

# Allegheny Portage Railroad

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Allegheny Portage Railroad  
National Historic Site



## Junior Girl Scout "My Heritage" Badge



Steps to earn the award at the park

1. Visitor Center Scavenger Hunt, signs of heritage
2. Starting a Quote Diary, who is saying what
3. Tour the historic Lemon House, see how things are preserved
4. Discuss what you may have to preserve for the future
5. Make and play a game popular in the 1840s
6. Write a poem to celebrate your heritage



# Start a Quote Diary

Please pick one quote from a traveler not pleased with their experience, and one quote from a traveler cautiously happy.

Did not Like the Portage Railroad:

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Liked the Portage Railroad:

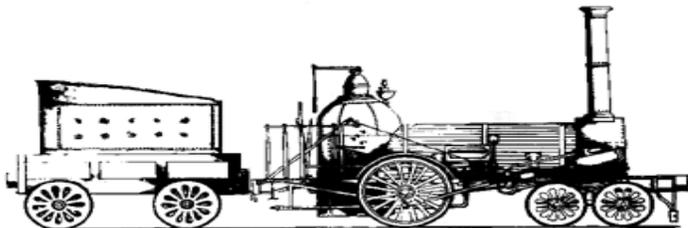
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Now you need to start your own Quote Diary. What kinds of things do your parents or grandparents say to you that you might want to pass along to your future children?

Have you heard any of these:



"Be careful what you wish for, you might get it."

"So it's raining? You're not sugar—you won't melt."

"Don't cross your eyes or they'll freeze that way."

"If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all."

"If a job is worth doing, it's worth doing right."

What do YOUR folks say?

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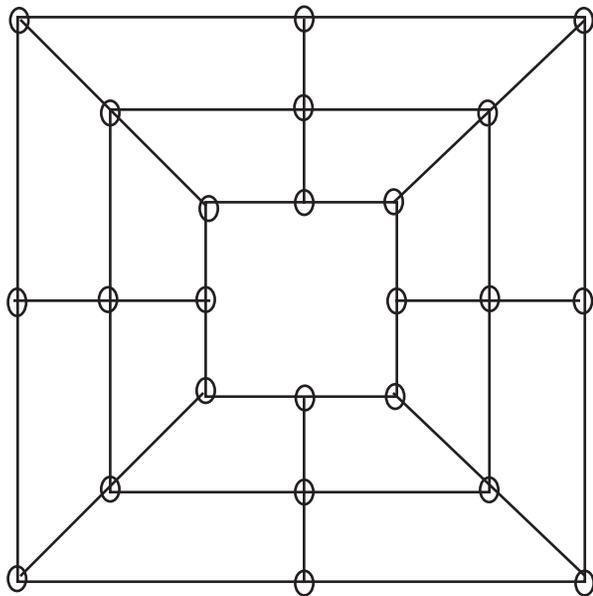
## History of 9 Men's Morris

Nine Men's Morris is not only one of the world's most exciting games of strategy, it is also one of the oldest. Extremely popular in medieval times, and regarded by many as a "traditional" British game, Morris has enjoyed quite the history. But the game extends even further into the past—evidence of an early Morris board has been found in the Egyptian temple of Kurna, believed to date back to 1400 B.C.

In Shakespeare's time Morris was widely played as an outdoor game on a board marked out in the turf. The game is even referred to in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Also known as "Merelles" the game is still played today, and Merelles championships are regularly held.

Here is a small version of the playing board. We will be making a larger size board so that we can actually play the game.



## Nine Men's Morris

### Fundamental Rules:

This is a two player game.

The game starts with an empty board. Each player starts the game with 9 playing pieces. There are 24 points that the pieces could be placed at.

The players take turns, each placing his or her piece on the board. While placing pieces on the board each player wants to block the opponent from getting three-in-a-row (known as a Mill), yet is attempting to get three of his own pieces in a row.

Once all the pieces have been placed, the players take turns moving one of their playing pieces along a line to a nearby empty point. Players may not hop over occupied points or skip an empty point to get to another place. Players are, again, attempting to get three of their pieces in a row while blocking their opponent.

Important: A piece that moves out from a three-in-a-row (Mill) cannot return there to reform a three-in-a-row (Mill). A piece can move back to the same spot but the player does not take away one of the opponent's pieces.

### Making a Mill:

When 3 consecutive pieces of the same color are placed along a straight line it is called a Mill. A Mill can be formed when the pieces are being placed on the board during the first part of the game or when all the pieces have been placed and you move to form a Mill. When a Mill is formed, that player removes one of the opponent's pieces, any of their choice, as long as the piece been taken doesn't belong to a Mill. If all of the opponent's pieces are part of a Mill, you may take one of his pieces that is part of a Mill. Remember that a piece that moves out of a Mill can NOT return there to reform a Mill.

# Preserving Heirlooms

One of the purposes of a National Park is to preserve things for future generations. Some parks protect nature, other parks protect pieces of history. At Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site the remains of the Portage Railroad are being preserved. The Lemon House Tavern was in operation during this time and is part of the Portage story. Most of the furniture in the Lemon House is reproduction. Where do you see the antique furnishings?

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Why do you think these antiques were saved?

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What in the Lemon House was owned by the Lemon Family?

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What is being done in the Lemon House to protect the antiques?

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What do you have at home that you might want to preserve for the future?

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What things have been handed down to you (or will be handed down) from your family?



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Is there anything you could buy once you are older that will become something special to hand over to the future?

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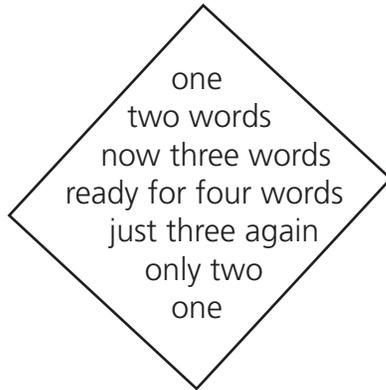
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# Diamonte

What word does diamonte look like? You're right, it's diamond. Diamonte poetry is written in the shape of a diamond. You follow the shape of a diamond and start with only one word. Here's what a diamonte looks like:



Now it is time for you to write a Diamonte Poem about your heritage. Think about your Grandma if you can, if not pick another close relative.

1 noun or pronoun

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2 adjectives

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3  
participles

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4  
nouns

---

3  
participles

---

2 adjectives

---

1 noun or pronoun

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There are more rules for diamonte. The first line must be a noun or pronoun. The second line: two adjectives (describing words). Line 3: three participles (verbs that end in -ing). Line 4: four nouns. Line 5: three participles again. Line 6: two adjectives. Line 7: one noun or pronoun.

Here is a diamonte about my grandma. It tells you about her looks, her hobbies, what was important to her, and her nationality. This tells you about my heritage.

