#### THE METAGAME PRINT & PLAY

#### PRINT THE CARDS

Print out the cards (pages 7 - 40 of this document), preferably in color on white cardstock (80lb or heavier).

#### **PRINT THE BACKS (optional)**

Print page 41 on the back of the opinion cards (the colorful cards on pages 30 - 40). This will make it easier to tell the two kinds of cards apart.





#### **CUT THEM OUT**

Using scissors or a fancy papercutter, cut out each card. If you have a corner rounder, use it to make your deck even nicer.

#### **PRINT THE RULES**

Finally, print the rules (pages 1 - 6) on regular paper.

#### CONNECT

Visit www.metaga.me for more info. Get social with The Metagame:

f The.Metagame.Game



#TheMetagame @localno12

TheMetagame

LocalNo12

#### **THANKS**

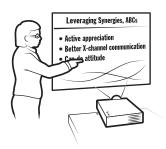
Special thanks to: Ida C. Benedetto, The CASS Group, Esopus Magazine, Shuangshuang Huo, Toni Pizza, Max Temkin, our playtesters, and most of all, our amazing Kickstarter backers.

#### **TERMS OF USE**

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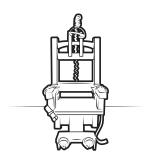
#### **POWERPOINT**



Making the comprehensible incomprehensible. Microsoft, 1990.



## THE ELECTRIC CHAIR



Adopted in the 1880s as a humane alternative to hanging. Harold P. Brown and Arthur E. Kennelly.



# THE SISTINE CHAPEL CEILING



"Ouch, my neck." - Every tourist who spends too long looking up at Michelangelo's masterful 16th Century frescoes

#### **ALICE IN WONDERLAND**



"We're all mad here." - The vanishing Cheshire Cat in Lewis Carroll's fantastical 1865 novel



#### **CATS**



Singing felines in leotards. Andrew Lloyd Webber's 1981 Broadway smash.

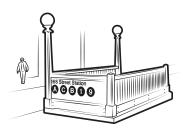


#### **DODGEBALL**



Darwinian playground game where the strong eliminate the weak by clobbering them with rubber balls. Circa 1900.

#### NYC SUBWAY SYSTEM



At 209 miles, the most extensive and fragrant public transit system in the world, 1904.



#### THE BIBLE



Either the direct word of god or written over a thousand years by a bunch of dudes. Accounts vary.



#### **RAY-BAN WAYFARERS**



Raymond Stegeman's 1952 design set the standard for cool sunglasses. Not to be worn at night.



## THE RAINBOW FLAG



The gay agenda's attempt to convert innocent young rainbows to an LGBTQ lifestyle. Gilbert Baker, 1978.

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# LASCAUX CAVE PAINTINGS



World's oldest graffiti. 17,000 BCE.



## **OPRAH**



All hail the Queen of daytime talk shows. First broadcast 1986.



#### RENT



Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes. Jonathan Larson's 1996 musical about life and love in NYC takes up one hundred sixty five of them.

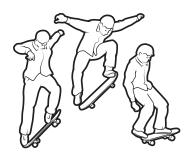
## **VIAGRA**



Has been shown to make flowers stand up for more than a week. Pfizer's 1998 wonder drug.



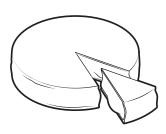
#### **SKATEBOARDING**



The perfect symbol for <del>punk</del> <del>anarchy extreme sports</del> suburban tweens. Invented 1940s.



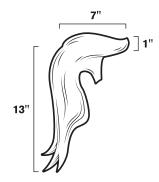
#### **BRIE CHEESE**



Pairs well with White Zinfandel and soft rock. Circa 8th century.



## THE MULLET



1980s hairstyle. Business in the front, party in the back.



## **PLAYGIRL**



Tasteful spreads, hairy chests, and scintillating interviews. Douglas Lambert, 1973.



## **BRUNCH**



"By eliminating the need to get up early on Sunday, brunch would make life brighter for Satuday-night carousers." - 1st mention, 1896 Hunter's Weekly

#### **BASKETBALL**



Team sport invented by James Naismith in 1891. No longer played with peach baskets.



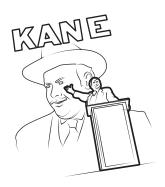
## THE SIMPSONS



Matt Groening's 1989 animated series is the longest-running animated series on television. In a word, "eeexcellent."

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#### CITIZEN KANE



Orson Welles' critically acclaimed 1941 film about power, corruption and a sled named Rosebud.



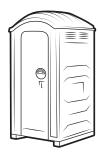
#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Every time you sing this song you are violating copyright law. Composed 1893, © Warner Music through 2030.

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#### PORT-A-POTTY



Insert scatological joke here. First U.S. patent, George Harding, 1962.



#### **TRON**



Don't you hate it when you fall into a computer and have to battle an evil Master Control Program?

Steven Lisberger's 1982 computer science fiction film.

#### PABST BLUE RIBBON



Heineken? Fuck that shit! Pabst Blue Ribbon!" - Blue Velvet's Frank Booth on the 1844 brew



#### THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE



Makes New York City's 50 other bridges jealous. John A. Roebling, 1883.



# PRIDE AND PREJUDICE **BED BUGS** Jane Austen's 1813 novel chroni-Nature's teeny tiny vampires. First documented bite, 400 BCE. cles Elizabeth Bennet's coming of age in British polite society. Featuring Colin Firth.

#### **DOOM**



1993 videogame by id Software.
The grandaddy of all first-person shooters - if your grandaddy killed demons with a sawedoff shotgun.

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#### THE LATEX CONDOM



Keeping sex safe since 1920. Julius Fromm.



#### THE NEW YORK TIMES



The Gray Lady has been the paper of record since Henry Jarvis Raymond founded it in 1851.



# THE STAR WARS FRANCHISE



George Lucas' epic 1977 space opera film series gave us Luke Skywalker, R2D2 and enough action figures to fill a Death Star.

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#### **WOODSTOCK**



1969 music festival that brought together hippies, bikers and dropouts for three days of mud, love and music.

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# THE STATUE OF LIBERTY



Symbol of America's freedom and democracy. Imported from France. Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, 1886.

