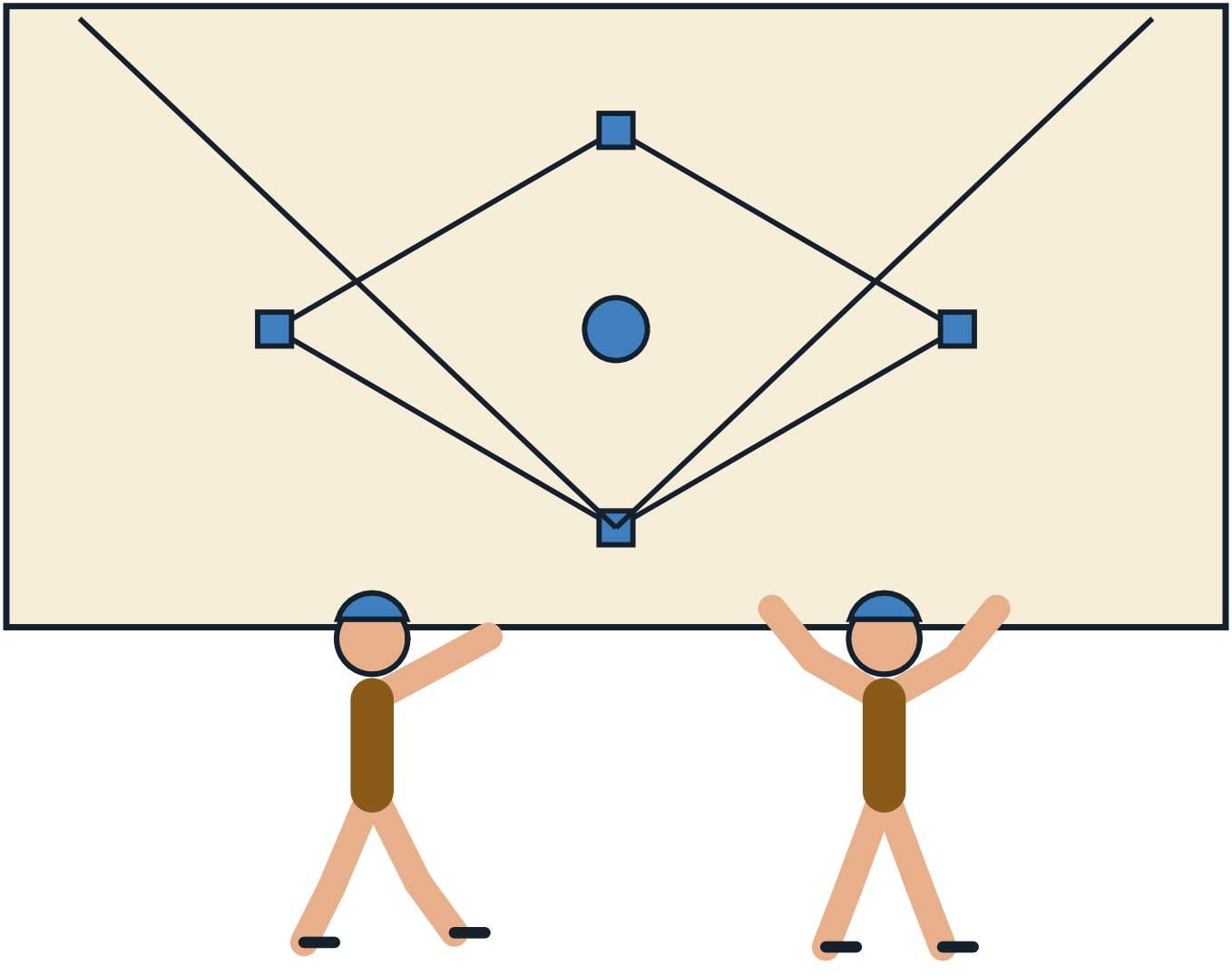
Game Day!



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.



