THE CARTOON BOOK OF

BO-TAOSHI



GOAL & INVASION

SPORT ON EARTH

Sport on Earth Books · The Traditional & regional Family

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

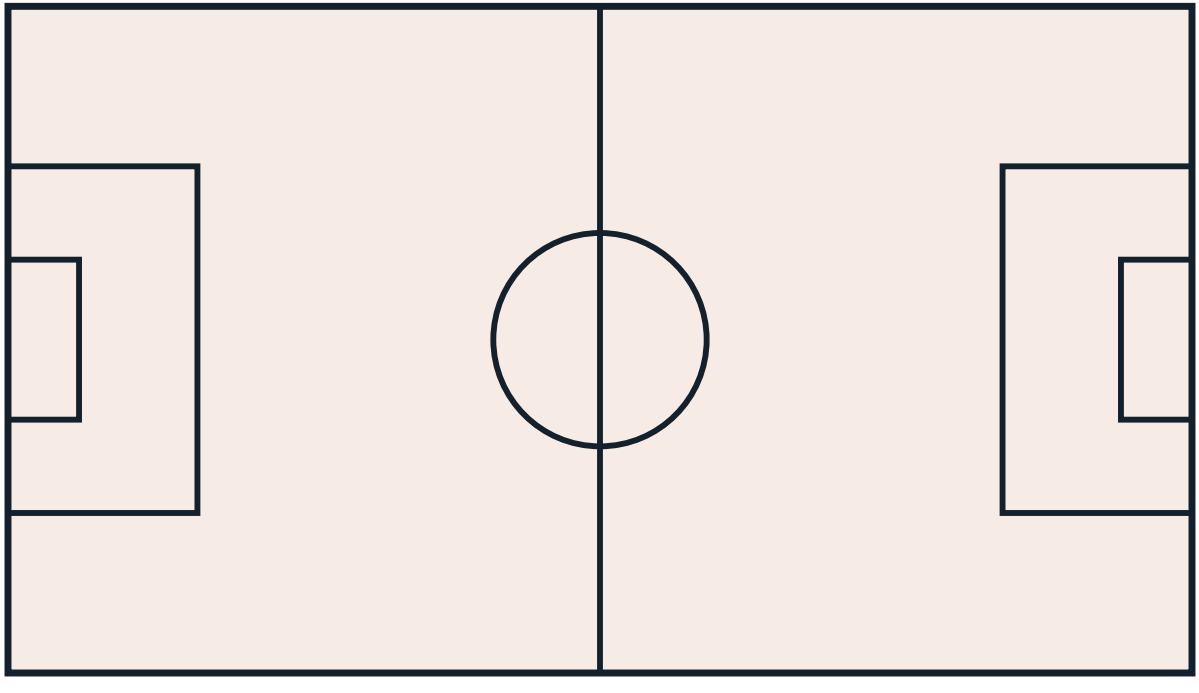
Meet Bo-taoshi!

Japanese team game of toppling a pole.



Where It Is Played

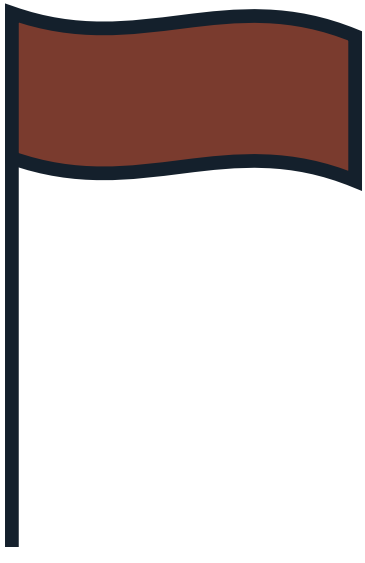
A school or academy sports field with the two poles set up at opposite ends; defenders form around their own pole and attackers start some distance from the opponents' pole.



The Gear

One tall pole per team planted upright on the field; team-colour shirts for attackers and white shirts for defenders.





How It Starts

Bo-taoshi is a school and academy sports-day event in Japan, not an open league sport; scaled-down versions at school sports days are how beginners take part.



How to Play

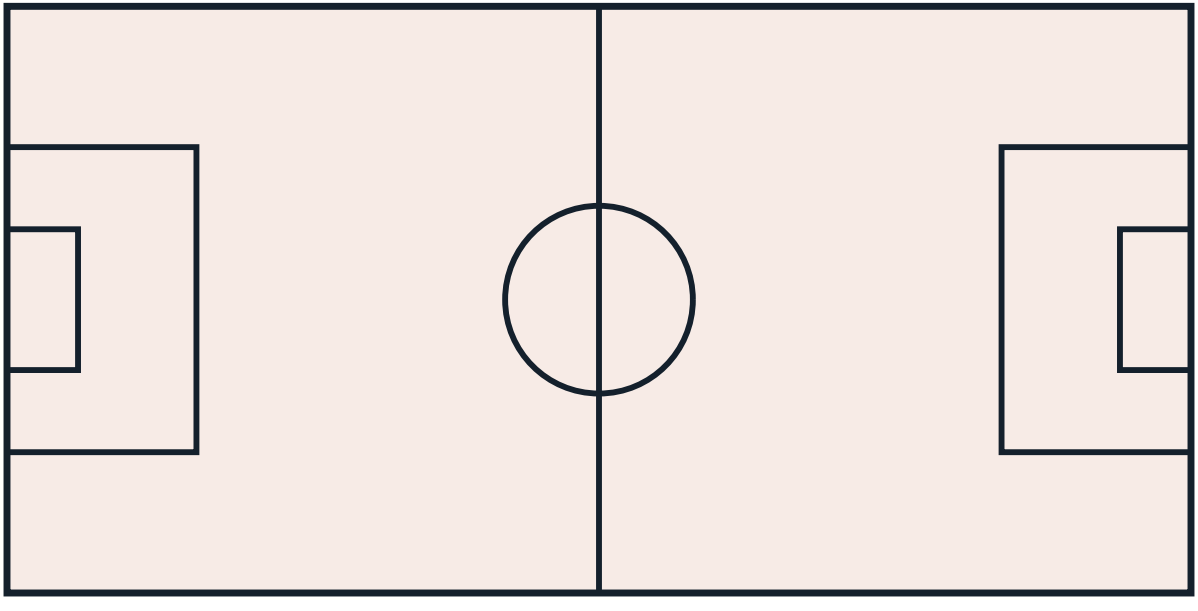
- Two teams of 150 players each compete, each team split into 75 attackers and 75 defenders; attackers wear the team colour and defenders wear white shirts.
- Each team defends its own pole, held perpendicular (90 degrees) to the ground, while its attackers try to topple the opponents' pole.
- A match lasts two minutes.
- A team loses when its pole is tilted to a 30-degree angle to the horizontal; a referee indicates this with a flag and declares the winner (before a 1973 rule change the angle was 45 degrees).

