



Seega has been played for centuries in Egypt, spreading to other parts of North Africa where it can still be found. This is one of many games that can be played on a 5x5 grid, and the board can be easily drawn on a scrap of paper or with chalk on a flat surface. Pieces used vary from stones and bits of clay to elaborately carved wood and ivory pieces.

Each player has 12 distinct pieces (pegs or pawns) which begin the game off the board. The objective is to capture all of the opponent's pieces.

The first player puts two pieces down anywhere on the board. The second person then places two pieces, and so on until all the pieces are on the board, leaving one space unoccupied.

Next, each player may move any one of their pieces one space orthogonally into an empty space. If this move traps an opponent's piece between two of his own, the trapped piece is removed from the board. This is known as a "custodian" or "flanking" capture, and is only formed orthogonally, not diagonally. A player can move a piece into position between two opponent pieces without being captured (there are no "suicide" moves). Multiple captures in one move are possible. A piece in the center hole is immune from capture. If a player cannot move, their opponent must move on their next turn to open up a move so the game can continue, even if this results in a sacrifice.

If a condition arises where no further captures can be made, or barriers set up that prevent the game from further progress, the game is stopped and the player with the most pieces still on the board wins.

ALTERNATELY the game can be played to win when one player forms a row of five of his own color, either diagonally or orthogonally. In this case, when the subsequent capturing phase results in one player having only four pieces remaining on the board, the other wins by default.

The game can be played on a larger board and with more

pieces. Another interesting variant is to swap the win conditions such that forcing your opponent to form a row of five causes them to lose. There is also a Seega variant played on a 3x3 board, similar in most respects to Achi or Tapatan.