

'Go' is the name of a traditional Japanese board game for two players. It's played on a grid with black and white counters called 'stones'. Here is a simplified version that you could play on a whiteboard or have your class play in pairs with squared paper and pencils.

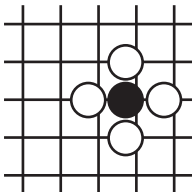
Rules:

1. Players take turns to place a 'stone' on the grid intersections of the board.
2. The aim is to surround your opponents stones to the north, south, east and west.
3. Surrounded stones are removed from the board.
4. The first player to remove 3* of his/her opponents stones is the winner.
5. Black goes first.

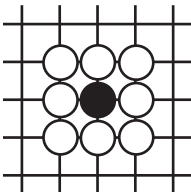
[* Increase this to 4 or 5 stones as your class get better.]

Explanation:

A single black stone is surrounded like this ...

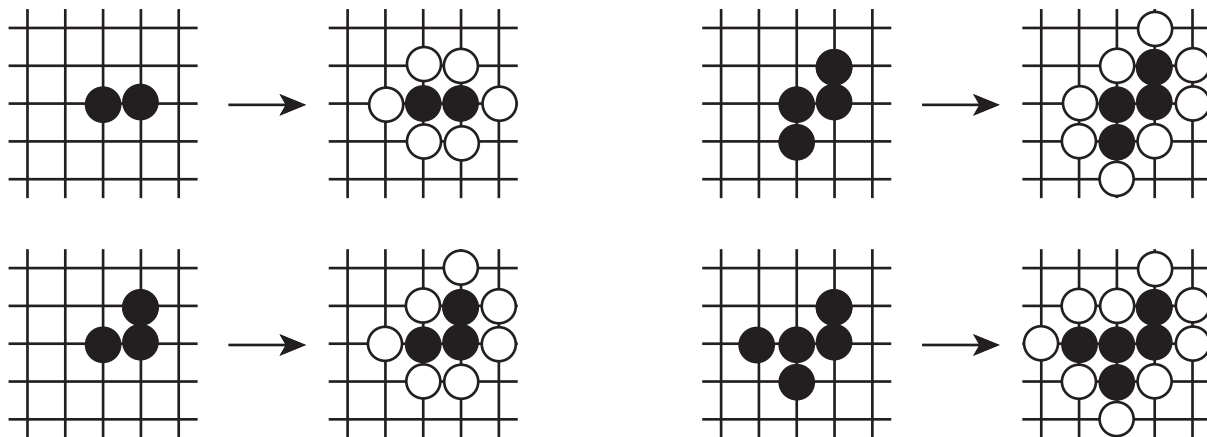


Surrounding it diagonally is **not** necessary.



[Ask your class what they think 'surrounding it' would mean. Compass directions can be useful.]

Groups of stones can be surrounded in a similar way.



[Ask your class how many stones they think are needed to surround each group before showing them.]

One more thing...

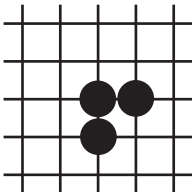
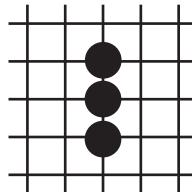
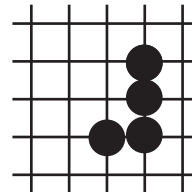
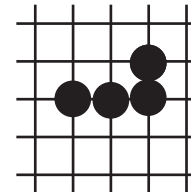
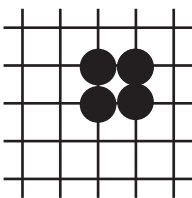
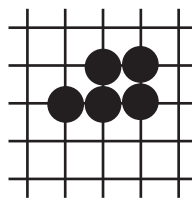
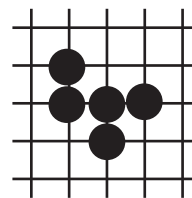
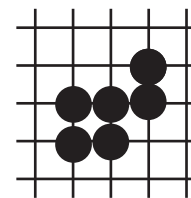
You can't play into a surrounded space.

... unless it means you'll surround an opponents stone.

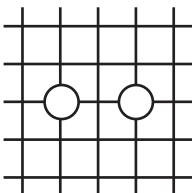
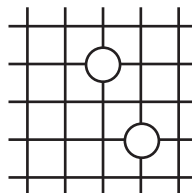
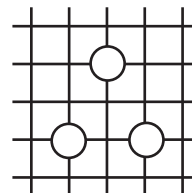
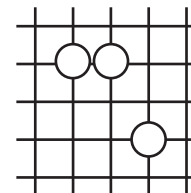
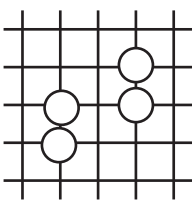
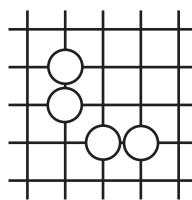
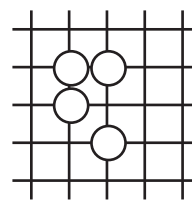
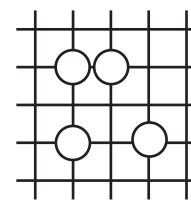


[But maybe let your pupils work this out!]

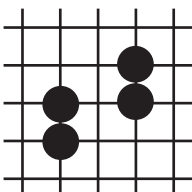
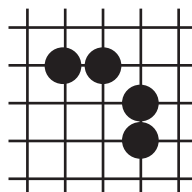
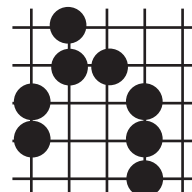
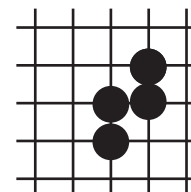
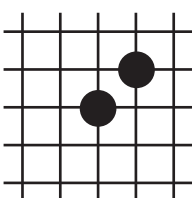
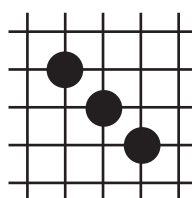
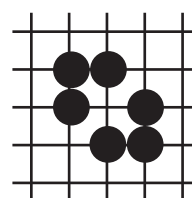
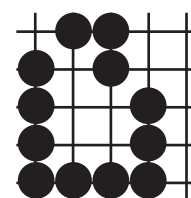
Part A: How many stones would you need to surround the black stones in each diagram?

① 	② 	③ 	④ 
⑤ 	⑥ 	⑦ 	⑧ 

Part B: How many stones would you need to surround **all** the white stones in each diagram?

① 	② 	③ 	④ 
⑤ 	⑥ 	⑦ 	⑧ 

Part C: How many **groups** of black stones can you see in each diagram?

① 	② 	③ 	④ 
⑤ 	⑥ 	⑦ 	⑧ 

Answers: Part 1

1. 7
2. 8
3. 9
4. 9
5. 8
6. 9
7. 9
8. 10

Answers : Part 2

1. 7
2. 8
3. 11
4. 10
5. 11
6. 10
7. 9
8. 12

Answers: Part 3

1. 2
2. 2
3. 3
4. 1
5. 2
6. 3
7. 2
8. 2