

SPROUT, a better activity

Devised by mathematicians John Horton Conway and Michael S. Paterson

Materials required: Any paper you are allowed to write or draw on, a pen or pencil

Background:

This is a game I have played with family, friends and people I work with including the staff at Great Ormond Street Hospital. It is a game of strategy devised by mathematicians John Horton Conway and Michael S. Paterson.

The former worried he'd wasted his youth playing silly games but later realised they had often led him to new discoveries and ideas.

Play the game with someone who is with you. You may find a new idea sprouting in your brain but it is also fine to just enjoy your time playing it.

Activity:

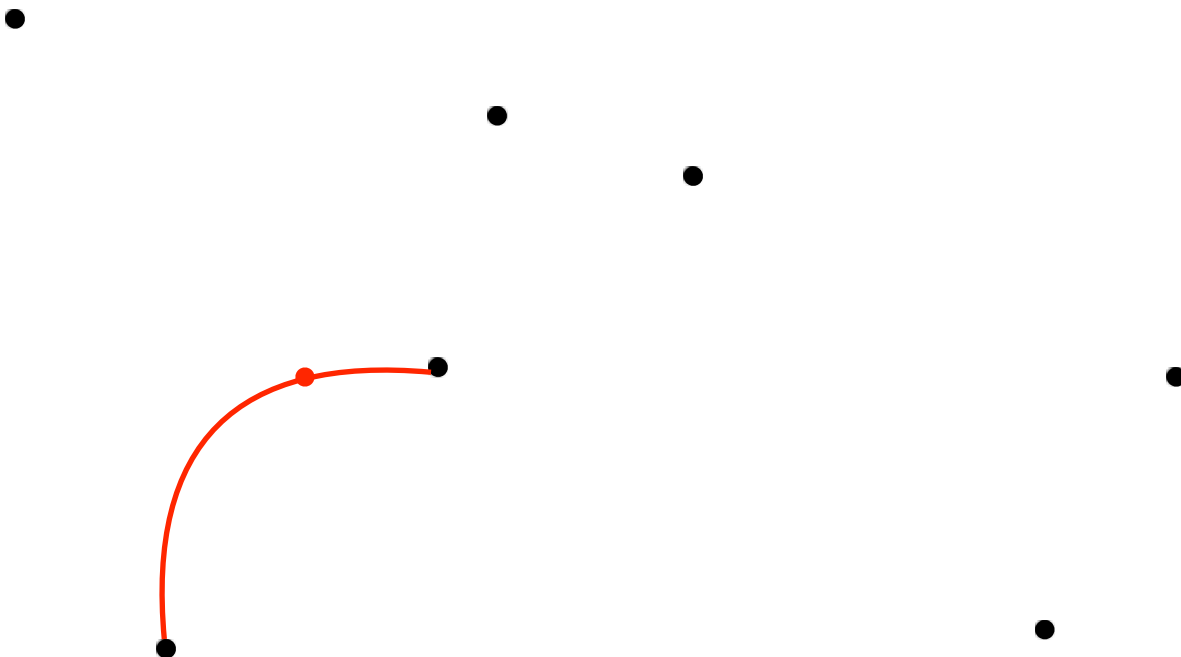
Draw 6 or 7 dots on a piece of paper.

Draw a line between any two of the dots and add a new dot anywhere on that line.

Only three lines may sprout from each dot and no lines may cross.

The game ends when no more dots can be connected.

Here is an example of a game and the first one has been done for you.



I would love to hear if you enjoyed this game @GOSHArts

Sarah Carne