More of the Game

- If neither pole is lowered within the match time, the match is undecided and is repeated.
- Punching, kicking, strangling, pulling heads and similarly dangerous roughness are prohibited.
- A team is disqualified after three fouls.
- Named defensive positions are the rider on top of the pole, the circle around it, the pole support at its base and interference players; attackers form scrums that act as springboards for chargers at the pole.

The Shape of a Match

A two-minute mass game: 150 players per team, half attacking the opponents' pole and half defending their own; first team to force the other pole down to 30 degrees wins.



More of the Traditional & regional Family

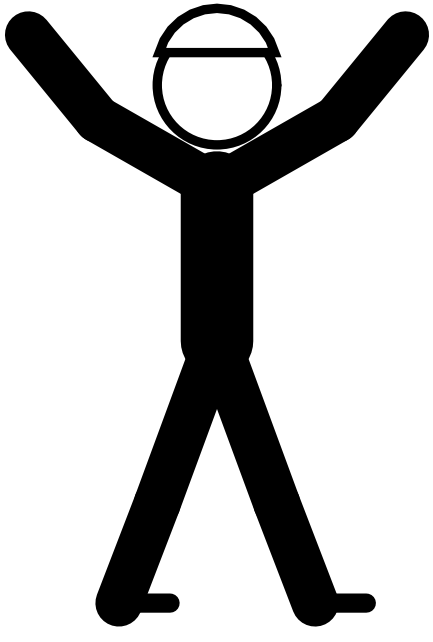
- Kabaddi — A raider tries to tag defenders and return to their own half while holding one breath, chanting.
- Sepak Takraw — Southeast Asian kick volleyball with a rattan ball.
- Pelota and Jai Alai — Basque ball games played off a wall.
- Gaelic Handball — Irish wall handball played with gloved hands.
- Calcio Storico — Florentine mix of rugby, wrestling and boxing in a sand pit.
- Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling — English race chasing a cheese wheel down a hill.

A Note on the Rules

Bo-taoshi is a Japanese academy and school-festival sport (a mass pole-toppling contest, 150-a-side in its military-academy form) run under school and event codes without a national federation or a law history. No documented rule change is carried for bo-taoshi.

