

## **Relax like a Roman**

As well as relaxing in the bath-house, Roman soldiers liked nothing more than playing games with their friends after a hard day's training and fighting- especially if there was money to be won!

Merrills was a popular game amongst Roman soldiers and they would often play for money. Have a go with your classmates, but don't gamble on winning (unless you get really good)...

### **Rules of Merrills**

Toss a coin (or play rock, paper scissors) to see who goes first.

Each player has three counters. The first player places their first counter on the board on one of the spots where two lines meet. The second player places their first counter and alternate between until all six counters are on the board.

The first player makes the first move. Counters can be moved along one section between two spots at a time.

The object of the game is to form a 'mill'- where all three counters are in a straight line. If one player forms a mill, he can take one of the other player's counters. The 'mill' stays in place on the board but none of the counters in it can be taken; making the game harder as some spots are blocked from further moves.

If one player lands on the counter of another player that is not in a 'mill', they can take that counter. The first to win all their opponent's counters is the winner.

**Have fun and good luck!**

