

BRUSSELS, 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:

Brussels Sprouts is a variation on the game of Sprouts (also available as a Better Activity).

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:

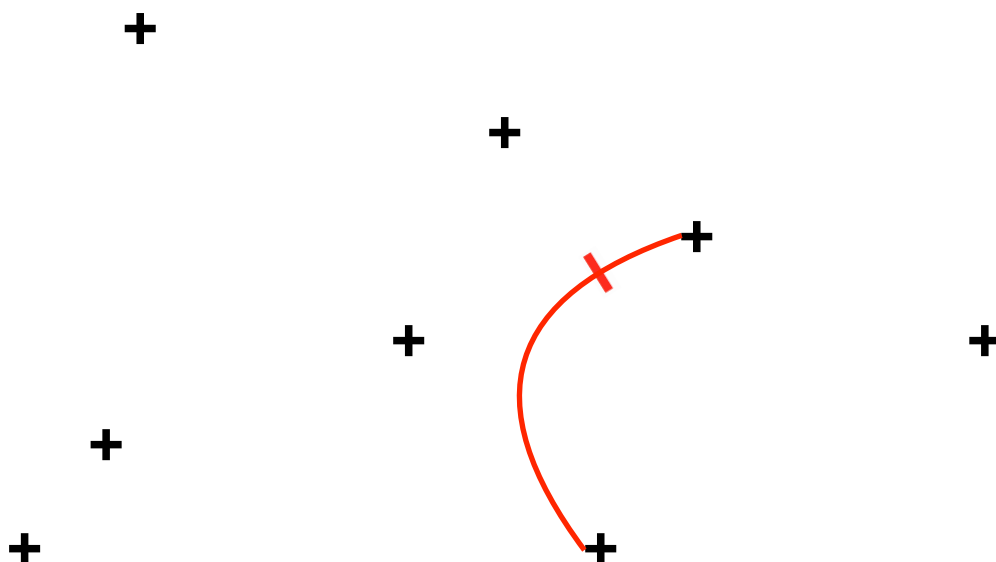
Draw 8 or 9 crosses on a piece of paper. (If you draw more the game will last longer.)

Join two free ends by drawing a curved line and add a short stroke to that line. This will create two new ends.

No lines may cross!

The game ends when no more ends 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