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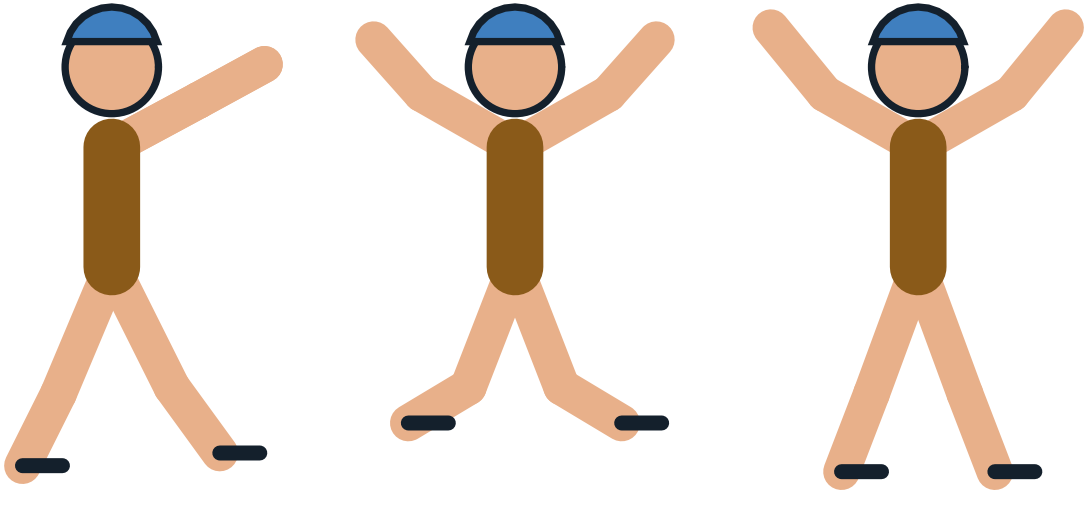
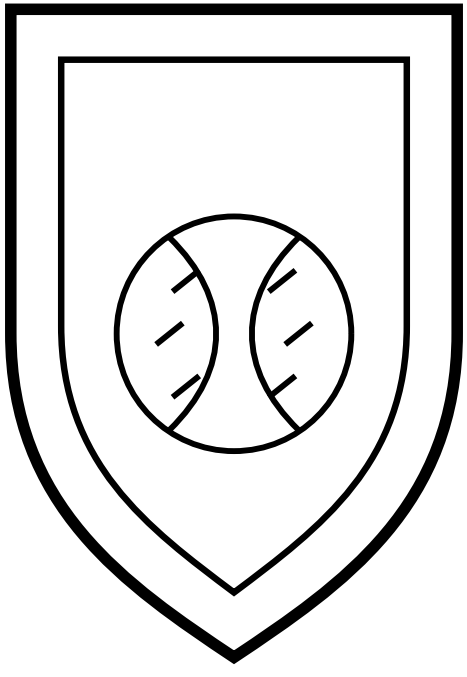
Moves of the Game