The Metallian

#### **NORTH KOREA**



What happens in North Korea stays in North Korea. 1948, Kim II-sung.



#### THE AMERICAN FLAG



Letting it touch the ground is a patriotic faux pas. Burning it is still legal. First designed 1777.



#### **BARBIE DOLL**



"She was blonde, she was free and she was fun." - Catherine Malandrino on the controversial doll, invented by Ruth Handler, 1959

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## THE INTERNET



The world belongs to the Internet. We just live in it. First transmission, 1969.



## **COSMOPOLITAN**



"Slip a glazed doughnut around his penis and nibble it off."

- Advice from the magazine, founded in 1886

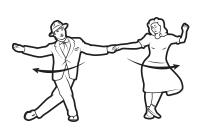
## I LOVE NY



Everybody loves Milton Glaser's iconic 1977 logo. Except actual New Yorkers.



#### **SWING DANCING**



After we frisk the whiskers, we'll bop on down to the juke joint for some jumping and jiving. Circa 1920s.



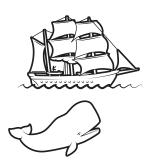
#### **PARIS**



"In Paris you're always surrounded by French people." - David Sedaris on the city, founded 12th century



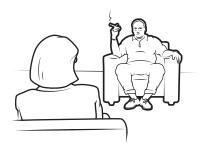
#### **MOBY DICK**



A novel narrated by a seaman obsessed with a sperm whale named Moby Dick. 1851, Herman Melville.



#### THE SOPRANOS



Mobster therapy for TV. 1999 series by David Chase.



#### THE BIG MAC



Iconic 1967 McDonald's burger. Two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles and onions on a sesame seed bun.

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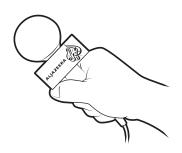
#### LEVI'S 501 JEANS



140 years of denim, rivets and the hard-to-button button fly. 1873, Levi Strauss & Jacob Davis.



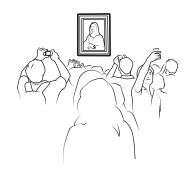
## **AL JAZEERA**



"The opinion and the other opinion." - Tagline for the 1996 Qatari news network



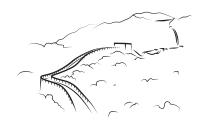
#### THE MONA LISA



Leonardo da Vinci's 1506 portrait: the world's most mysterious smile.



# THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA



13,000 miles of neighborly fence. 7th Century BCE.



#### LIKE A VIRGIN



Madonna's 1984 pop album celebrated her Catholic upbringing. For the very first time.



#### THE MUPPET MOVIE



"Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection, the lovers, the dreamers, and me." - Kermit the Frog in Jim Henson's original Muppet film, 1979

#### **POKER**



"You gotta know when to hold'em, know when to fold'em..."
- Kenny Rogers' thoughts on the gambling card game, first documented 1829

## **POST-IT NOTES**



Before Art Fry's 1974 invention, sticky paper was only good for catching flies.



## CAMPBELL'S SOUP



A can of Campbell's soup: 99 cents. Andy Warhol's 1962 series of paintings: \$15 million.



#### **WORLD OF WARCRAFT**

Leeroy <PALS FOR LIFE>



Blizzard's definitive 2004 massively-multiplayer online role-playing game. Horde or Alliance?



## **FACEBOOK**



The world's most popular social network. Founded in 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg and some guys that now hate his guts.

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#### **GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES**



Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm's catalog of Freudian madness and childhood terrors. First published in 1812.

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## THE ELECTRIC SLIDE



Ric Silver's 1976 dance craze. Wedding receptions would never be the same again.



#### **SEINFELD**





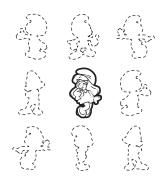




A show about nothing. (Not that there's anything wrong with that.) Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld's long-running sitcom, 1989.

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#### **SMURFETTE**



If you're a Smurf, you can be Brainy, Greedy, Lazy, Jokey, Grouchy, or... Smurfette. Toy character by Peyo, 1958.



#### STARBUCKS COFFEE



By the time you finish reading this, another Starbucks has probably opened. Founded 1971, Jerry Baldwin, Gordon Bowker and Zev Siegl.



#### **AMERICAN GOTHIC**



Man, woman and pitchfork. Just as god intended. Painting by Grant Wood, 1930.



#### **AK-47 ASSAULT RIFLE**



Easy to use, cheap to produce and great brand recognition. Plus it kills people. Mikhail Kalashnikov, 1947.



#### **GOOGLE**



google.com/search?q=google Sergey Brin and Larry Page, 1998.



## **HELLO KITTY**



The cat that defined cute. Correction: the kid in a cat suit that defined cute. Yuko Shimizu's brand character, 1974.

## THE THUNDERDOME



"Two men enter, one man leaves."

- Fictional architecture from George Miller and George Ogilvie's film Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome, 1985

#### **SGT PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND**



Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds is absolutely not a reference to LSD. The Beatles' classic album, 1967.



## **SPEEDO BATHING SUIT**



Less is not always more. Men's swimsuits from Alexander MacRae's company, 1928.

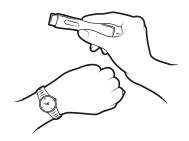


#### **ACTION COMICS #1**



Superman's first appearance. Original price: 10 cents. Now worth \$2.16 million. DC Comics, 1938.

# THE HOME PREGNANCY



Want to see the future? Pee on a stick. Judith Vaitukaitis and Glenn Braunstein, 1977.



#### **RIVERDANCE**



The 1994 Irish dance phenomenon that brought fancy footwork and flouncy blouses to the world.



#### **PROFESSIONAL** WRESTLING



Soap opera or sporting event? You decide. Athletic spectacle, originated circa 1830.



#### **PSYCHO**



After Hitchcock's 1960 cinematic thriller, the phrase "shower scene" would never be the same again.



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#### **DIANETICS**



L. Ron Hubbard's bestselling 1950 self-help book that shaped Scientology. (Snarky joke withheld for legal reasons.)

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#### **HIGGS BOSON**



A subatomic particle with positive parity and zero spin, not to be confused with politicians. Discovered 2012.

