

RAPID-FIRE QUESTIONS WITH A [toggle] REGULAR

THIS MONTH: Francois Jolie



CHOOSE YOUR COLOR

GREEN

because it's absolutely hilarious when I ask someone to move my meeple and they move the black one.

EARLIEST GAME YOU REMEMBER PLAYING?



WHAT'S A GAME YOU ALWAYS WANT TO PLAY?



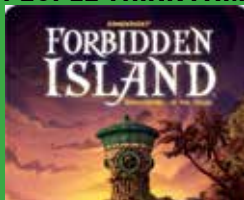
WHAT'S A GAME YOU WILL NEVER PLAY AGAIN?



AMERITRASH, EURO, OR PARTY GAME?



I'D LIKE TO BE: PEOPLE THINK I AM: BUT I AM REALLY:



TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

- 1) I escaped from a serial killer
- 2) My credit score is 810
3. I spent a month behind bars.

A BRIEF NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings, friends!

[toggle Gaming] has always strived to be an open, welcoming group that brings people together to play games and build friendships. We hope to continue in that spirit, both in our on-line presence and our (eventual) return to in-person gatherings, whenever that may be. July is the anniversary of our founding event, so it's a great time to reflect on our community.

This year in particular, with the recent Black Lives Matter protests and Pride Month celebrations occurring since our last newsletter, we reiterate our commitment to equal treatment, access, and friendship to all, and expand our efforts to cultivate an anti-racist space where everyone has a seat at the table.

See you online!
[toggle] your inner geek!

Percy the Penguin's [toggle] Tips



Dear Percy,

Sometimes the retail copies of games feel too pedestrian. Should I upgrade to metal coins, sleeve my cards, and seek out upgraded bits?

Sincerely, Board Game Dandy



Dear Dandy,

We all love board games for different reasons. Sometimes we want a quick, easy social lubricant. Other times we seek a bespoke tabletop experience, something we'll enjoy on every level.

If you're looking for the latter, upgraded tokens, metal coins, and sleeved cards can provide that little extra edge that makes a game magical.

But don't mistake luxury for a necessity. Some of my favorite gaming memories involve [toggle]'s ratty old copy of a game. A well-loved game has its own charm.

I'll admit, I didn't answer your question very well. But what do you expect? I'm a penguin. Happy gaming!

-- Percy



Under the Influence

by Master Iko Saghan



CANCER (June 21-July 22): Before you can plant a garden you turn the old growth under. The vestiges of the old will decay and nourish the new. Apply this to your life when the old doesn't serve the new. Decay is part of the cycle of creation. Consider trading some old games at your FLGS for store credit.



LEO (July 23-August 22): Cabin fever was rough. Just as you were looking forward to venturing out into the world, this. Now you are rethinking the wisdom of those inclinations. Here it is, another example of your trials preparing you for what is to come. Just like losing a game teaches you how to win it.



VIRGO (August 23-September 22): It is always darkest before dawn. It is certainly the case that after the sun goes down it is harder to see. But you don't need the light to see what your heart knows. Let your heart be your guide while you wait for the light to return. In the meantime, perhaps play some *Snake Oil!*



LIBRA (September 23-October 22): This hasn't been an easy time for you. Your old friend harmony is gone. Mourn the loss... then look around to see what you can help to put right. Your part may be small, but it will be an edifying step toward a new routine. Don't forget to build some gaming into that new routine.



SCORPIO (October 23-November 21): Passion is your power. It may be a little hard to keep a head of steam on that passion with everything that is going on. Use your power to buoy those around you who are in need and you will be back at 100% before you know it. Hop on a video call and have some fun with friends.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21): Think globally, act locally. It is your path to fulfillment now. That cause that you have meant to support. Support it! Even in the smallest way. It will nurture your third eye. Similarly, remotely play games from your library with far flung friends to nurture your third die.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19): The wind rustles loudly in your ears as you run to and fro. Don't let its susurrus drown out quieter calls for your energy. Breathe. Be Still. Calm your mind. Let your inner-self tell your outer-being which quiet call to answer. Only then can you check for promising Kickstarters.



AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18): Your attunement to the needs of others may have you feeling like one exposed nerve. Don't let this stop you from following your path. There is always danger when you trust fate, but the reward that balances it is worth the risk. Dice games are good practice for this.



PISCES (February 19-March 20): Your natural ability to embrace duality is your greatest strength. That has never been more true. You are rooted in the now-as-it-is but able to see the then-as-it-may-be. Think carefully. Is there something that you are called to do to bridge these worlds? Sorta like *Above and Below*.



ARIES (March 21-April 19): Victory is important to you, it always has been. Ask those who have dared to cross meeples with you on the table of game. But you are not called to win at all costs! You would lose a thousand times before claiming an unearned victory. Teach others this justice by your example.



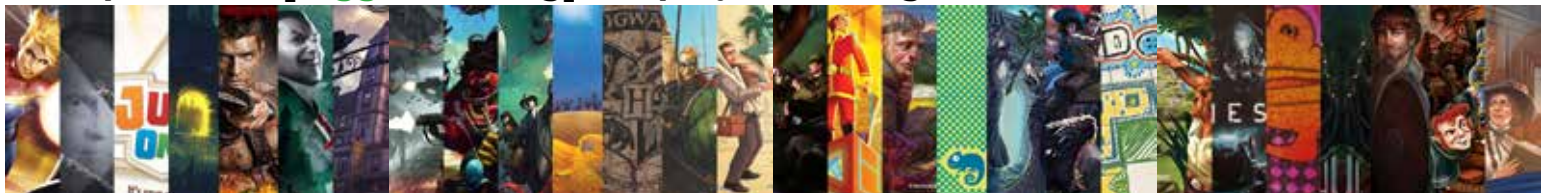
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your thirst for tranquility has left your soul parched. Everywhere you turn you see the tender shoots of peace wilted and trampled. Don't give in to despair! Tend the tender, piece peace together and soon your dice cup will run over, filling the dice cups of others with its plenty!



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): As you will likely have noticed, now is a good time to stay close to home, think about what you can do to improve your corner of the world, and help those around you as they do the same. Don't be afraid to reach out to those around you if you need help yourself.



Last quarter at [toggle Gaming], we played these games and more!



April Box Art Boogie: 1. Everdell; 2. Raccoon Tycoon; 3. Brutal Kingdom; 4. Mice and Mystics; 5. Root; 6. Rhino Hero; 7. Aftermath; 8. Master Fox

The Stalker

Highlights from [toggle Gaming] on Facebook



Library Spotlight

With over 400 titles in [toggle's] library, there are lots of amazing games to try. Here's one to check out!

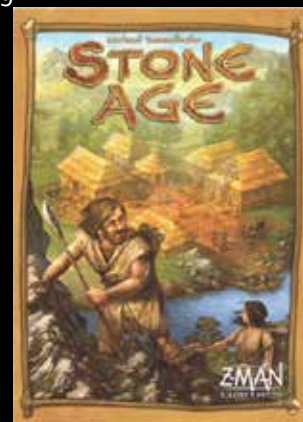
Flintstones! Meet the Flintstones! They're a modern stone age family!

STONE AGE

Design: Bernd Brunnhofer; Art: Michael Menzel, 2008

Recommendation by Alan Greenberg

When you need something that's easy for new gamers to learn and complex enough to keep experienced gamers interested, dig out a copy of *Stone Age*. How can you NOT love a game where, in order to gain another worker, you send 2 of your workers to a hut, where they stay for a while, before returning at the end of the round with a third worker?



Stone Age is a traditional worker placement game with a dice-rolling twist which allows for strategy development, but one that you develop as you go. In *Stone Age*, you use your workers to develop resources, which you use to buy Civilization Cards, which in turn provide immediate benefits and end-game scoring options, or Building Times which provide in-game points. At the end of the game, add up the in-game points and the options from your Civilization Cards and you have a winner.