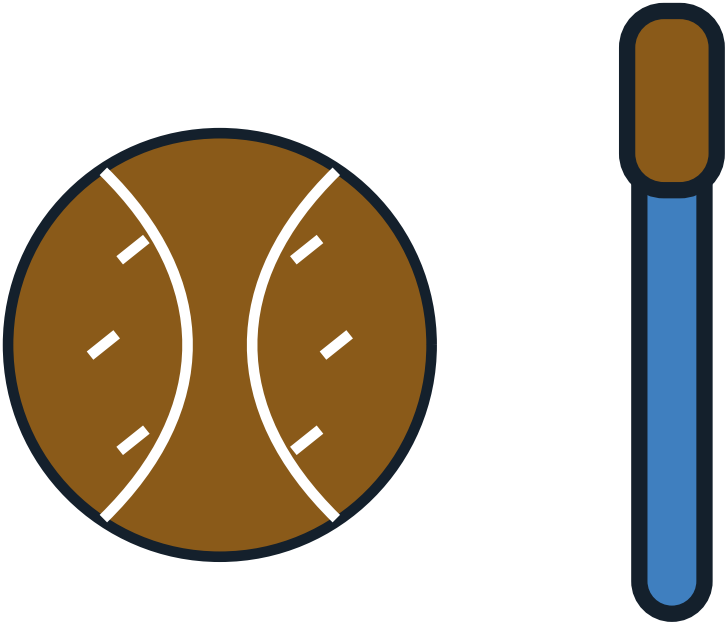


Design a Badge

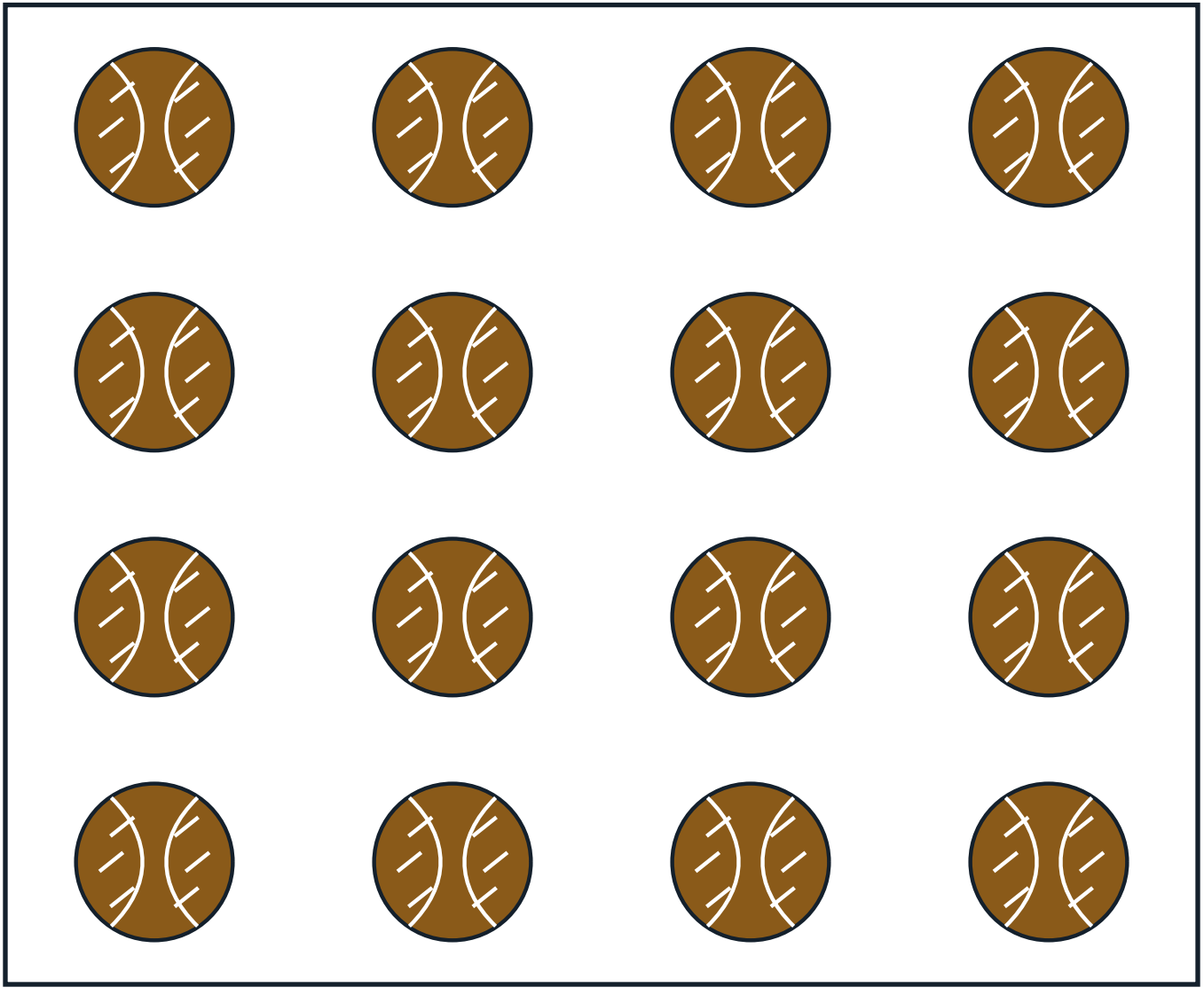


Draw and colour a badge for your own team.