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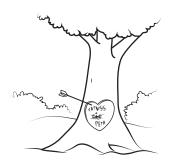
#### THE WHITE HOUSE



James Hoban's 1800 presidential mansion is redecorated every four to eight years, based on prevailing popular tastes.

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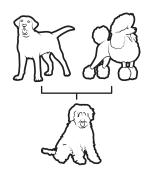
## THE HUNGER GAMES



2008 young adult book series by Suzanne Collins, featuring teenage death matches, evil game designers and sweet, sweet first love.



#### **LABRADOODLE**



Genetic engineering, thy name is Labradoodle. Dog breed by Wally Conron, 1988.



#### 4' 33"



Signature 1952 musical composition by John Cage. Four minutes and thirty-three seconds of silence.



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This. Local No. 12, 2015.



#### THE SUPER BOWL



Advertisements and a halftime show with a bit of football in between. The National Football League's annual championship, since 1967.



#### DAS KAPITAL



In his 1867 book, Karl Marx postulated that capitalism exploits labor. Later proven true by John Maynard Keynes, Ronald Reagan and Walmart.

## **NASCAR**



60% of NASCAR fans are men.
79% are white. 100% like cars that
go fast. The National Association
of Stock Car Racing, founded
by Bill France, Sr. 1948.

## COCA-COLA



Bubbly caffeinated caramelcolored sugar water. Just like nature intended. The Coca Cola Company, 1886.

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#### THE CABBAGE PATCH



1987 dance craze involving circular fist-churning. Transitions into a Running Man or an Alf.



#### **DUNGEONS & DRAGONS**



Groundbreaking 1974 role-playing game by Dave Arneson and Gary Gygax. Nice charisma.



#### **MEDICAL MARIJUANA**



Side effects may include dry mouth, loss of short-term memory and dry mouth. First legalized in the US, 1996.

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#### THE MUSTACHE

















Timeless icon of ironic masculinity.

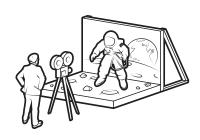


#### MTV



First video killed the radio star. Then reality TV killed music videos. Robert W. Pittman, first broadcast 1981.

## THE MOON LANDING



One giant leap for mankind." Because giant leaps are SO HARD in low gravity. NASA, 1969.



#### HAMSTER WHEEL



Rodent exercise machine or metaphor for modern life? Circa 1949.



# THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY



Mass is energy. Space is curved. Mind is blown. Albert Einstein, 1905 (Special) and 1915 (General).



# THE LORD OF THE RINGS



How do you say "genre-defining" in Elvish? J.R.R. Tolkien's influential 1954 literary fantasy trilogy.



#### THE NUTCRACKER SUITE



When sugar plum fairies were sugar plum fairies and nutcrackers were nutcrackers. Tchaikovsky's 1892 ballet.

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# ANY CELINE DION SONG



From boundless optimism to unquenchable hope, they cover the entire emotional range. First single 1982.



#### **TAROT CARDS**



Playing cards, 15th Century.
Divination tool, 18th Century.
Now a revenue stream for your neighborhood psychic.

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#### A COSMOPOLITAN



Vodka, triple sec, cranberry juice, and lime. Plus a dash of hangover. 1970s.



#### THE OLYMPIC GAMES



Every four years, the world settles its differences with Curling, Dressage and Synchronized Swimming. First modern games, 1896.



#### **FOX NEWS**



"Fair and Balanced." Roger Ailes, first broadcast 1996.



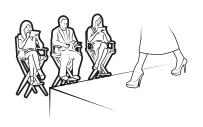
#### **FOUNTAIN**



In 1917, Marcel Duchamp shocked the world by exhibiting a urinal as art.



#### **PROJECT RUNWAY**



Fashion reality TV series created by Eli Holzman in 2004. Like a cooking show for clothes.



#### THE SCREAM



Art is terrifying. Edvard Munch's expressionist masterpiece painting, 1895.



## **DISNEYLAND**



Adventureland, Frontierland, Fantasyland, Tomorrowland. One mouse to rule them all. Walt Disney, 1955.



#### **WONDER WOMAN**



Wonder Woman conquered comic book Nazis in the 1940s, but couldn't escape cheesy TV in the 1970s. Elizabeth and William Marston, 1941.



#### **ENRON**



Taking creative accounting to new heights. Scandal-ridden American energy corporation, 1985-2004.



#### **COMIC SANS**

# Comic Sans

Vincent Connare's typeface is the business casual of fonts.



# THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS



One dress, every occasion. Coco Chanel, 1920s.



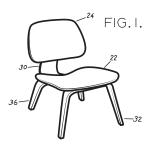
#### **PROZAC**



Cure for the common life. Eli Lilly and Co., 1987.



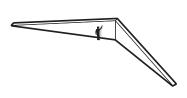
# EAMES LOUNGE CHAIR WOOD



The elegant 1946 plywood chair by Charles and Ray Eames was meant to democratize design. Too bad you can't afford one.

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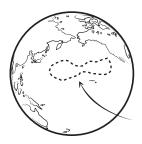
# THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL



Maya Lin's 1982 Washington DC monument makes a powerful statement with only names and dates on a wall.

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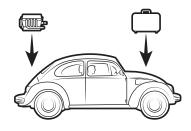
# THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH



A continent-sized soup of plastic debris. Not humanity's proudest moment. Discovered 1997.



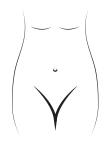
#### **VW BEETLE**



Commissioned by Hitler, loved by hippies. Volkswagen, 1938.



# THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES



Eve Ensler's 1996 feminist play including these monologues: My Angry Vagina, Reclaiming Cunt and Because He Liked to Look At It.

## HUNGRY HUNGRY HIPPOS



"It's a race. It's a chase, hurry up and feed their face!" - Jingle for Fred Kroll's 1978 game

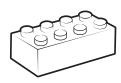


#### **DIRTY DANCING**



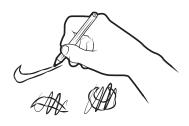
"Nobody puts Baby in a corner!"
- Patrick Swayze in Emile
Ardolino's 1987 coming-of-age
film

## **LEGOS**



There are 62 Lego bricks for every living person. Ole Kirk Christiansen's construction toy, patented 1958.