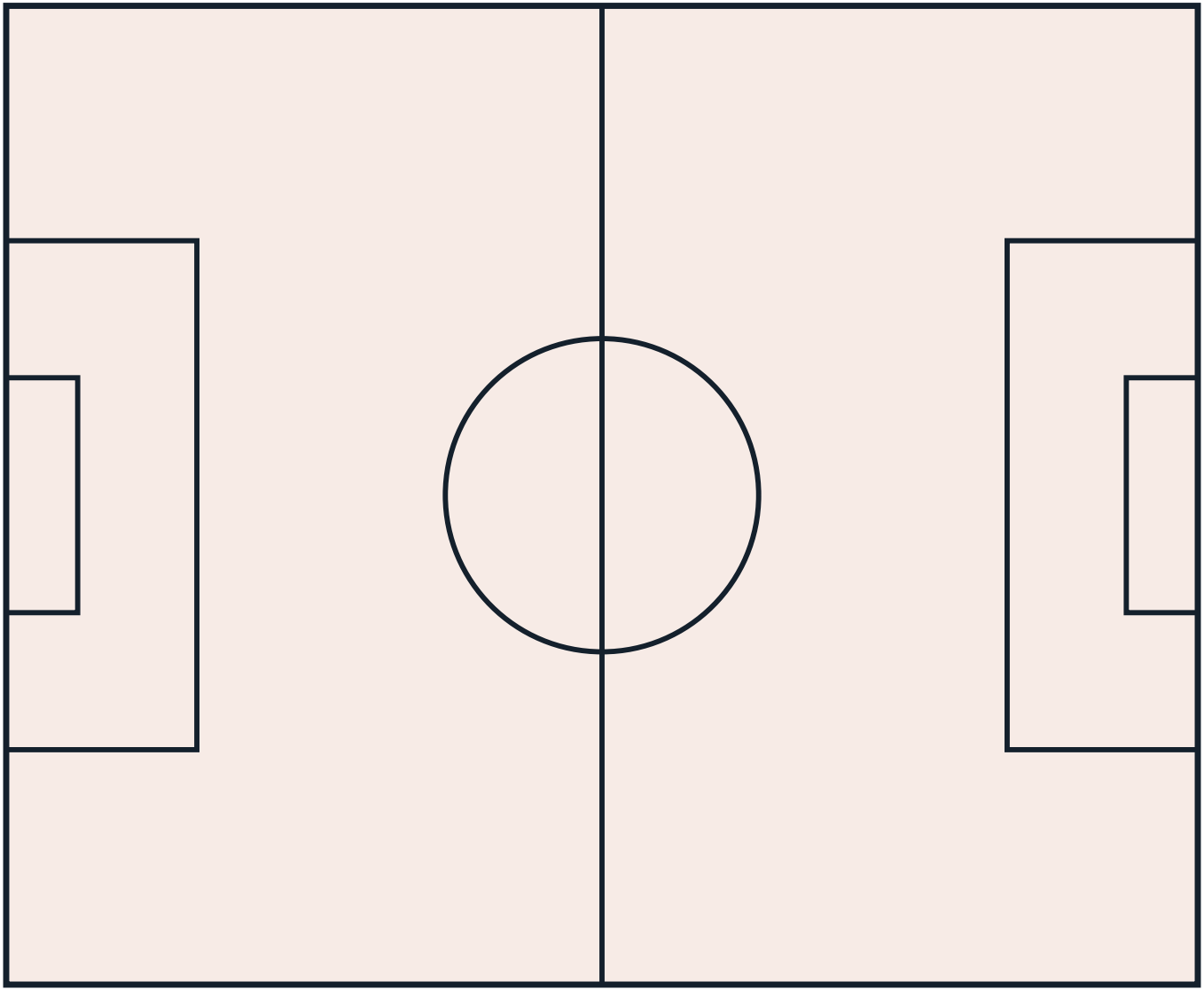


Colour the Action



Psst — this page is a colouring page!