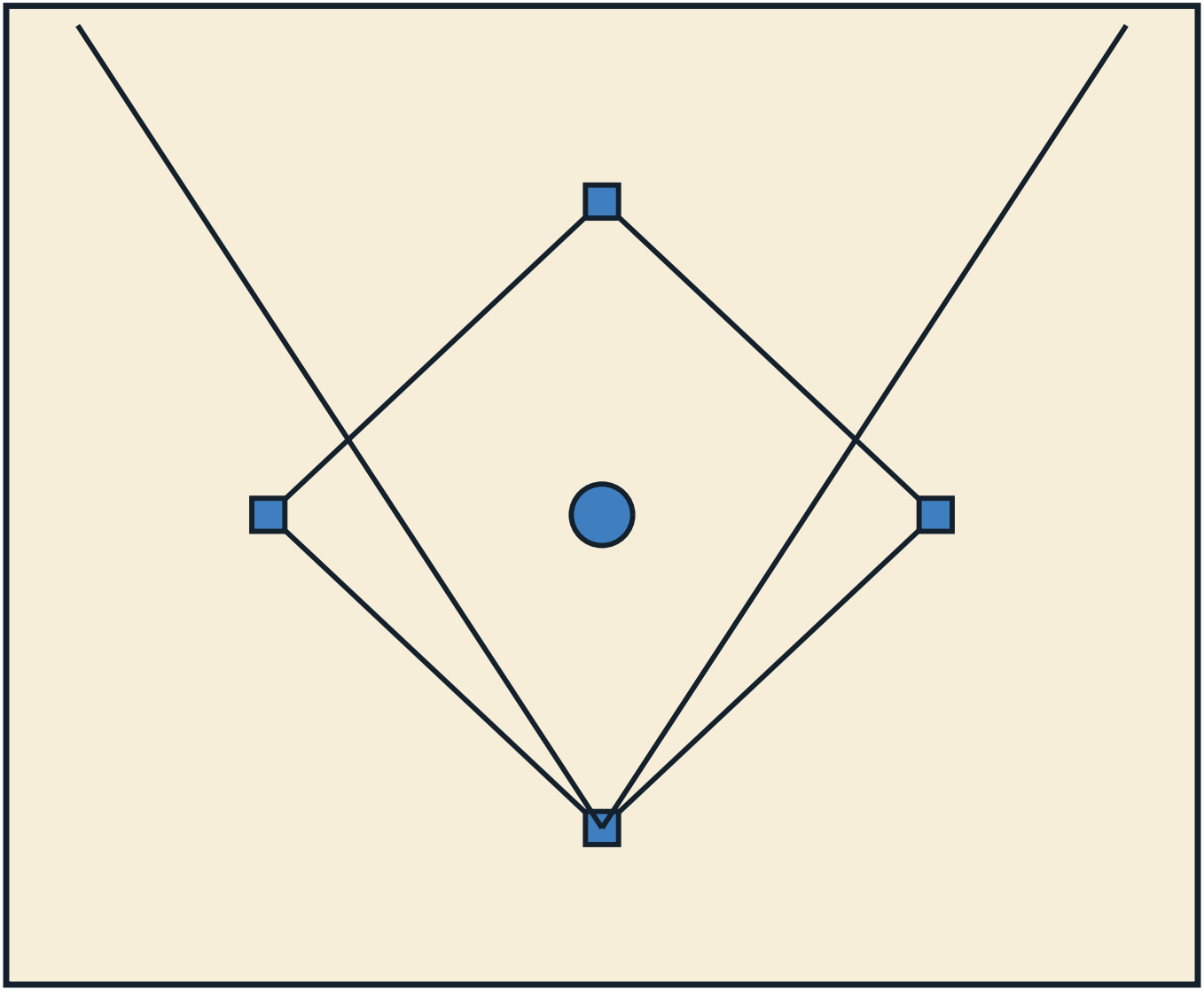
The Gear Parade



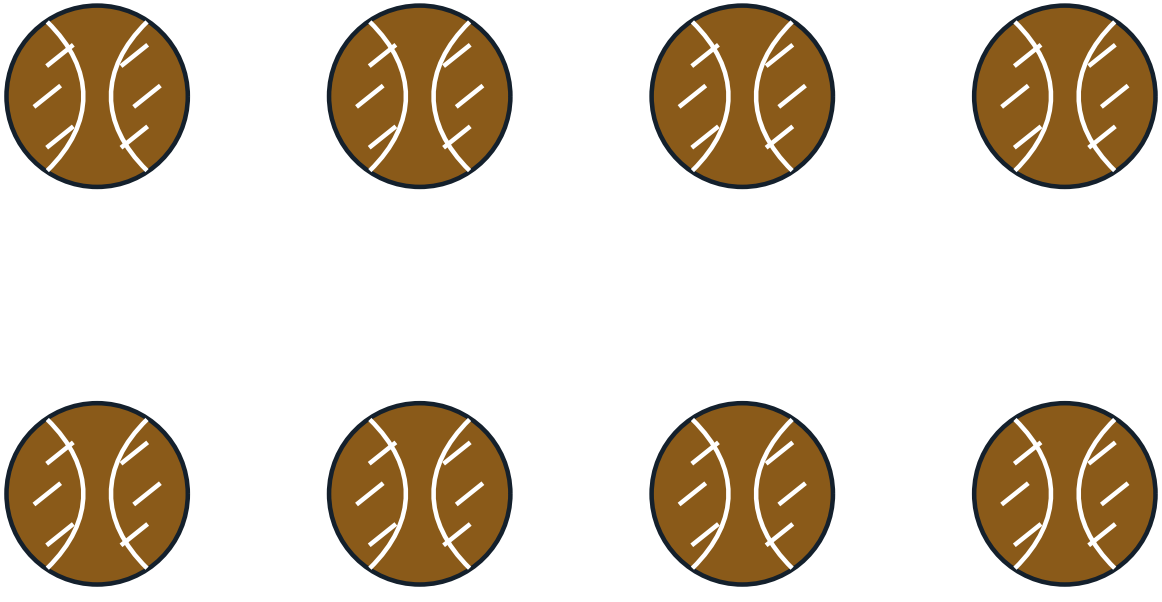
Pattern Play



The Arena From Above