## THE NIKE SWOOSH



Carolyn Davidson's 1971 logo, synonymous with speed, elegance and the corporatization of sport.

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#### JELL-0



A fun dessert extracted from boiled bones, connective tissues and other animal products.

Kraft, 1845.

- C

# **COMPLETELY** SHINY. **FILE UNDER INAPPROPRIATE. PURE EVIL. WHICH KICKS BEST EMBODIES** THE MOST ASS? THE SIN OF **WHICH IS WHICH SAYS EVIDENCE THAT IMPOSSIBLE OUR SOCIETY IS MORE ABOUT** TO UNDERSTAND ALL SCREWED UP. **GENDER?** WITHOUT EXPERT **GUIDANCE?**

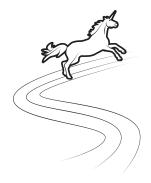
## **LOLCATS**



2007 meme proving once and for all that cats are funnier than dogs. On the Internet.



## **UNICORNS**



The narwhal of the forest. First recorded mention 390 BCE.



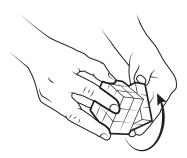
## **VOGUE**



The devil wears Prada and definitely reads *Vogue*. Magazine first published by Arthur Turnure in 1892.



## **RUBIK'S CUBE**



Ernő Rubik's 1974 puzzle has 43,252,003,274,489,856,000 possible combinations.



## **HEROIN**

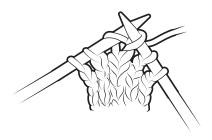


H. Smack. Horse. Brown. Black. Tar. First synthesized 1874.



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#### **KNITTING**



A sewing technique from 3rd century Egypt. Now used mostly for iPhone cozies.



#### **PEANUTS**



Charlie Brown, existential philosopher. Charles M. Schulz, classic cartoonist. 1950.



## **CROCS**



"It looks like a plastic hoof. How can you take that seriously?"

- Tim Gunn on the ubiquitous 2002 foam shoe

**BIG GULP** 



Fountain Drink, 1955 (7 oz.)

Big Gulp, 2014 (128 oz.)

More liquid than the human stomach can hold. 7-Eleven, 1980.



## **HARRY POTTER**



J.K. Rowling's book series in which young wizards learn life lessons and battle trolls. First conjured in 1997.

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# DOC MARTENS 8-EYE BOOTS



What well-dressed skinheads, grunge rockers and postal workers have in common. Klaus Märten, 1947.



#### **HEINZ KETCHUP**



Condiment with a bottle exit speed of 0.0125 miles per second. Henry John Heinz, 1869.



# A CIRQUE DU SOLEIL SHOW



This Canadian troupe dresses up circus traditions from around the world in colorful spandex outfits. Founded 1984.

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#### **TWITTER**



#microblogging #2006 @Jack



## I LOVE LUCY



"Instead of divorce lawyers profiting from our mistakes, we'd profit from them."

- Lucille Ball on the television-defining 1951 sitcom





The story of a lost alien and his delicious Reese's Pieces. Stephen Spielberg's heartwarming film, 1982.

## **ANY JOURNEY ALBUM**



1973 rock band. Don't stop believin'.



# THE SOLOMON R. GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM



Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic 1959 museum is an inspiraling place to experience fine art.



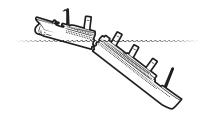
# BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH SYMPHONY



Da da da DUM. 1808.



## **TITANIC**



Boy meets girl. Ship meets iceberg. James Cameron's 1997 romantic disaster movie.



#### **WAGNER'S RING CYCLE**



Angry giants, vengeful gods and winged Valkyrie warriors. Singing. Wagner's epic 1869 four-opera cycle.



#### THE SPORK



What happens when the fork runs away with the spoon. Cutlery implement, first patented 1874.



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# THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



"Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Not bad for a bunch of old white guys. 1776.



#### **VASELINE**



Everyone's favorite petroleumbased product. 1870, Robert Chesebrough.



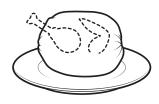
## **HULA HOOP**



"You know, for kids."

- The Hudsucker Proxy's Norville Barnes on Richard Knerr and Arthur "Spud" Melin's 1958 circular toy

#### **TOFURKY**



A turkey of the rare tofu variety. Turtle Island Foods, 1995.



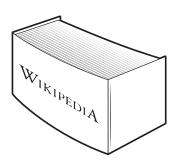
#### THE WONDERBRA



Your breast friend. Invented in 1935 by Israel Pilot.



#### **WIKIPEDIA**



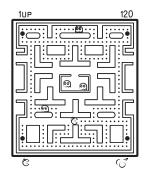
Where most of these Metagame factoids come from. Larry Sanger and Jimmy Wales' communallyauthored Internet resource, 2001.

#### THE COSBY SHOW



Starring Bill Cosby, his television family and his shockingly ugly sweater collection. Sitcom by Bill Cosby, Michael Leeson and Ed Weinberger, 1984.

#### MS. PAC-MAN



The first videogame sequel. If only every sequel involved changing the gender of the protagonist. Midway, 1982.



#### **SOCCER**



This card should be called Football but it would confuse the Americans. Ancient team sport, formalized in 1863.



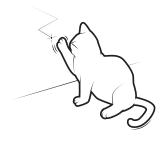
#### **SESAME STREET**



A grouch in a trash can and a giant bird teach kids to read. Joan Ganz Cooney and Lloyd Morrisset's TV series, 1969.



## **LASERS**



Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. Now you know. 1960.



#### **TWILIGHT**



2005 book series by Stephenie Meyer about brooding, baseballplaying teen vampires.



#### THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA



Incredibly big houses for some dead people. 2560 BCE.



#### **GONE WITH THE WIND**



When you play this card, you are NOT allowed to say anything about not giving a damn. Victor Fleming's epic 1939 Civil War period film. The Metagame

## THE IPHONE



Apple's 2007 camera, music player, game console, Internet communications device and occasional cell phone.

The Metagame.

