

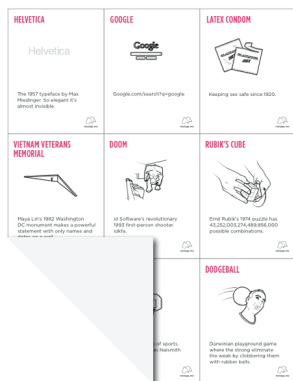
# THE METAGAME PRINT & PLAY

## PRINT THE CARDS

Print out the cards on pages 6 - 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 29 - 40). This will make it easier to tell the decks 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 - 5) on regular paper.

## HELP US OUT

You are getting early access to this exclusive print & play edition of The Metagame because you are one of our amazing Kickstarter backers. We need your help in spotting typos - and any other feedback is welcome, too! Visit [metaga.me/feedback](http://metaga.me/feedback) and send us your thoughts.

## CONNECT

Visit [www.metaga.me](http://www.metaga.me) for more info about the game. Get social with The Metagame:



## THANKS

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

## TERMS OF USE

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Designed by Local No. 12:  
Colleen Macklin, John  
Sharp & Eric Zimmerman

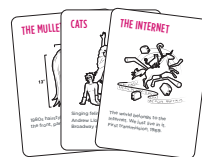
# HOW TO PLAY THE METAGAME



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 works with hundreds or even thousands of players.

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?

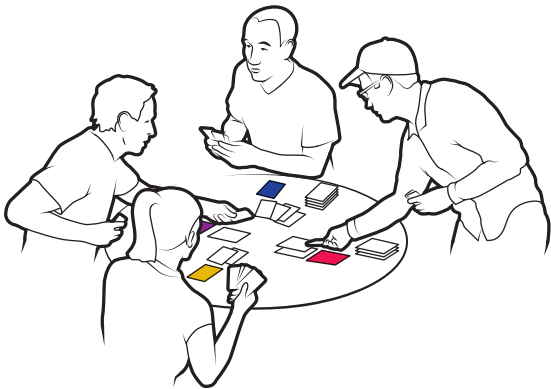
If a game asks you to pick a first player, draw a culture card at random. Whoever most recently interacted with some version of what is on the card goes first.

## YOU CAN CHANGE THE RULES

If a game's too short, play a few more rounds. If you want more cards in your hand, let everyone draw a few more. If it's too serious, make it a drinking game. Rules were made to be modded. Power to the players.

# MATCHMAKERS

 **3+**  
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

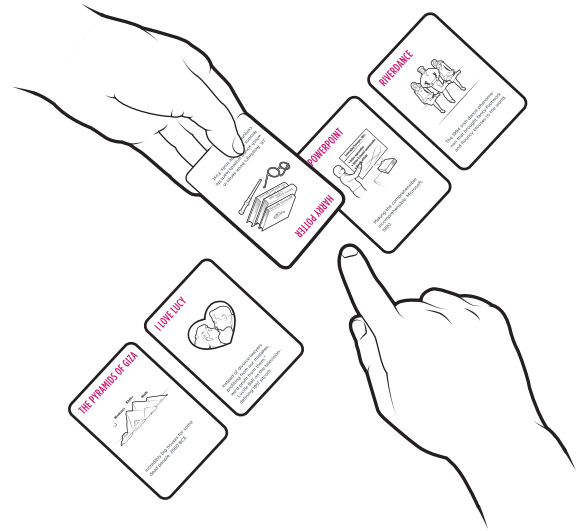
One by one, each player shuffles the culture cards that were played on their opinion card, lays them face-up on the table, and picks their favorite. The judge can explain their decision – but keep quiet about who played which card during judging. If your card was chosen, you win the opinion card PLUS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

## WINNING

Play 1 round for each player. At the end, count all of the cards in your scoring pile - opinion cards AND culture cards. The player with the most cards wins!

# HISTORY 101

 **2+**



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 to 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 are wrong, put the card in front of you as a strike.

## WINNING

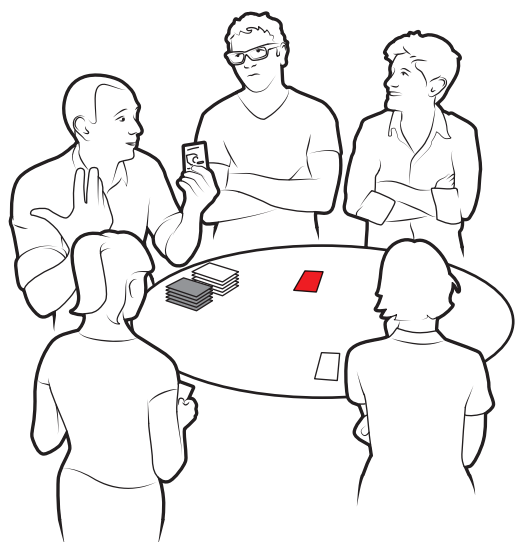
When you have 3 strikes you are out of the game. The last surviving player wins.

## 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.

## DEBATE CLUB

👤 5+



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 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 makes all decisions together (the newest critic breaks tie votes). All surviving players draw a card. **The winning player** of the round draws an extra card.