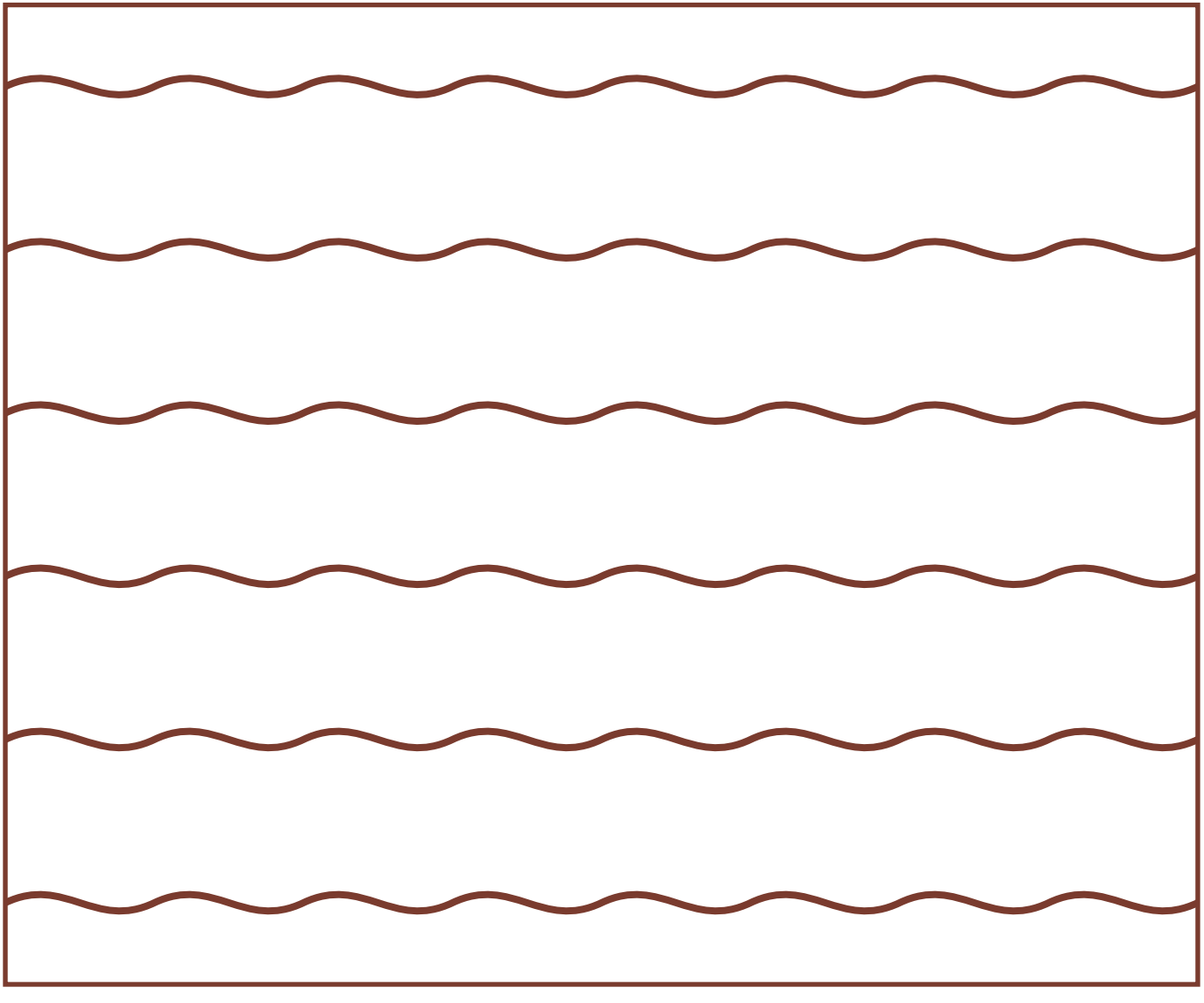
The Sport Today



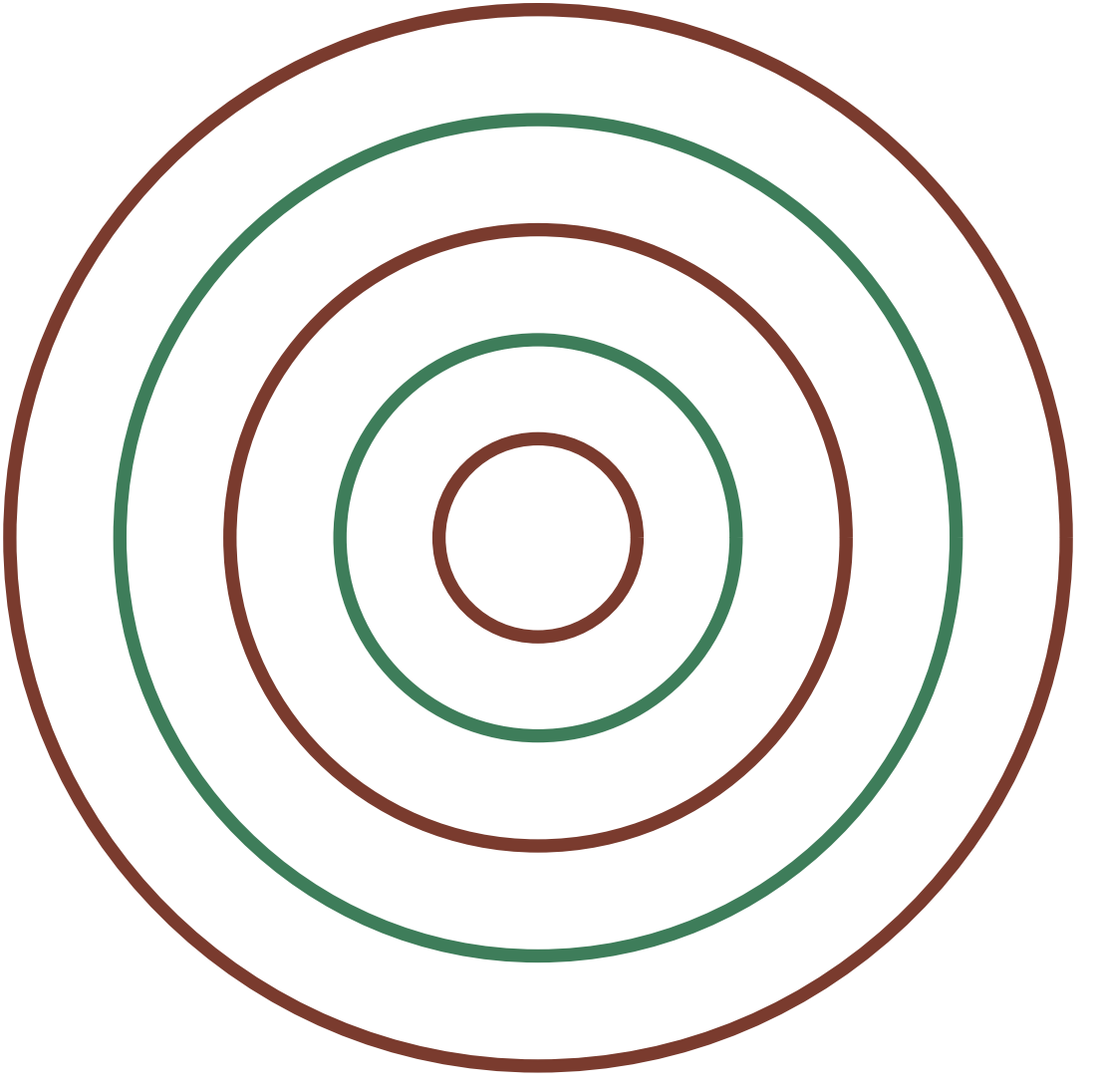
At School and College



Play It Near You



Through the Year

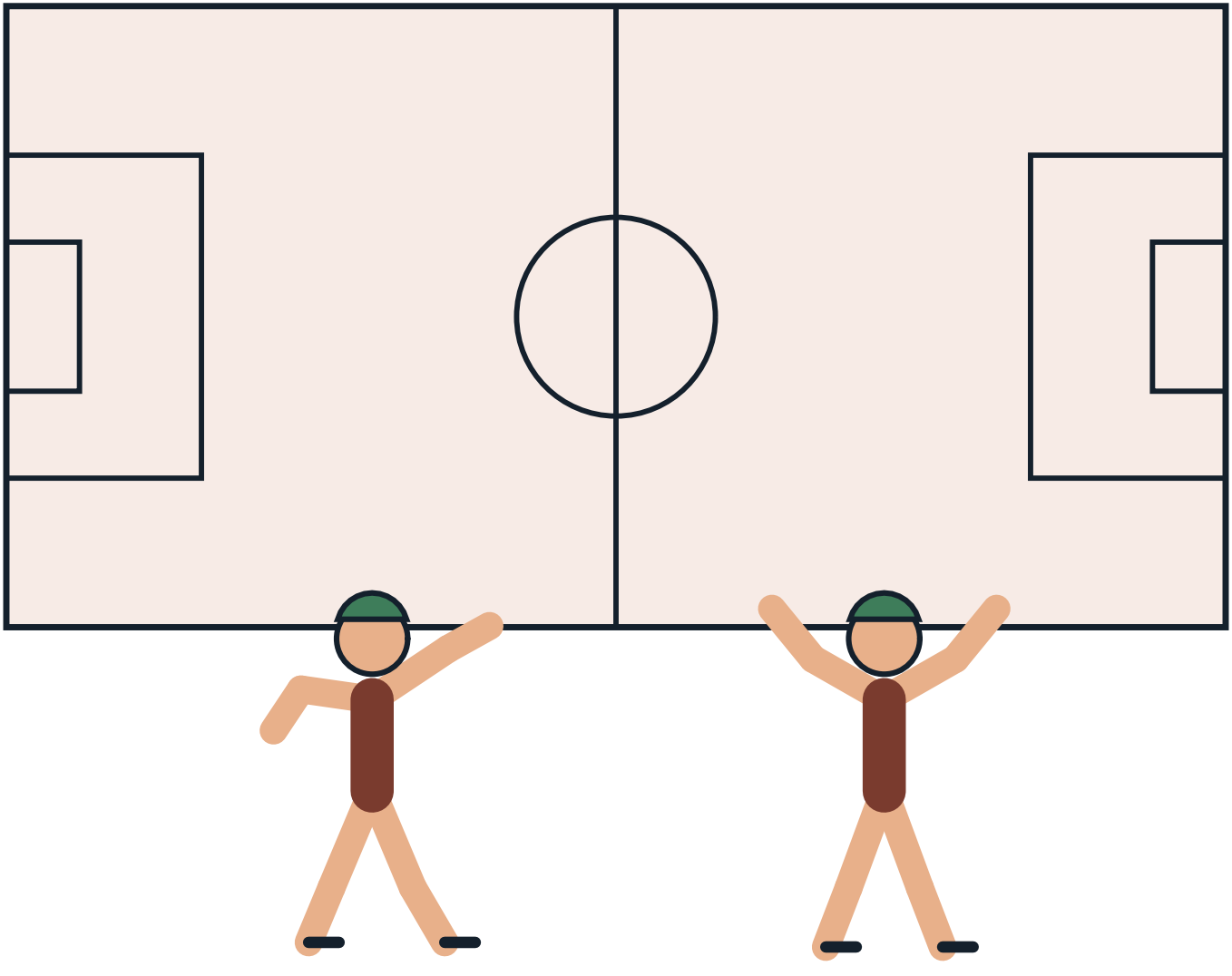


The Traditional & regional Family

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.

- Kabaddi — A raider tries to tag defenders and return to their own half while holding one breath, chanting.
- Sepak Takraw — Southeast Asian kick volleyball with a rattan ball.