#### **WAITING FOR GODOT**



Samuel Beckett's 1953 play about the absurd futility of existence. Spoiler alert: Godot never comes.



# THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW



"I'm just a sweet transvestite from Transsexual, Transylvania." - Frank N. Furter in Sharman and O'Brien's 1975 cult musical film

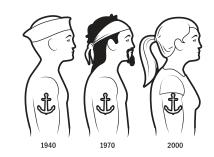
#### **PLAYBOY**



"A woman reading Playboy feels a little like a Jew reading a Nazi manual." - Gloria Steinem on Hugh Hefner's 1953 girlie mag

The Metagame.

#### **TATTOOS**



"Be a good-looking corpse. Leave a good-looking tattoo."

- Actor Ed Westwick



# NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS, HERE'S THE SEX PISTOLS



"I'm surprised we aren't in jail for treason." - Johnny Rotten on the Sex Pistols' 1977 seminal punk album

The Metagame

#### THE WIZARD OF OZ



"...we're not in Kansas anymore."

- Dorothy, in Victor Fleming's classic 1939 film



## ELVIS IMPERSONATORS



Like Elvis, but not quite. Originated 1950s.



#### **CORVETTE**



Chevrolet's 1953 car was molded from fiberglass to ensure sleek curves and impossibly expensive repairs.

The Metagame

#### **SAVED BY THE BELL**



Only on TV could a jock, a nerd, a cheerleader, a schemer, an activist and a fashionista be best friends. Sitcom created by Sam Bobrick, 1989.



## A JACKSON POLLOCK



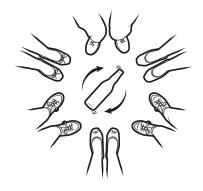
"The painting has a life of its own. I try to let it come through." -Jackson Pollock on his drip painting process, 1956

#### THE WORLD TRADE **CENTER**



Built in 1973 by architect Minoru Yamasaki and destroyed in 2001, the Twin Towers were first hated, then beloved and are now missed.

#### SPIN THE BOTTLE



Teenage smooching game, circa 1950. When kissing could get you pregnant.



#### **SPAM**



A precooked meat product in a can. What's not to like? Hormel, 1937.



## **LEG WARMERS**



Adding that distinctive thick and rumpled silhouette to fashion. David Lee, 1980.

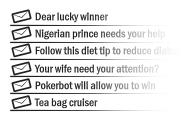


#### THE DAILY SHOW



TV news spoof that demonstrates how fake the real news can be. Madeleine Smithberg and Lizz Winstead, 1996.

#### **EMAIL SPAM**



Alert! Play this card now to fix your limp, overweight, cheating Metagame. First hit inboxes in the 1990s.

The Metagame

#### **WEST SIDE STORY**



1957 Broadway hit about warring NYC gangs by Bernstein, Laurents, Robbins and Sondheim. #sharksrule



#### THE BREAKFAST CLUB



Don't you forget about me. John Hughes' 1985 film about five high school teens brought together by detention.

The Metagame.

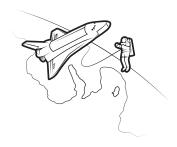
# SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT



An anthem for generation ironic. Nirvana's grunge single, 1991.



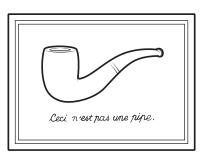
## **SPACE SHUTTLE**



Now that the space shuttle is grounded, how are astronauts supposed to get to work? NASA, first flight 1981.

The Metagame.

# THE TREACHERY OF IMAGES



This is not a Metagame card about René Magritte's playfully conceptual 1929 painting.



#### **HELVETICA**

## Helvetica

The 1957 typeface by Max Miedinger. So elegant it's almost invisible.



#### **SEXTING**



What 21st century politicians do with cell phones. Circa 2005.



# SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER



When disco dancing and white bell-bottoms were the definition of Brooklyn hipster. John Badham's 1977 film.



#### **THRILLER**



One bejeweled glove, number one album of all time. Michael Jackson, 1982.



#### THE BRADY BUNCH



Bobby, Peter, Greg, Cindy, Jan, and Marcia, Marcia, Marcia! Sherwood Schwartz's 1969 sitcom about a typical American family.

The Metagame

#### **MARLBORO CIGARETTES**



Sexy death-sticks. 1904, Philip Morris, USA.



#### MAUS



Art Spiegelman's groundbreaking 1991 series showed that comics can take on serious subjects. And that cats are Nazis.

The Metagam

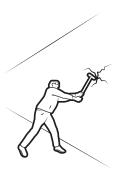
#### **WALMART**



\$447 billion in revenue from Sam Walton's 1962 retail chain would make it the 27th richest country in the world. (Sorry, Austria.)

The Metagame.

#### THE BERLIN WALL



The most symbolic means of dividing a people. Ever. Constructed 1961.



#### **ATARI 2600**



Long live the joystick. Atari, Inc., 1977.



# BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER



Joss Whedon's 1997 TV series in which high school students fall in love, cram for exams and destroy ancient hellspawn.

The Metagame

#### **ATLAS SHRUGGED**



"There are two sides to every issue: one side is right and the other is wrong..." - From Ayn Rand's 1957 aggressively philosophical sci-fi novel

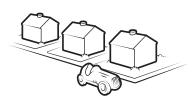
#### **ROMEO AND JULIET**



Boy meets girl. Boy dies. Girl dies. William Shakespeare's theatrical tragedy, 1597.



#### **MONOPOLY**



Parker Brothers' 1933 capitalist fantasy boardgame was based on Elizabeth Magie's 1903 game protesting economic conditions. Ironic.

#### STARRY NIGHT



"A star-spangled sky, for instance, that's a thing I would like to try to do..." - Vincent Van Gogh on his 1889 painting

The Metagame.

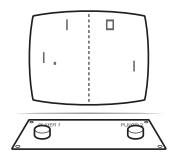
## **SURVIVOR**



The tribe has spoken. Mark Burnett's influential 2000 reality series has still not been voted off the island.

he Metagame

#### **PONG**



Hi-res graphics in 1972. Allan Alcorn's pioneering videogame.



#### RAPPER'S DELIGHT



"I said a hip, hop, the hippie, the hippie, to the hip hip hop and you don't stop." - Sugar Hill Gang's trailblazing 1979 rap single

The Metagame.