### WINNING

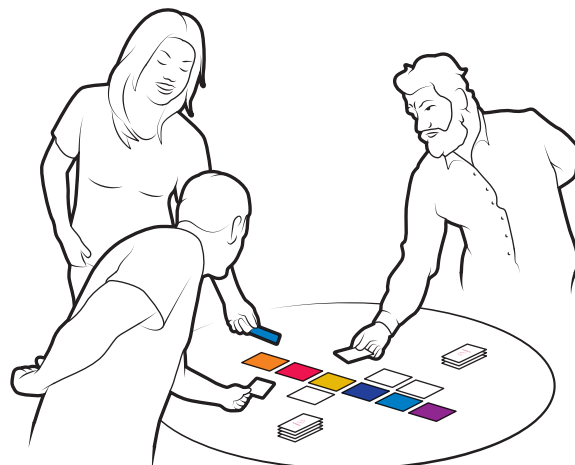
The final player remaining wins the game - and is the starting critic for the next game.

### Variation: THE HUNGER GAME

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.

## HEAD TO HEAD

👤 3



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. The 2 players put one hand behind their backs - they can't use that hand during the duel. Then the critic draws opinion cards, discarding any with blanks and redrawing until the critic has a hand of 7. 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 a 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.

# MASSIVELY MULTIPLAYER METAGAME

👤 5-25+



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

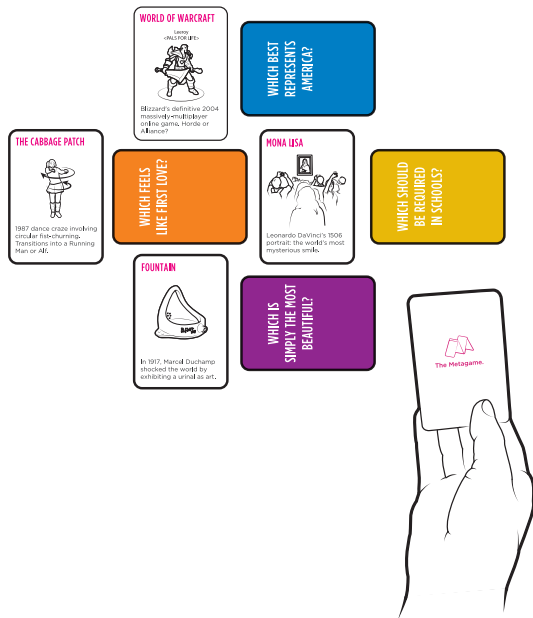
Anyone nearby can vote on who was more persuasive. The instigator's vote breaks any ties. The winner of the debate takes the loser's culture card.

## WINNING

At the end of the party or event, the player with the most culture cards is the victor. (*Note: players are free to trade opinion cards however they want.*)

**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 the game and hand out the rules.
- Hold a final tournament to determine the champion.
- Each main deck supports 33 players (+6 per expansion).



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 sideways 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 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.

**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.

## 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 discard. If there was no challenge, then the player who put the unchallenged card into the quilt gets to discard.

## 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 discard your final card - you can only win by playing your last card into the quilt.

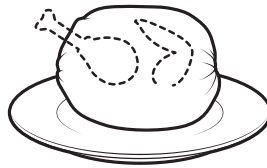
## THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY



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



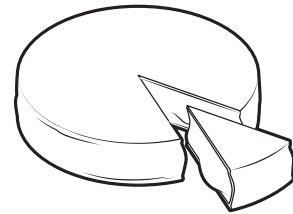
## TOFURKY



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



## BRIE CHEESE



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



## BED BUGS



Nature's teeny tiny vampires. First documented bite, 400 BCE.



## A COSMOPOLITAN



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



## THE THUNDERDOME



"Two men enter, one man leaves."  
- Fictional architecture from George Miller and George Ogilvie's film *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*, 1985



## NORTH KOREA



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



## THE STATUE OF LIBERTY



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



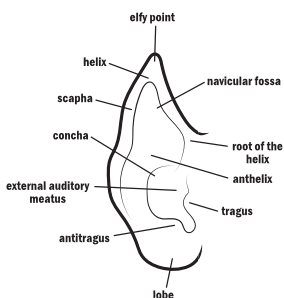
## HEROIN



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



## ELVES



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



## ELVIS IMPERSONATORS



Like Elvis, but not quite. Originated 1950s.



## LEG WARMERS



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



## PABST BLUE RIBBON



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



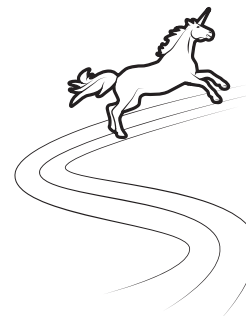
## PARIS



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



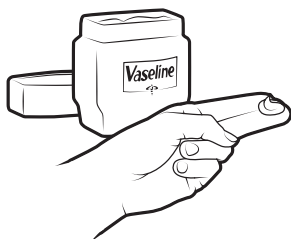
## UNICORNS



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



## VASELINE



Everyone's favorite petroleum-based product. 1870, Robert Chesebrough.