- Pelota and Jai Alai — Basque ball games played off a wall.
- Gaelic Handball — Irish wall handball played with gloved hands.
- Calcio Storico — Florentine mix of rugby, wrestling and boxing in a sand pit.

Game Day!

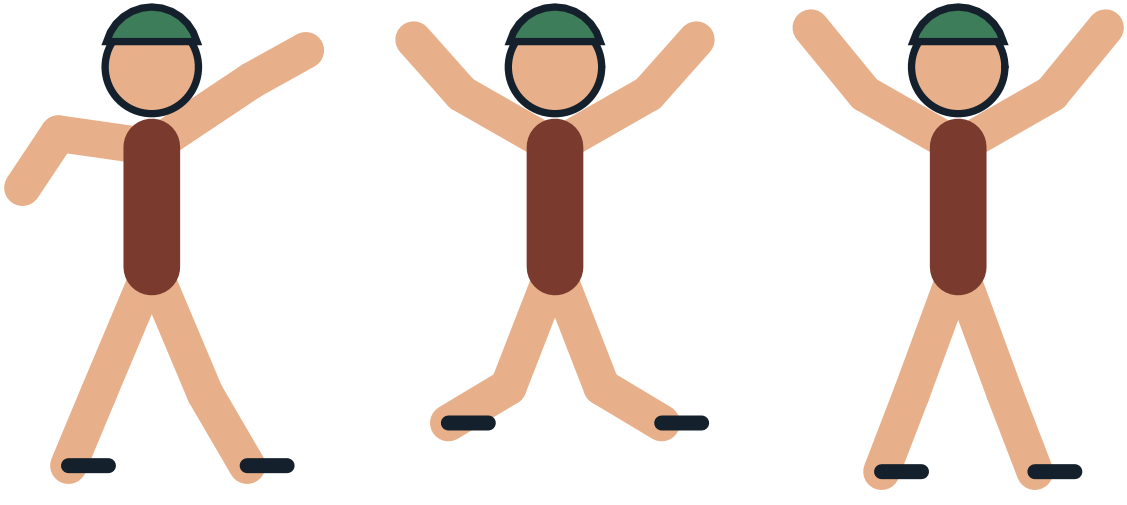


The Sport on Earth Mark

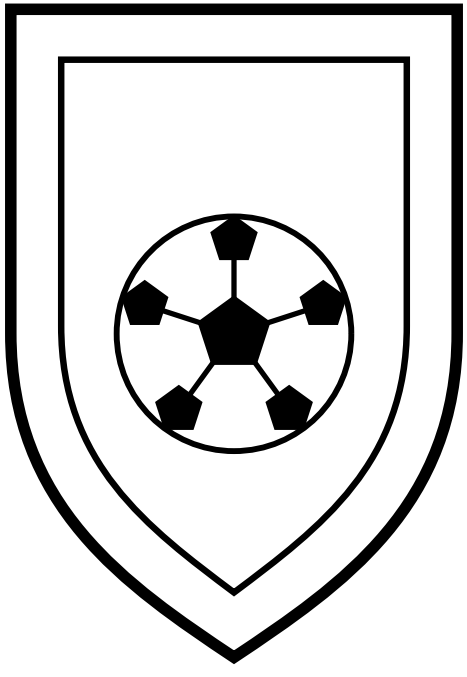
Every sport on Sport on Earth carries its own original mark, drawn for the site. Here is this sport's.