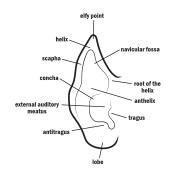
#### **IKEA FURNITURE**



One Billy bookcase is sold every 10 seconds. Furniture company founded by Ingvar Kamprad, 1943.



#### **ELVES**



What Keebler and Tolkien have in common. Circa 5th century.



#### **JAMES BOND FILMS**



Where we learned how to order our martinis. Film series based on Ian Fleming's secret agent character, 1962.

The Metagame.

#### **BIKINI**



"The bikini is the most important thing since the atom bomb."

- Diana Vreeland on Louis Réard

- Diana Vreeland on Louis Réard's 1946 invention

The Metagame.

#### **DEATH OF A SALESMAN**



"I realized what a ridiculous lie my whole life has been."

- From Arthur Miller's seriously depressing 1949 play

The Metagame

# WHICH IS THE MOST META? **COULD HAVE BEEN MADE** BY A CHILD.

# WHICH LULLS YOU INTO COMPLACENCY?

WHICH COULD BE THE BASIS OF A CULT?





WINS THE MOST HEARTS & MINDS.

SYMBOL OF THE \_\_\_\_\_LIFESTYLE.







WHICH IS HOTTER?

THE BEST EXPLANATION FOR

A PERFECT MATCH FOR \_\_\_\_\_.







## WHICH IS WHICH SPEAKS **MAKES MEN FEEL INSECURE ABOUT RESPONSIBLE** UNIVERSALLY FOR THE FRAYING TO EVERYONE? THEIR . OF OUR MORAL **FABRIC? VOTED MOST** SQUISHY. IS LIKELY TO **FUNDAMENTALLY** MISUNDERSTOOD. **INSTILLS** SALTY. WHAT WOULD **A SENSE** D0? OF MALAISE.

# BRINGS OUT \_\_\_\_FEELINGS.

# **EQUE ES**MAS MACHO?

# WHICH BETTER CAPTURES THE ZEITGEIST OF ITS TIME?







# MOST LIKELY TO BE FOUND AMONG THE RICH AND FAMOUS.

EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE ONE.

WHICH WILL OUTLIVE US ALL?







# MORE MYTH THAN FACT.

4 OUT OF 5\_\_\_\_ RECOMMEND THIS. UNSAFE AT ANY SPEED.







# IF THIS WERE AN ANIMAL, IT WOULD BE A \_\_\_\_\_.

WOULD MAKE THE STRANGEST FETISH EVER. MOST ENLIGHTENED.







# A SUITABLE SUBSTITUTE FOR

WHICH IS MOST OPPRESSIVE?

WHICH HAS
THE MOST
EMPTY CALORIES?







THIS IS THE LAST THING \_\_\_\_ THINKS ABOUT BEFORE GOING TO SLEEP.

The Metagame.

WHICH IS BEST AT DECONSTRUCTING THE DOMINANT HETERO-PATRIARCHAL PARADIGM?



WHICH IS SIMPLY THE MOST BEAUTIFUL?



## WHICH IS WHICH IS **HOPELESSLY MOST MAGICAL? MOST SQUARE?** WHICH WOULD WHICH IS WHICH IS MARX APPROVE? A SIGN OF THE THE BEST ICON FOR THE DECADE **APOCALYPSE?** OF THE ? WHICH WOULD **MAKES** WHICH SHOULD **FREUD WANT?** THE PERFECT **BE REQUIRED ADVERTISEMENT** IN SCHOOLS? FOR .

# WHICH IS MORE FABULOUS?

## YOU CAN FIND THIS UNDER THE DICTIONARY DEFINITION FOR

A TRADITION
HANDED DOWN
FROM FATHER
TO SON.







## MOST FUN AT PARTIES.

MORE STYLE THAN SUBSTANCE.

MAKES
\_\_\_\_\_PEOPLE
UNCOMFORTABLE.







# LOVED BY PIRATES.

WHICH EXPRESSES THE INEXPRESSIBLE?

MAKES
YOU THINK
OF THE COLOR







# SPARKS \_\_\_\_\_AMONGST FRIENDS.

WHICH WOULD YOU WANT TO FIND IN BED? WHICH IS
A BETTER TOOL
FOR DICTATORS?







# LADIES LIKE THIS FOR ITS

\_\_\_\_\_.

WHICH IS MOST USEFUL ON A DESERT ISLAND? WHICH IS
A LEADING CAUSE
OF DEATH?







# WHICH HAS THE MOST SUBVERSIVE POTENTIAL?

WASH YOUR HANDS AFTER USING. BEST ENJOYED
BY A \_\_\_\_\_
YEAR OLD.







## WHICH WILL SAVE YOU CAN BUY **PROOF THAT ABSOLUTE POWER** THE WORLD? THIS FOR **CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY.** WHICH GOES **TASTES LIKE** KID TESTED, **BEST WITH MOTHER** A BEER AND APPROVED. HOT DOG? The Metagame **KILLS** THE VOICE BEST DRESSED. OF AUTHORITY.

# BEST DEFENSE AGAINST BULLIES.

# THE THING THAT EVERYONE LOVES TO HATE.

WHICH IS
THE ICON
FOR THE NATION
OF ?







## IF YOU DON'T KNOW THIS, YOU ARE CULTURALLY CHALLENGED.

THE GOLD STANDARD FOR

\_\_\_\_-

WHICH IS
WHISPERED
IN AWE BY
THE HIPSTERS
IN BROOKLYN?







## TWO WORDS: UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES.

WHICH GETS MORE ACTION?

CUTER THAN A BABY







# AROUND THE WORLD COULD CARE LESS ABOUT IT.

WHICH FEELS LIKE FIRST LOVE?

WHICH WILL GET YOU LAID IF YOU MENTION IT?







# WHICH REPRESENTS THE SOUL OF AMERICA?

WHICH HAS BEEN MORE INFLUENTIAL?

THE IDEAL ACCESSORY FOR PEOPLE WHO





THE CURE FOR

BEST REMINDER
OF OUR
MORTALITY.

BELONGS IN A \_\_\_\_.