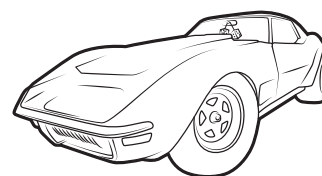
## MEDICAL MARIJUANA



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



## CORVETTE

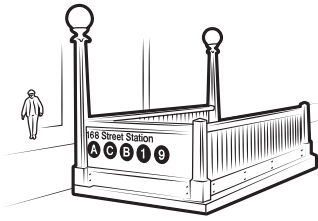


Chevrolet's 1953 car was molded from fiberglass to ensure sleek curves and impossibly expensive repairs.





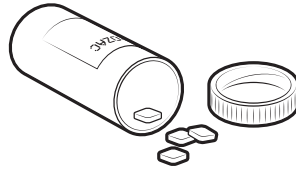
## NYC SUBWAY SYSTEM



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



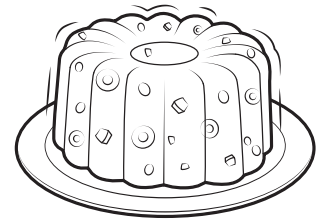
## PROZAC



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



## JELL-O



A fun dessert extracted from boiled bones, connective tissues and other animal products. Kraft, 1845.



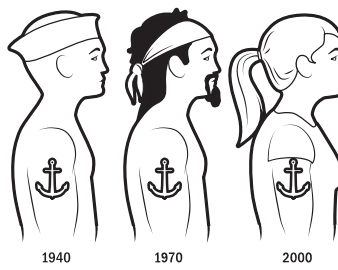
## THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS



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



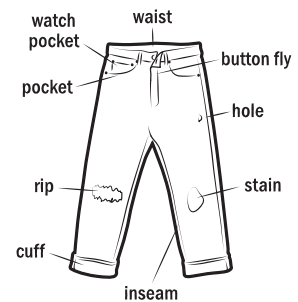
## TATTOOS



"Be a good-looking corpse. Leave a good-looking tattoo."  
- Actor Ed Westwick



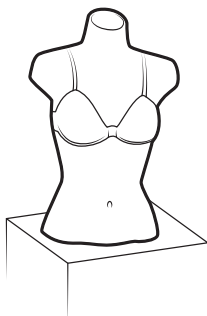
## LEVI'S 501 JEANS



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



## THE WONDERBRA



Your breast friend. Invented in 1935 by Israel Pilot.



## THE MUSTACHE



Timeless icon of ironic masculinity.



## RAY-BAN WAYFARERS



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





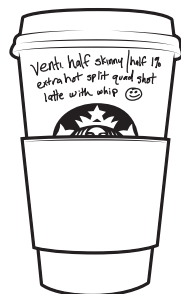
## THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE



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



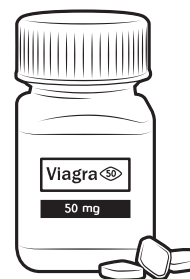
## STARBUCKS COFFEE



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



## VIAGRA



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



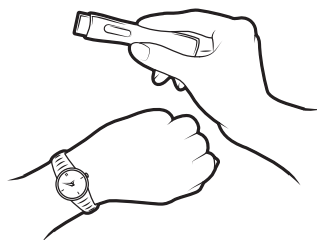
## POST-IT NOTES



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



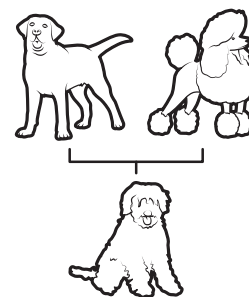
## THE HOME PREGNANCY TEST



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



## LABRADOODLE



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



## IKEA FURNITURE



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



## THE WHITE HOUSE



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



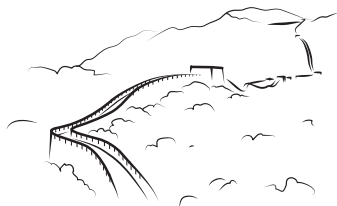
## DISNEYLAND



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



## THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA

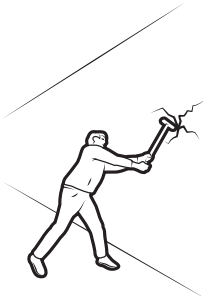


13,000 miles of neighborly fence.  
7th Century BCE.



The Metagame.

## THE BERLIN WALL

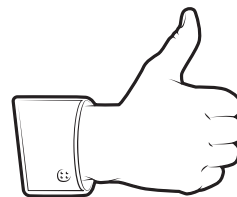


The most symbolic means  
of dividing a people. Ever.  
Constructed 1961.



The Metagame.

## FACEBOOK

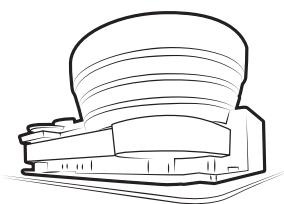


The world's most popular social  
network. Founded in 2004 by  
Mark Zuckerberg and some guys  
that now hate his guts.



The Metagame.

## THE SOLOMON R. GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM



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



The Metagame.