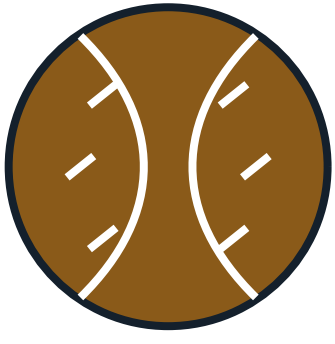
Count the Balls!



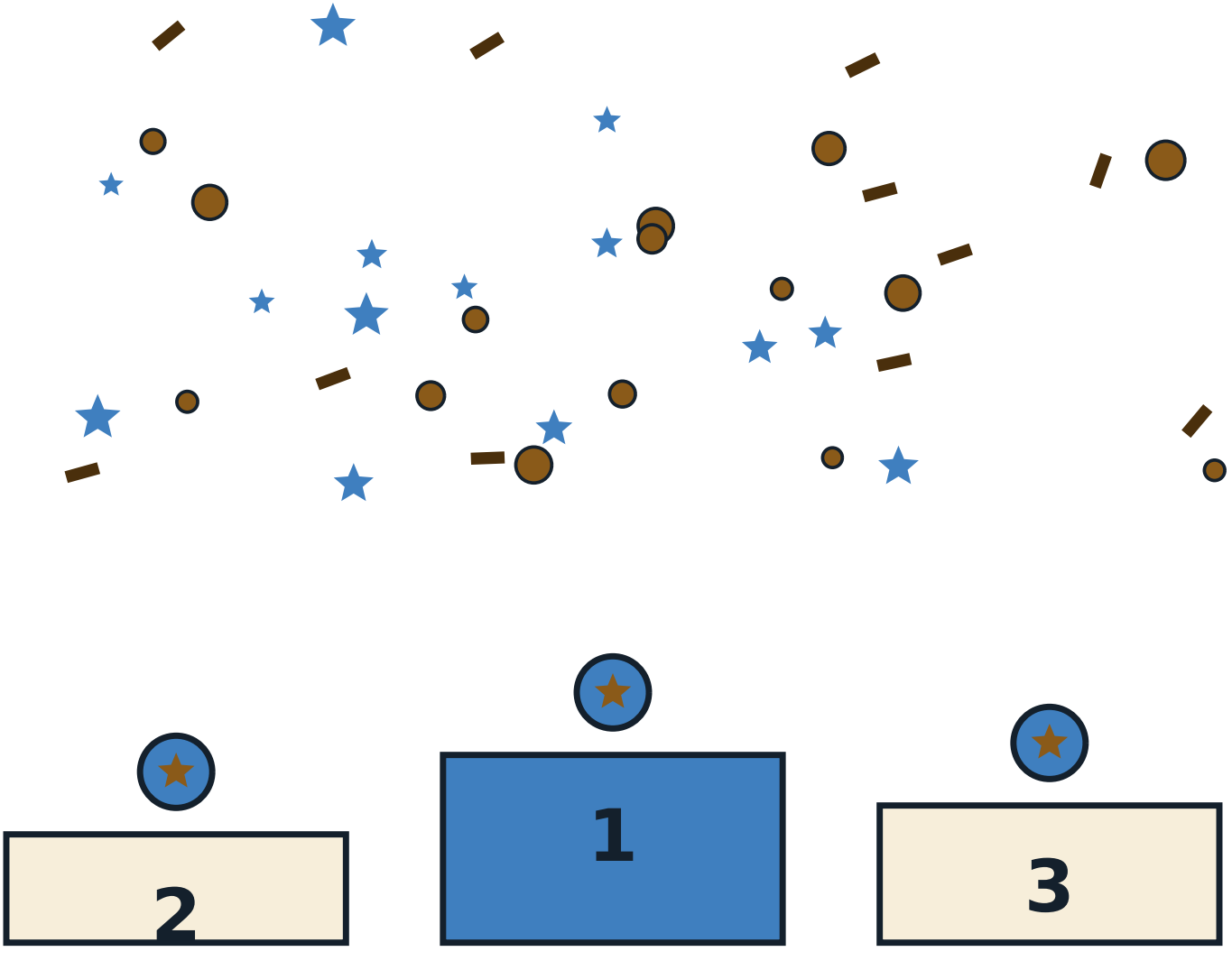
How many can you count? Write the number here: _____