Moves of the Game



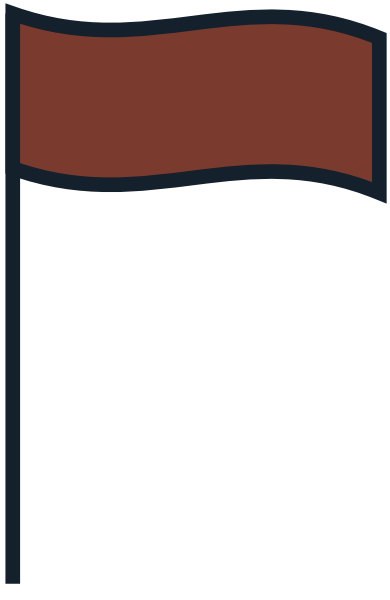
Design a Badge



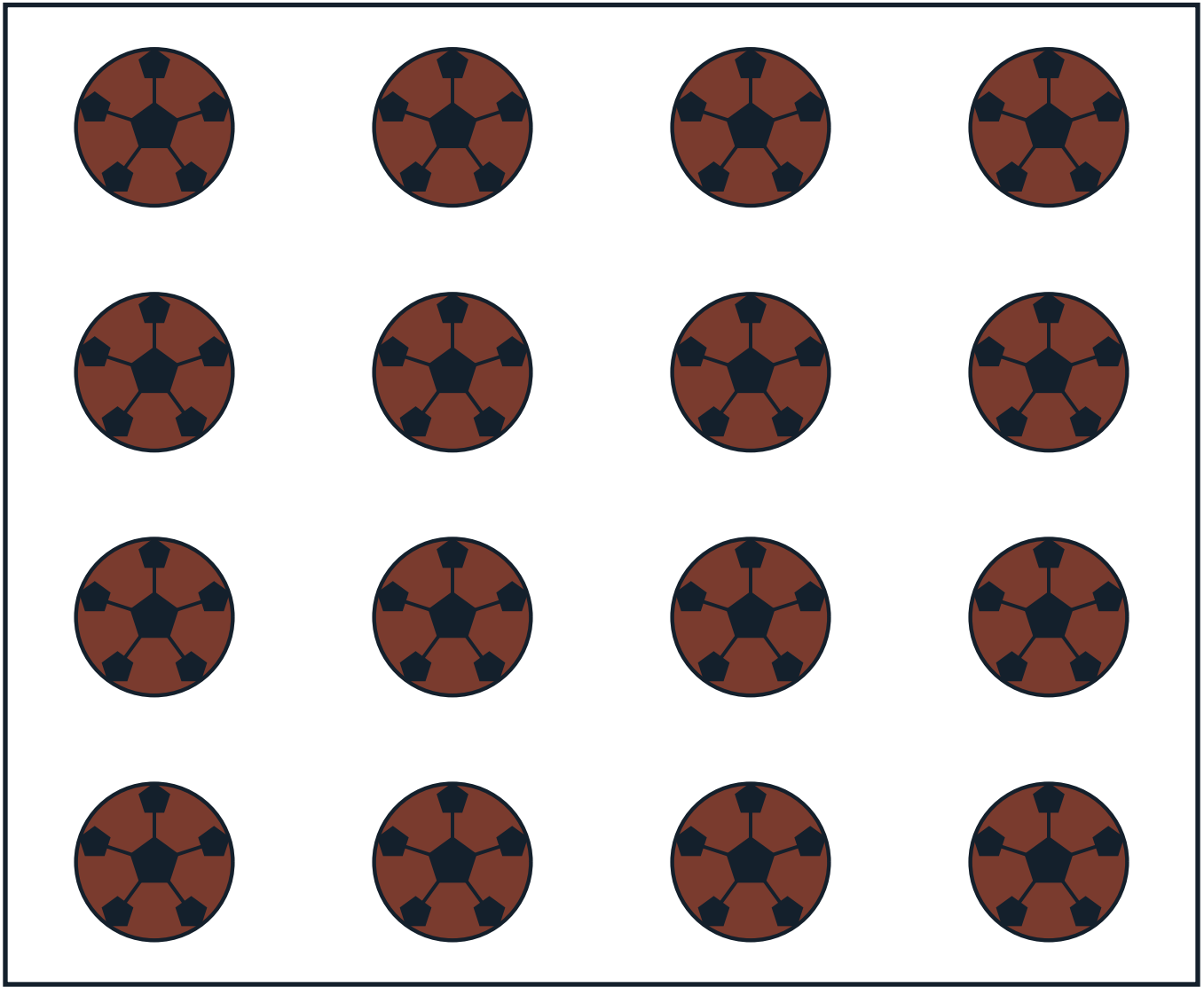
Draw and colour a badge for your own team.