## 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.

## PORT-A-POTTY



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



The Metagame.

## TWITTER



#microblogging #2006  
@RealJackDorsey



The Metagame.

## THE INTERNET



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



The Metagame.

## THE ELECTRIC SLIDE



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



The Metagame.

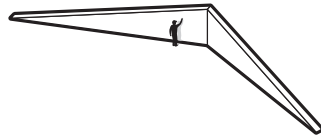
## THE WORLD TRADE CENTER



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



## THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL



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



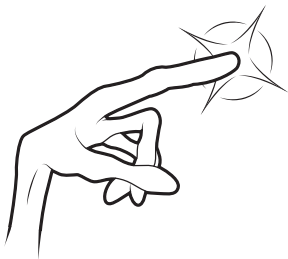
## THE WIZARD OF OZ



"...we're not in Kansas anymore."  
- Dorothy, in Victor Fleming's classic 1939 film



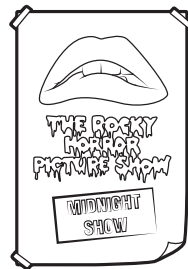
## ET: THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL



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



## 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



## THE BREAKFAST CLUB



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



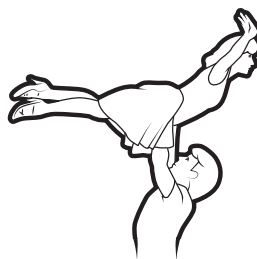
## PSYCHO



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



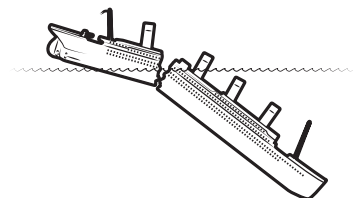
## DIRTY DANCING



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



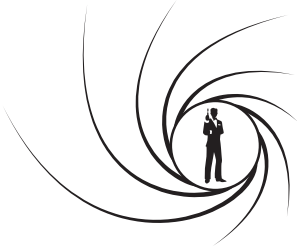
## TITANIC



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



## JAMES BOND FILMS



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



## THE SOPRANOS



Mobster therapy for TV. 1999 series by David Chase.



## 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.



## OPRAH



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



## 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



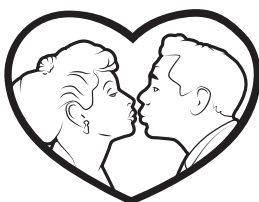
## TRON



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.



## I LOVE LUCY



"Instead of divorce lawyers profiting from our mistakes, we'd profit from them."  
- Lucille Ball on the television-defining 1951 sitcom



## SEINFELD



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



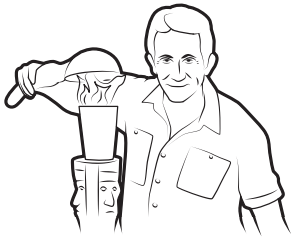
## FOX NEWS



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



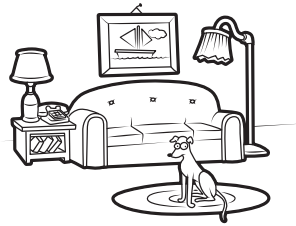
## SURVIVOR



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



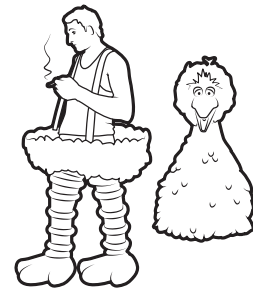
## THE SIMPSONS



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



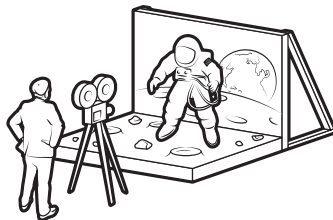
## SESAME STREET



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



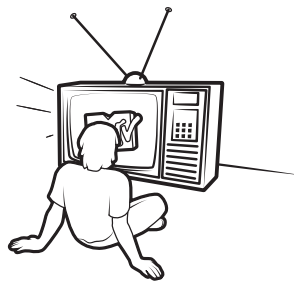
## THE MOON LANDING



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



## MTV



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



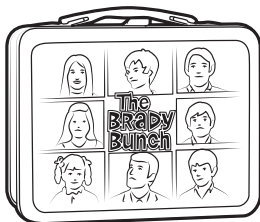
## PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING



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



## THE BRADY BUNCH



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



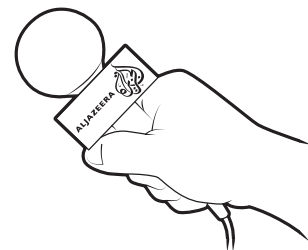
## WONDER WOMAN



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



## AL JAZEERA



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



## BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH SYMPHONY



Da da da DUM. 1808.



## 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.



## LIKE A VIRGIN



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



## THRILLER



One bejeweled glove, best-selling album of all time. Michael Jackson, 1982.



## SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT



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



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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



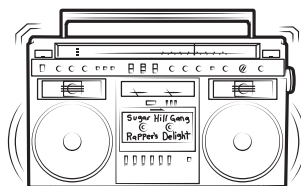
## ANY CELINE DION SONG



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



## 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



## SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER



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



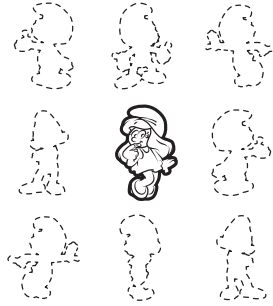
## THE COSBY SHOW



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



## SMURFETTE



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



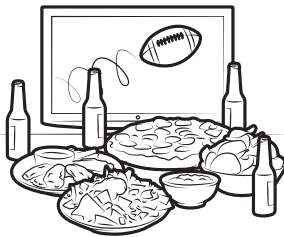
## SAVED BY THE BELL



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.



## THE SUPERBOWL



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



## 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



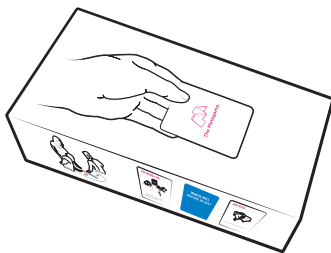
## POKER



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



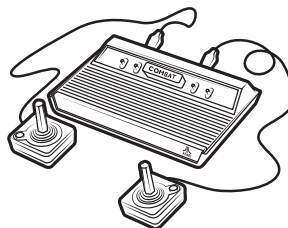
## THE METAGAME



This. Local No. 12, 2014.



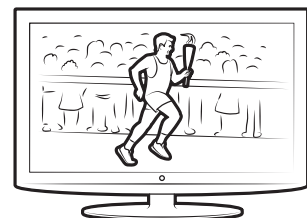
## ATARI 2600



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



## THE OLYMPIC GAMES

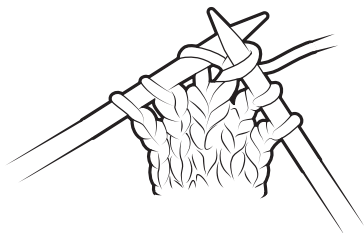


Every four years, the world settles its differences with Curling, Dressage and Synchronized Swimming. First modern games, 1896.





## KNITTING

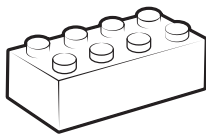


A sewing technique from 3rd century Egypt. Now used mostly for iPhone cozies.



The Metagame.

## LEGOS

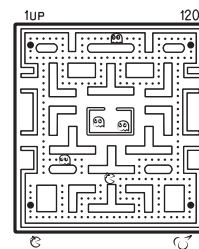


There are 62 Lego bricks for every living person. Ole Kirk Christiansen's construction toy, patented 1958.



The Metagame.

## MS. PAC-MAN

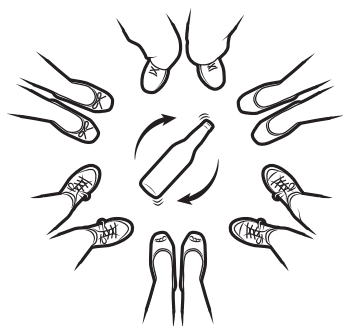


The first videogame sequel. If only every sequel involved changing the gender of the protagonist. Midway, 1982.



The Metagame.

## SPIN THE BOTTLE

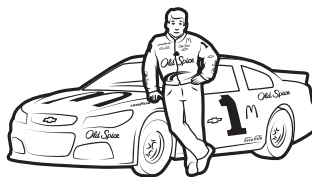


Teenage smooching game, circa 1950. When kissing could get you pregnant.



The Metagame.

## 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.



The Metagame.

## SOCCER

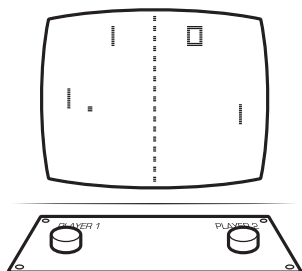


This card should be called Football but it would confuse the Americans. Ancient team sport, formalized in 1863.



The Metagame.

## PONG



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



The Metagame.

## BARBIE DOLL

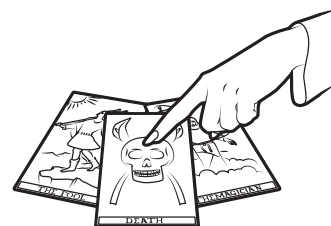


"She was blonde, she was free and she was fun." - Catherine Malandrino on the controversial doll, invented by Ruth Handler, 1959



The Metagame.

## TAROT CARDS



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



The Metagame.

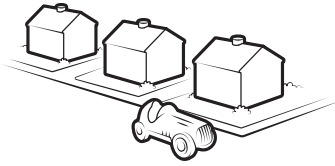
## HULA HOOP



"You know, for kids."  
- *The Hudsucker Proxy*'s Norville Barnes on Richard Knerr and Arthur "Spud" Melin's 1958 circular toy



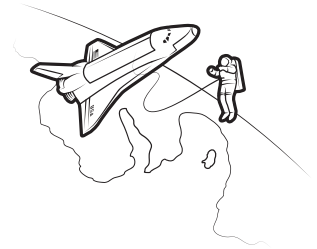
## MONOPOLY



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



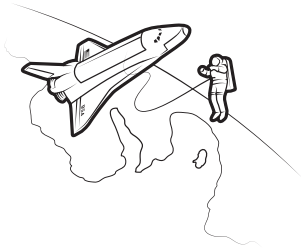
## SPACE SHUTTLE



Since the space shuttle was grounded in 2011, how are astronauts supposed to get to work? NASA, first flight 1981.



