

Free Book for Teaching Kids



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Has learned how to play go by himself, and is now 8-kyu.

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My First Book of Go Exercises is a free book I released recently, aimed at teaching kids how to play go in a hands-on way. I was inspired by my own need to teach my son, who was five at that time, and I realized there was a lack of materials available for Westerners to teach young kids.^[1] At first, I used on-line websites and phone apps with simple exercises, but I felt a conflict with the need to limit his “screen time” along with his own desire to watch videos and play video games when he was finally allowed some time in front of a screen. I can imagine other go parents have encountered a similar dilemma.

Meanwhile, I learned from a BaaDuck cartoon ^[2] that it was actually possible to play capture go by drawing with pencil and paper. For those who are new to capture go, it is a simple variant of the game that is won by the first player who captures a stone. It is considered a gentle introduction to the game.

I tried that out with my son, and I felt like it made the game much more fun for him, as we could draw stones with funny faces. Obviously, the game would sometimes diverge into full scale drawings, but luckily many times that would happen after the first capture. That made me very excited about the idea of playing go by drawing.

I also would often see my son doing his school exercises or learning languages with pencil and paper, away from the screen. All that gave me the idea of creating a book where he could learn go by drawing. Hence, *My First Book of Go Exercises* project started! I am personally very excited about the Open-Source philosophy in Computer Science, so I decided to have the book freely available under a Creative Commons license. The source code of the book is also freely available, which means that anyone that knows how to edit books using a program called LaTeX would be able to create their own versions of the book, or to send me improvements.



[1] I am aware of Camille Lévêque’s book for kids that is available for sale in French

[2] BaaDuck on Instagram: www.instagram.com/baaduck

The book is available as a PDF file. Hence, it would still need to be printed for the ideal experience. However, it is still possible to play it using a PDF editor that allows drawing (for instance, in a tablet) if that is more convenient. By the way, you can also find this book on Amazon and order a printed version.

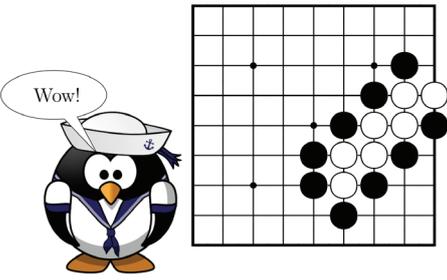
How to find the book? You can download the book for free from the GitHub repository: github.com/sorianom/kids-go-books

A solution sheet is also available there, although the exercises should be quite straight-forward for a parent or educator with go knowledge. For convenience, here is a direct link to the book: github.com/sorianom/kids-go-books/releases/download/v1.0-eng/volume1.pdf

How to contribute? I would be very happy to have the book available in many different languages. I think that could be very powerful to help spread the game for the next generation of players across the globe. If you are interested in translating the book to your language, please let me know!

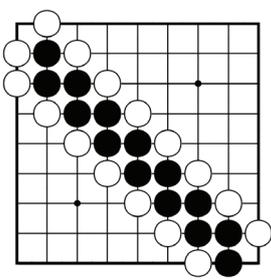
Also, since this book is self-published and freely available, there is no marketing budget. So, I would also be very happy if you promote it to friends and family. Let's build the next generation of go players!

Black to play. Capture.



How many stones did you capture?

White to play. Capture.



How many stones did you capture?

A sample page from My First Book of Go Exercises