## **HOW TO PLAY THE METAGAME**



Instructions for playing a whole bunch of different games with a single deck of Metagame cards. Friends not included. Local No. 12, 2015.

#### **NOT JUST ONE GAME**

THE METAGAME is a deck of cards that can be used to play many different games. There are two kinds of cards:





culture cards

opinion cards

When the rules mention a **hand** of cards, it means keep your cards hidden from other players.

#### WHICH GAME SHOULD YOU PLAY?

If this is your first time, we recommend MATCHMAKERS.

HISTORY 101 is great for two or more. HEAD TO HEAD is designed for three. Most of the games scale up well with big groups of players - especially MASSIVELY MULTIPLAYER METAGAME, which is designed for parties and big events.

It also depends on how you like to play. DEBATE CLUB and METAQUILT will get you arguing. HEAD TO HEAD is fast and intense. HISTORY 101 tests your knowledge.

#### WHO GOES FIRST?

If a game asks you to pick a first player, draw a culture card at random. Whoever most recently interacted with some version of what is on the card goes first.

#### YOU CAN CHANGE THE RULES

Once you have tried out a few of the official Metagames, we invite you to break some rules or make some new ones. Here are some ideas:

Stretch it or shrink it. Add a few rounds to supersize MATCHMAKERS into an epic contest. Or turn HISTORY 101 into a 1-strike-and-you're-out lightening duel.

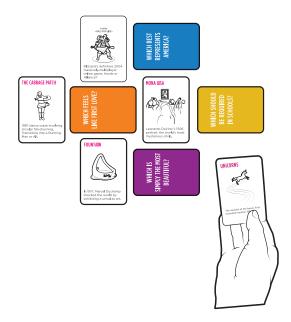
Add more cards. If someone doesn't know a card in their hand, let them draw a new one. Or maybe everybody draws more cards in order to have more options.

Go for speed! In MATCHMAKERS, everyone tries to play their cards as quickly as possible – and if you are left holding the last card, you don't get to play it.

**Get weird.** In DEBATE CLUB, players pick the worst card from their hand and give it to another player to argue. Or maybe players argue for their cards with... interpretive dance?

The drunk version. When you lose a round, take a drink. Or when you win a round. Or both.

You get the idea. But why stop there? Feel free to invent your own brand-new Metagames from scratch. Power to the players.



It's got strategy. It's got debate. And it turns your tabletop into a crazy-quilt of culture. Lose all your cards to win.

#### **SETUP**

Deal everyone 5 culture cards and 5 opinion cards. Keep your hand hidden - but other players should be able to see how many cards you have. Your goal is to get rid of all of your cards.

Draw and place a single opinion card in the center of the table – this is the start of the quilt. If the starting opinion card has a blank on it, draw another one. Begin with the first player and take turns clockwise.

#### **ON A TURN**

Each turn has 3 phases. When it is your turn:

- 1. PLAY a card from your hand to the quilt
- 2. One player can CHALLENGE your card
- 3. You or your challenger REDUCE your hand

#### **PLAY A CARD**

On your turn, play a card from your hand into the quilt.

In the quilt, culture cards are played vertically and opinion cards are played horizontally. The two types of cards alternate, so culture cards only touch opinion cards (and vice-versa). For example, on the very first turn you can only play a culture card.

If you play a opinion card with a blank, fill it however you want. The blank is filled with your word for the rest of the game.

When you play a card, try and make it match every card it touches. To play in the lower-right corner of the example game in the illustration, you need a culture card that should be required in schools and is simply beautiful. The card doesn't have to be a better match than other cards on the table – it just needs to somehow fit the cards it touches.

#### **CHALLENGES**

When someone plays a card, if you think you have a better match for that particular spot in your hand, you can challenge. The first player to say "CHALLENGE!" and place their supposedly better card face-up on the table gets to make the challenge.

The challenger makes a brief argument for their card. Then the challenged player makes a counter-argument for their own card. On the count of "1-2-3-POINT!" the rest of the players simultaneously point to vote on a winner. On a tie vote, the challenge fails.

If the challenge succeeds: The challenger's card is added to the quilt. The challenged card is discarded and the player who played it draws another card of either type.

If the challenge fails: The original card is added to the quilt. The challenger discards the card they used in the challenge and as a punishment for the failed challenge draws 2 cards of either type.

#### **REDUCING YOUR HAND**

At the end of every turn (after any challenges are resolved), whoever successfully played a card into the quilt reduces their hand. For every card that the new card in the quilt touches, you reduce your hand by one. So if you played a card that touches 2 cards, you discard 2 cards from your hand.

If a challenge was made, whoever won the challenge and successfully placed a card in the quilt gets to reduce their hand. If there was no challenge, then the player who put the unchallenged card into the quilt reduces their hand.

#### **WINNING**

If you successfully play your last card into the Metaquilt you win the game. You CAN win by making a challenge. However, you cannot get rid of your final card by reducing your hand. You can only win by playing your last card into the quilt.

try this one first!



Each round, match your hand of culture cards to everyone else's opinion cards. Recommended for your first Metagame.

#### **SETUP**

Deal everyone a hand of 4 culture cards. Each player also gets 1 opinion card face-up in front of them.

For 3 Players: Each player starts with a hand of 7 culture cards instead of 4. And each player has 2 opinion cards face-up in front of them—not just 1.

#### **PLAY**

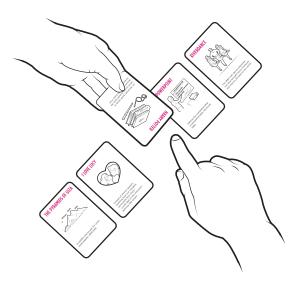
Each player reads their opinion card out loud. If yours has a blank: as you read the card, make up a word or phrase to fill the blank. Then everyone puts ALL of their culture cards face-down next to the opinion cards of other players to make good matches. (DON'T play on your own cards!) You don't have to play on every opinion card and you can put multiple cards in the same place. There are no turns - everyone plays at the same time.

#### **JUDGMENT**

One by one, each player shuffles the culture cards that were played on their opinion card, lays them face-up on the table, and picks their favorite. The judge can explain their decision—but keep quiet about who played which card during judging. If your card was chosen, you win the opinion card PLUS all of the culture cards that were played on it. Keep the cards you win in a scoring pile.