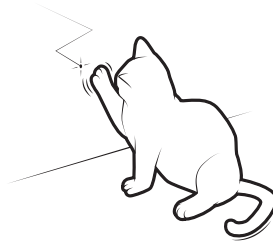
## SPACE SHUTTLE



Since the space shuttle was grounded in 2011, how are astronauts supposed to get to work? NASA, first flight 1981.



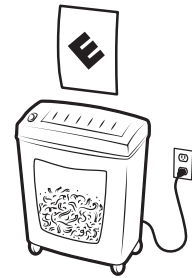
## LASERS



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



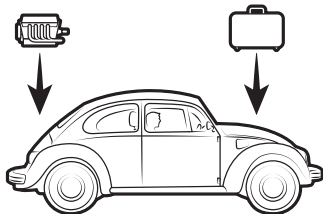
## ENRON



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



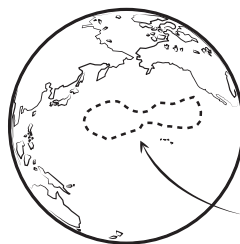
## VW BEETLE



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



## THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH



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



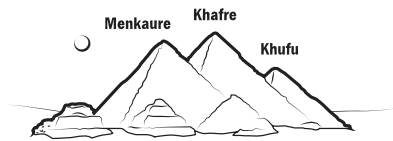
## HIGGS BOSON

Drawn to scale

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



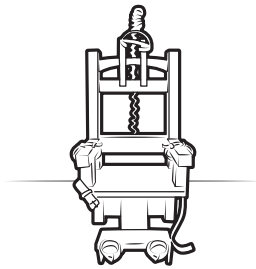
## THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA



Incredibly big houses for some dead people. 2560 BCE.



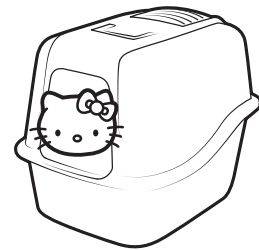
## THE ELECTRIC CHAIR



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



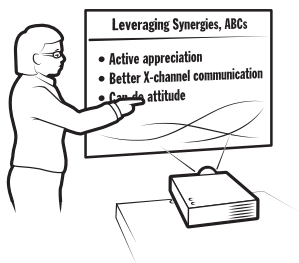
## HELLO KITTY



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



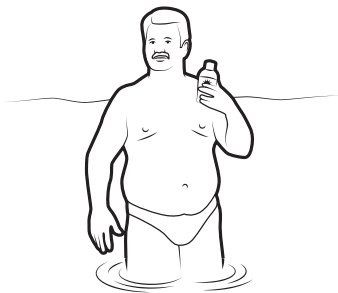
## POWERPOINT



Making the comprehensible incomprehensible. Microsoft, 1990.



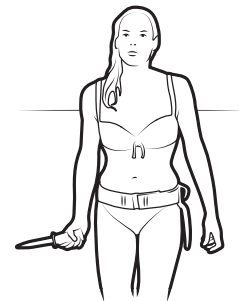
## SPEEDO BATHING SUIT



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



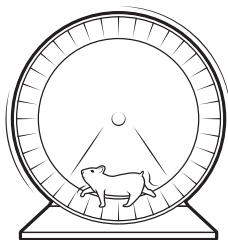
## BIKINI



"The bikini is the most important thing since the atom bomb."  
- Diana Vreeland on Louis Réard's 1946 invention



## HAMSTER WHEEL



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



## BIG GULP



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



## I LOVE NY



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



## 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 SISTINE CHAPEL CEILING



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



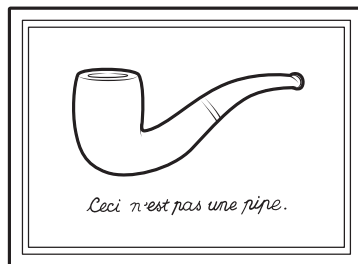
## CAMPBELL'S SOUP CANS



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



## THE TREACHERY OF IMAGES



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



## LASCAUX CAVE PAINTINGS



World's oldest graffiti. 17,000 BCE.



## THE SCREAM



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



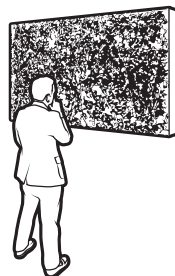
## AMERICAN GOTHIC



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



## A JACKSON POLLOCK PAINTING



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



## DOC MARTENS 8-EYE BOOTS



What London skinheads, grunge rockers and postal workers have in common. Klaus Märten, 1947.