My Favourite Part of Stoolball

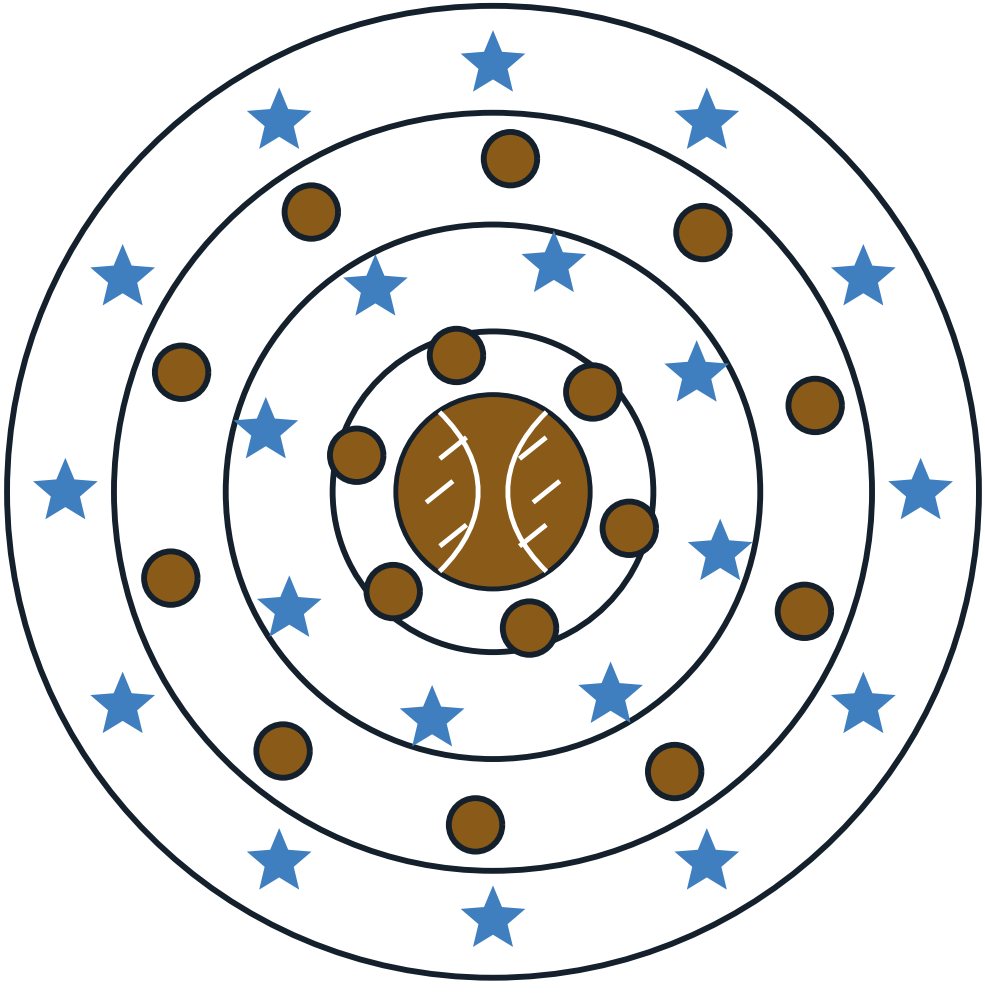
Gear Close-Up



Champions!



The Mandala of the Game



About This Book

Governing body: Stoolball England. Laws edition the site's rules file follows: Rules of Stoolball, revised 2018 (the 2018-2020 rules). 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 Cricket
- The Cartoon Book of Baseball
- The Cartoon Book of Tennis
- The Cartoon Book of Badminton
- The Cartoon Book of Table Tennis
- The Cartoon Book of Padel
- The Cricket Colouring Book
- The Baseball Colouring Book

My Notes

Stoolball

The Cartoon Book of Stoolball — 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.