The Gear Parade

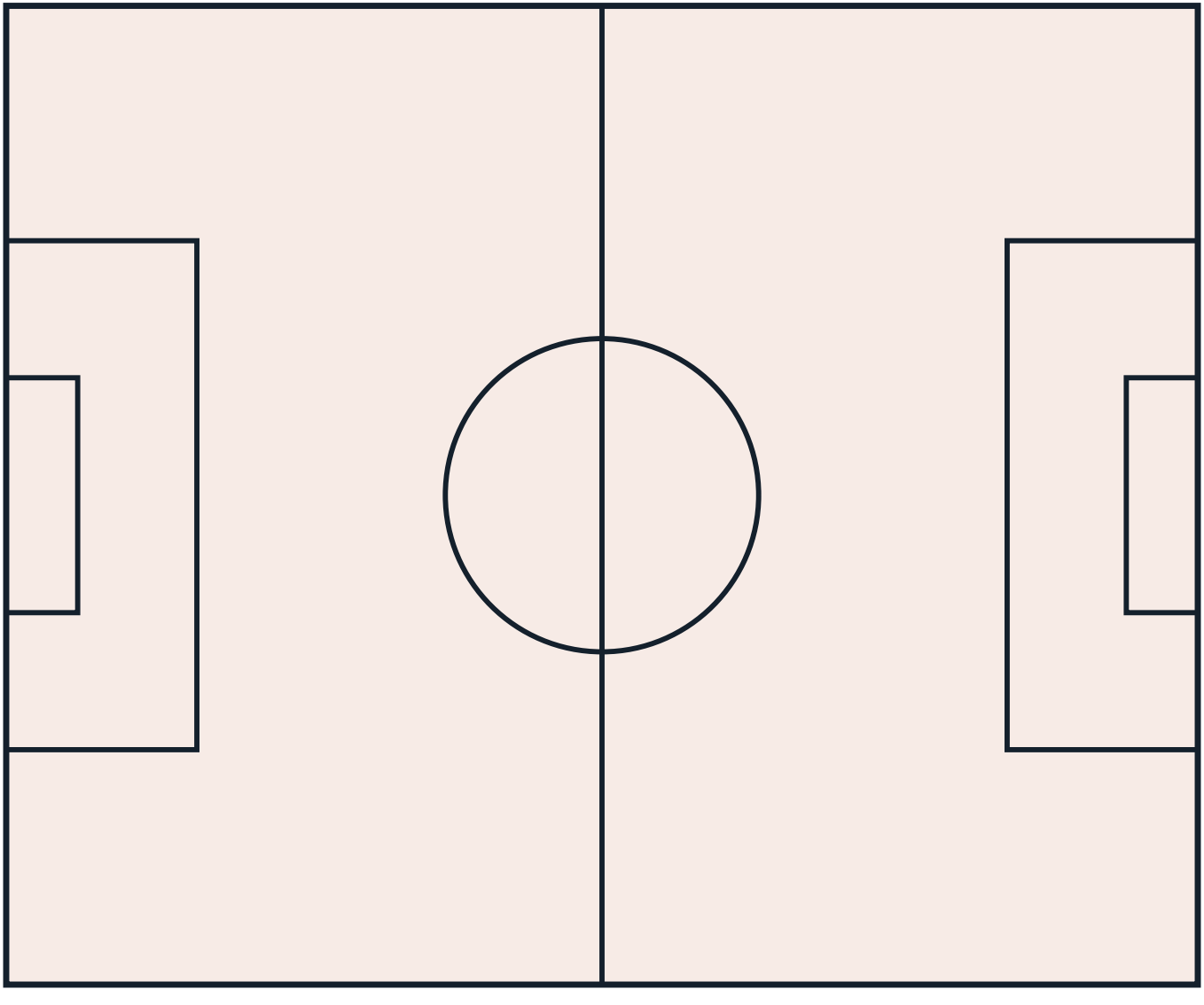




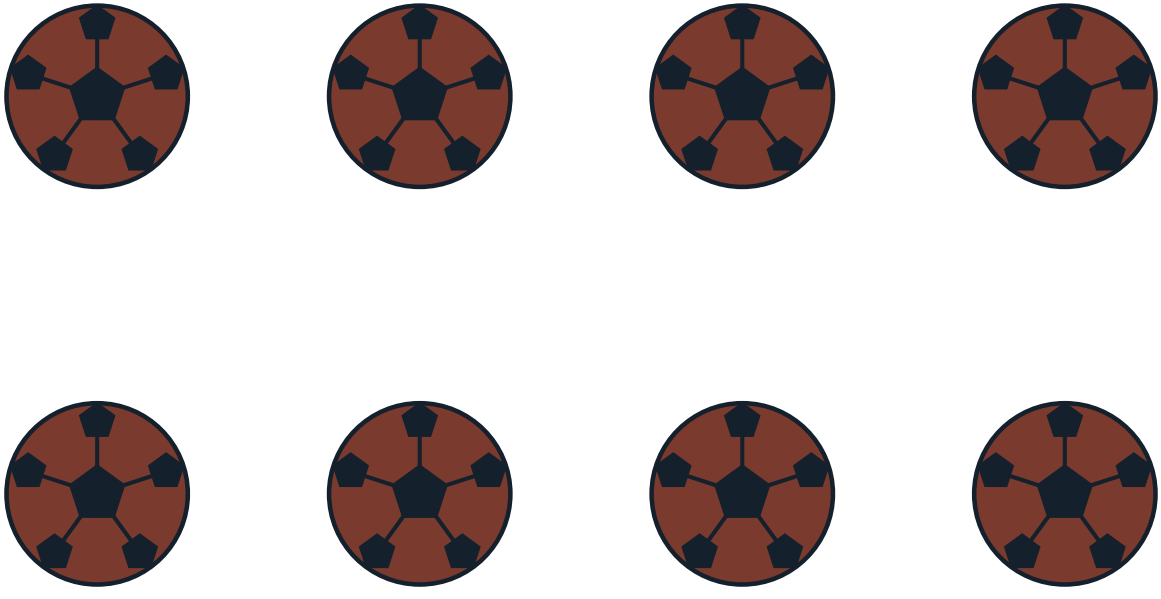
Pattern Play



The Arena From Above



Count the Balls!