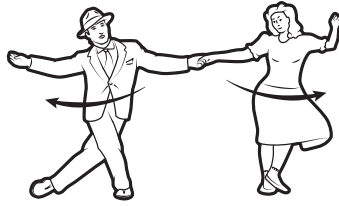
## THE NUTCRACKER SUITE



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



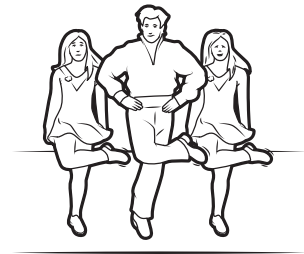
## SWING DANCING



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



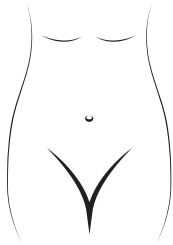
## RIVERDANCE



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



## 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.



## WOODSTOCK



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



## RENT



Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes. Jonathan Larson's 1996 musical about life and love in NYC takes up 165 of them.



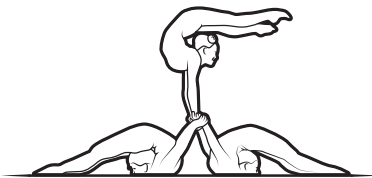
## WAGNER'S RING CYCLE



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



## A CIRQUE DU SOLEIL SHOW



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



## THE CABBAGE PATCH SHOW



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



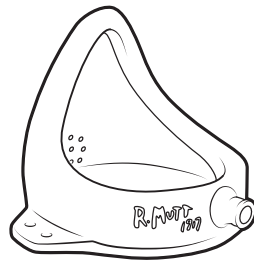
## THE MONA LISA



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



## FOUNTAIN



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



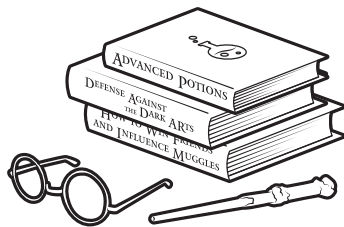
## PRIDE AND PREJUDICE



Jane Austen's 1813 novel chronicles Elizabeth Bennet's coming of age in British polite society. Featuring Colin Firth.



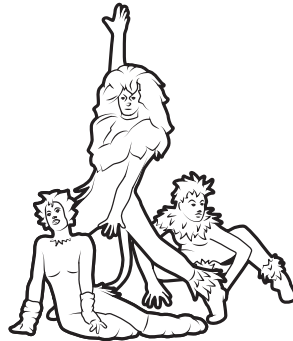
## HARRY POTTER



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



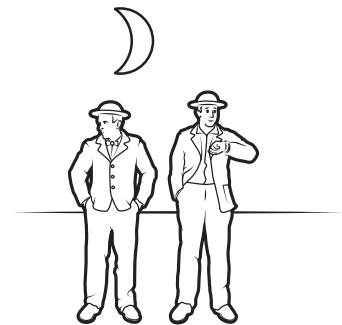
## CATS



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



## WAITING FOR GODOT



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



## THE BIBLE



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



## 4' 33"



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



## WEST SIDE STORY



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



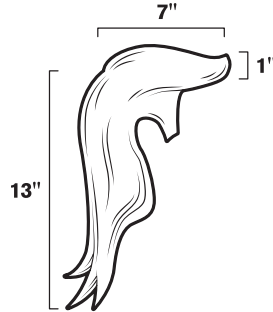
## THE IPHONE



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



## THE MULLET



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



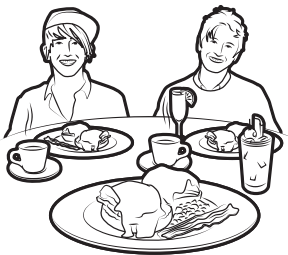
## CROCS



"It looks like a plastic hoof. How can you take that seriously?"  
- Tim Gunn on the ubiquitous 2002 foam shoe



## BRUNCH



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



## THE BIG MAC



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



## COMIC SANS

Comic  
Sans

Microsoft's 1994 typeface by Vincent Connare is the business casual of typefaces.



## HELVETICA

Helvetica

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



## GOOGLE



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



## THE LATEX CONDOM

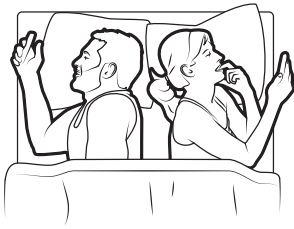


Keeping sex safe since 1920.





## SEXTING



What 21st century politicians do with cell phones. Originated circa 2005.