#### **WINNING**

Play 3 rounds. At the end, count all of the cards in your scoring pile—opinion cards AND culture cards. The player with the most cards wins!



Get your dates straight. A Metagame for 2 or more players about putting culture in the right chronology.

#### **SETUP**

Start the timeline by putting a random culture card face-up on the table. You won't need any opinion cards.

#### **PLAY**

Take turns clockwise around the table. On your turn, the player on your left draws a card and reads it to you—saying "BLANK" for any dates. They can show you the card upon request—just be sure they cover the date!

Then you point at the spot in the timeline where the card should go. If you're right, the card goes into the timeline. If you're wrong, put the card in front of you as a strike.

#### FAQ

- If a card has no date: discard it and pick another.
- If there are multiple dates: use the earliest one.
- If it's a decade or century: use the first year of the range.
- If it has the same date as another card: it can go on either side of the matching card in the timeline.

#### WINNING

When you have 3 strikes you are out of the game. The last surviving player wins.



Loudmouths rule. Survive each round by arguing for your card. If the critics don't like what you say, you are knocked out and become a critic, too.

#### **SETUP**

One player starts as the critic. Deal everyone but the critic a hand of 5 culture cards

#### DEBATE

The critic draws 3 new opinion cards, picks one to read out loud, and discards the others. If it has a blank, the critic decides how to fill it. Everyone else selects the best match from their hand and places it face-down on the table. The critic calls on each player one by one. That player reveals their card and argues for a minute or two why their card is the best match.

#### **JUDGMENT**

The critic picks the BEST and the WORST responses, then collects all played cards and discards them.

The losing player discards all cards and joins the critic.

On future rounds, the growing group of critics judges together. The newest critic selects the next opinion card and breaks tie votes. All surviving players draw a card.

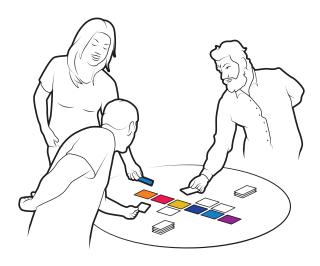
The winning player of the round draws an extra card.

#### **WINNING**

The final player remaining wins the game - and is the starting critic for the next game.

#### Strategy Variant: Starved for Cards

Players begin with a hand of cards equal to 2 less than the total number of players (i.e., a hand of 3 for 5 players). Deal that many opinion cards face-up in a row. The critic picks one of the face-up cards to use each round. Players do NOT draw any more cards.



A high-speed battle of wits for three. You and an opponent race to put your cards on the table.

#### **SETUP**

One player starts as the critic. The critic deals 7 culture cards to the other 2 players, face down in front of each of them in a stack. Then the critic draws opinion cards, discarding any with blanks and redrawing until the critic has a hand of 7. The 2 players put one hand behind their backs – they can't use that hand during the duel. The critic says "READY - GO!" and the duel begins.

#### DUEL

The critic starts placing opinion cards face-up in a column. Meanwhile, the other players draw a single card at a time with their free hand and play them face-down next to an opinion card, on their side of the column. They can only have one card next to each opinion card but they can swap the positions of cards they have already played. The first player to place all of their cards yells "DONE!" The slower player can only play 6 of their 7 cards - they must leave their last card unplayed.

#### VERDICT

The critic shuffles the 2 cards played on each opinion card, turns them over, and picks a winner. (Keep quiet about who played which card during judging.) If you win a comparison, keep the opinion card. One of the opinion cards will be an automatic win (for the faster player who got all of their cards out).

#### WINNING

Play 3 rounds - each player is the critic once. Whoever won the most opinion cards wins the game.



A highly social Metagame. Play it over dinner conversation or at big parties and events. Like the name says, it works with hundreds or even thousands of players.

#### **SETUP**

Players get a hand of 6 culture and 3 opinion cards. Your goal: win debates and collect the most culture cards.

#### **START A DEBATE**

At any time, anyone can say "DEBATE THIS!" and reveal an opinion card and become the instigator of a debate.

If there is a blank on the opinion card, the instigator fills it however they want. The first 2 players to jump in and show a culture card will debate. Each debater has a minute to argue for their card. The instigator moderates.

#### **JUDGMENT**

Anyone nearby can vote on who was more persuasive. The instigator's vote breaks any ties. The winner of the debate takes the loser's culture card.

#### WINNING

At the end of the party or event, the player with the most culture cards is the victor.

**Tips for big events:** Yes, we really have played this with thousands of players—and it works!

- Distribute cards to everyone as they arrive.
- Demonstrate how to play to everyone.
- Hold a final tournament to determine the champion.
- Each basic set supports 33 players (+6 per expansion).

Get on your partner's wavelength so you both pick the same card. With two players, it's cooperative - with more, each pair plays as a team.

#### **SETUP**

Sit down next to your partner. Place both kinds of cards face-down in separate stacks. If you only have 2 players: Deal one stack of 7 opinion cards face-down on the table.

#### PLAY

Each team of 2 takes a separate turn. On your turn: FIRST: reveal 1 opinion card. If there is a blank, you and your partner fill it in with any word or phrase. THEN: deal 2 culture cards face-up below the opinion card. At this point, no talking with your partner!

Each team member silently picks which culture card is best for the opinion card. The card to the left is *one* and the card to the right is *two*. Count "ready, set, GO!" and put out one or two fingers, revealing your selection.

If you both pick the same card - You advance! Discard all cards you used. Next round deal 3 culture cards.

If you don't match - It's OK! Discard all cards you used.

Next round, use the same number of culture cards.

#### WINNING

**2 players:** Keep advancing up to 3, 4, and 5 cards. If you make a match at 5 cards - before the stack of 7 opinion cards run out - you win!

**Teams:** Each pair takes turns, advancing 1 more card if they make a match. After one team gets a match with 5 culture cards, every other team gets one more turn. If only 1 team has matched 5 cards, they win!

If there is a tie: The tied teams play SUDDEN DEATH rounds, everyone using the same set of 5 culture cards. If any team matches, the teams that didn't match are knocked out. Survivors win.