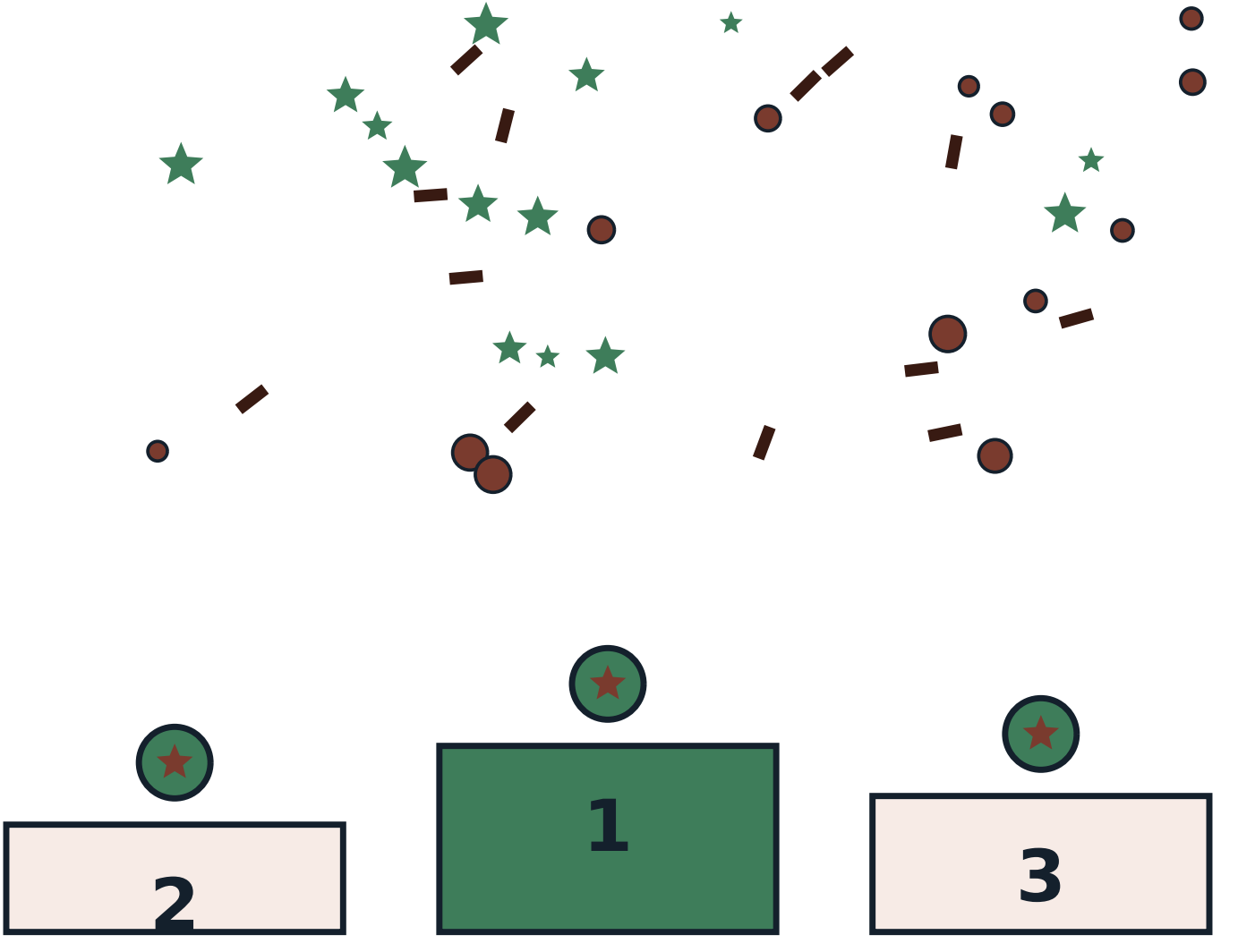
How many can you count? Write the number here: _____

My Favourite Part of Bo-taoshi

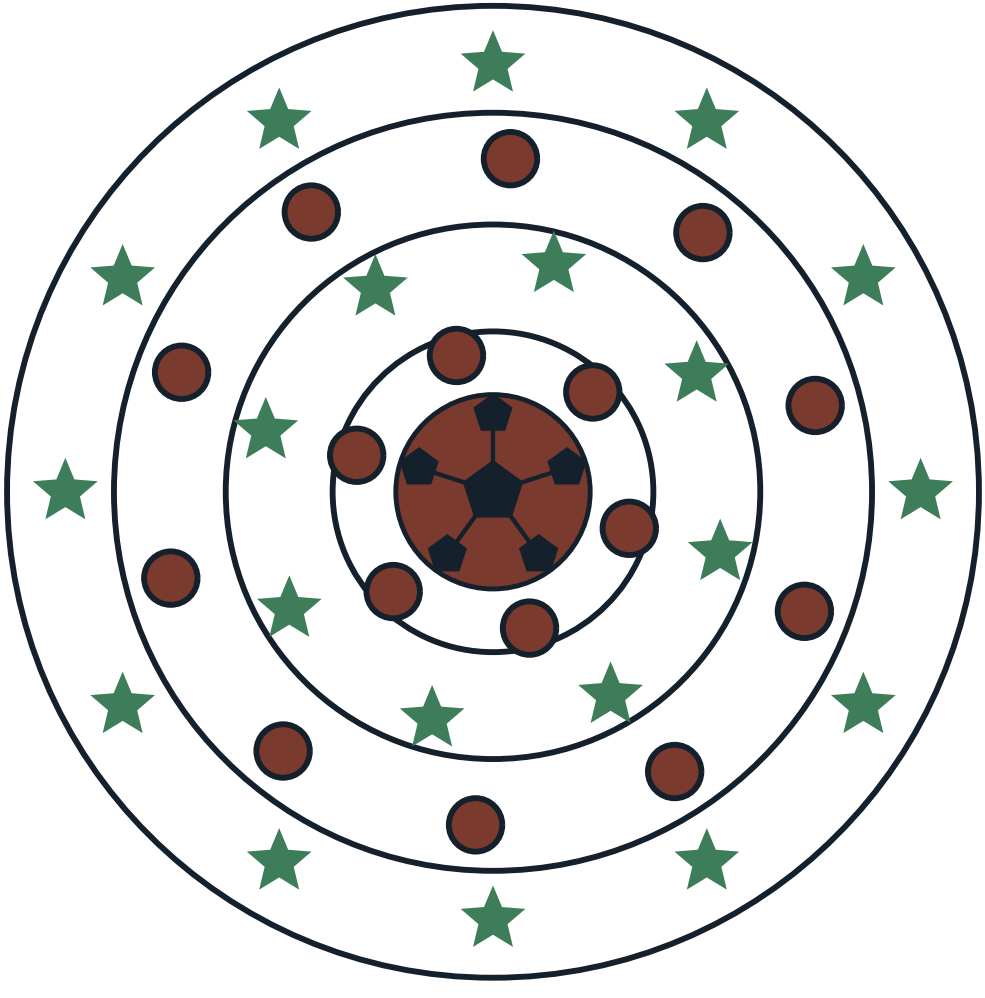
Gear Close-Up



Champions!



The Mandala of the Game



About This Book

Governing body: No governing body — National Defense Academy of Japan (event rules). Laws edition the site's rules file follows: National Defense Academy of Japan published rules and positions for bo-taoshi. 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 Kabaddi
- The Cartoon Book of Sepak Takraw
- The Cartoon Book of Pelota and Jai Alai
- The Cartoon Book of Gaelic Handball
- The Cartoon Book of Calcio Storico
- The Cartoon Book of Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling
- The Kabaddi Colouring Book
- The Sepak Takraw Colouring Book

My Notes

Bo-taoshi

The Cartoon Book of Bo-taoshi — 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.

