Alquerque

a 20-minute board game for two players

EQUIPMENT:
This game is played on 7x7 board (shown at right). You'll need 2 sets of 12 markers.

SETUP:
One player starts with his markers on the white spots, the other starts with her markers on the black spots. After setup, all spots should be treated the same.

HOW TO PLAY:
Players take turns moving one marker along a line from one spot to another. Players capture markers by jumping over them, as in Checkers. As in Checkers, a player may capture many markers in one turn, and the game ends when one player has no more markers.

HISTORY:
This version of this game was played by the Moors. The board's pattern is cut onto the roofing slabs of the Temple at Kurna, in Egypt, which was begun by Rameses I (ca. 1600 B.C.). The pattern is partially cut away, which probably means that the board was used by the masons making the temple, though their exact rules are not known.

Similar versions of this game are played all over the world.