The dice determine how many resources you collect – but only AFTER you have placed your workers. Not enough resources to use the other workers? Too bad, so sad! Oh, and don't forget to collect enough food to feed your workers, or they will suffer the consequences.

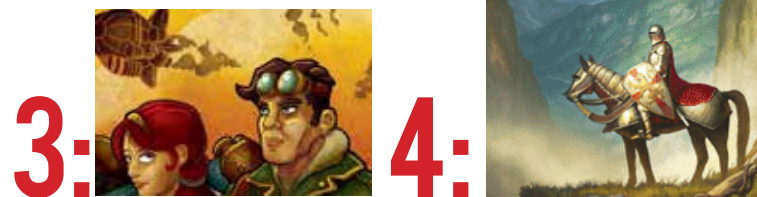
The game plays well with 2-4 players, and the choices you make with your workers WILL lead to your ultimate success (or failure). The dice-rolling mechanism, though, acts as an equalizer to narrow the gap between newbies and experienced players. The game is strategically tight, thematically consistent, easy-to-learn/hard-to-master, beautifully illustrated, and designed with an easy to understand icon system.

Even 12 years after publication, it's a modern classic, still in the BGG top 100. Whether you're playing with light gamers or heavy strategy enthusiasts, *Stone Age* has something for everyone.

Which game in the [toggle Gaming] library do you think needs more love? Be the change you want to see! Send us a 300-word piece telling others why it's so great, and we will likely run it in a future edition of THE [tOGGLE] TIMES. Send it to brendan@togglegaming.com

BOX ART BOOGIE:

Identify the games by a piece of their box art



Lori Kugler wants no part of your IPAs. She hates hoppy beers.

Keep gaming with your [toggle] pals!

Just because we aren't meeting in person doesn't mean we can't game together! Here are some tips and tools your fellow [toggle] gamers have been using to keep in prime gaming form.



- **[toggle Gaming] Online LIVE** - each Tuesday, we've been hosting live plays through online services like FACEBOOK LIVE and ZOOM. (Tuesdays, 7pm)
- **[toggle Gaming] Discord** - Discord is an online chat system that makes it easy to arrange games and chat while you play. <http://tiny.cc/togglediscord>
- **Online play** - Several platforms for online play are cheap or free to use. Check out Tabletop Simulator, Tabletopia, and standalone apps for your favorite games. Combined with Discord, it's almost like being at Nellie's (loaded tater tots not included).
- **Remote play** - Using an online chat service like Zoom or Google Hangouts, set up a play with family and friends. It takes planning, but it's fun!

Need more ideas? Our Facebook "community" members have been sharing lots of great approaches.

KEEP ON KEEPING ON GAMING

A note from the [toggle Gaming] organizers:

We miss y'all. A lot. We miss strolling into Nellie's on a Tuesday evening and ordering a giant plate of tots. We miss accusing one another in *The Resistance* (Neal is surely the spy) and saving the forest in *Fire Tower* and foiling schemes in *Disney Villainous*, and all the other games.

But most, we miss you, our friends.
We can't wait until we can get back together.

In the meantime, post your game plays. Join us for Tabletop Tuesday online once in a while. Meet in small groups if you're comfortable with that and the rules allow. Play games remotely.

And let us know what we can do to help keep our community going. **Play on, you sparkly meeples!**

GENCON ONLINE

Our friends at XYZ Game Labs have a bevy of content ready for this virtual event (7/30-8/2). See:

gencon.com/event_finder?search=XYZ
twitch.tv/xyzgamelabs



This quarantine has been pretty hard on local game stores, but they're persevering. Some are running online D&D sessions, doing home delivery or curbside pickup, and finding other ways to deliver games and gaming to you. If your local store is still providing services, consider reaching out to see what you can do to help them. Of course, stay safe and within the rules. (We all know how to follow rules, eh?)

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xyzgamelabs.com

The many generous gamers who put cash in our donation box each week and donate games to the library.

THANK YOU

Publishing info

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