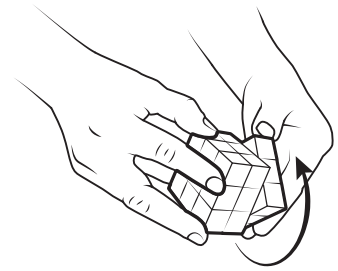
## DOOM



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



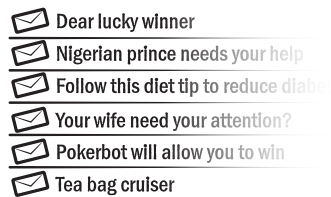
## RUBIK'S CUBE



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



## EMAIL SPAM



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



## BASKETBALL



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



## DODGEBALL



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



## WORLD OF WARCRAFT

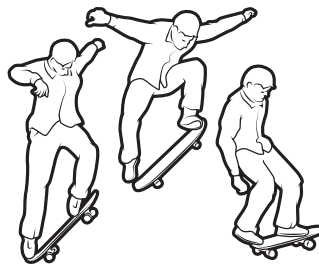
Leeroy  
<PALS FOR LIFE>



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



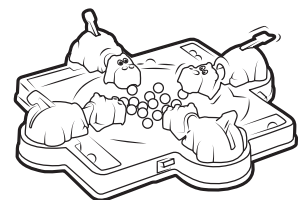
## SKATEBOARDING



The perfect symbol for ~~punk~~ ~~anarchy~~ ~~extreme sports~~ suburban tweens. Invented 1940s.



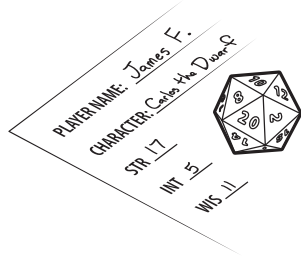
## HUNGRY HUNGRY HIPPOS



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



## DUNGEONS & DRAGONS



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



## TWILIGHT



2005 book series by Stephanie Meyer about brooding, baseball-playing teen vampires.



## CITIZEN KANE



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



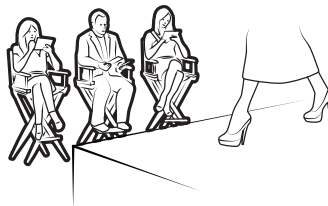
## THE DAILY SHOW



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



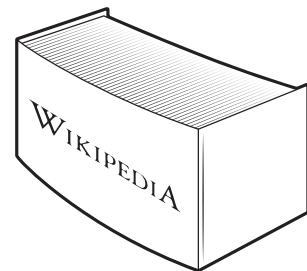
## PROJECT RUNWAY



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



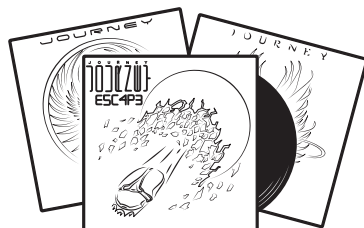
## WIKIPEDIA



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



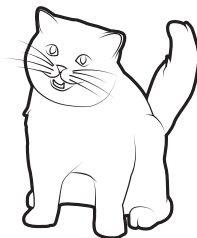
## ANY JOURNEY ALBUM



1973 rock band. Don't stop believin'.



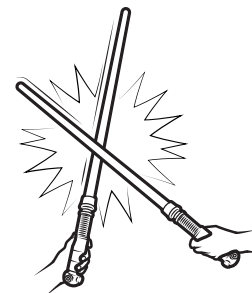
## LOLCATS



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



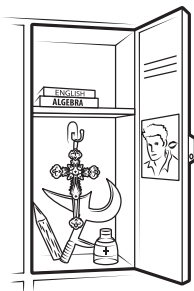
## THE STAR WARS FRANCHISE



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



## 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.



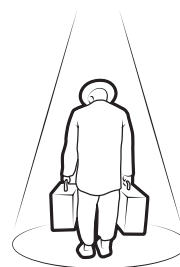
## ROMEO & JULIET



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



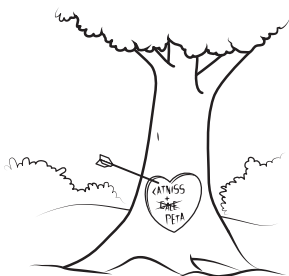
## DEATH OF A SALESMAN



"I realized what a ridiculous lie my whole life has been."  
- From Arthur Miller's seriously depressing 1949 play



## THE HUNGER GAMES



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



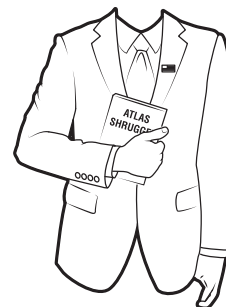
## DAS KAPITAL



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



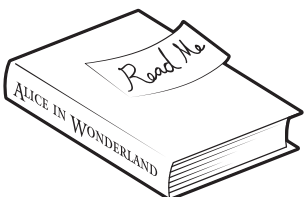
## ATLAS SHRUGGED



"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



## ALICE IN WONDERLAND



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



## COSMOPOLITAN



"Slip a glazed doughnut around his penis and nibble it off."  
- Advice from the magazine, founded in 1886



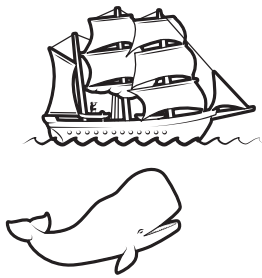
## DIANETICS



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



## MOBY DICK



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



## PLAYBOY



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



## GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES



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



## LORD OF THE RINGS



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



## PEANUTS



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



## ACTION COMICS #1



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



## MAUS



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



## THE NEW YORK TIMES



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



## PLAYGIRL



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



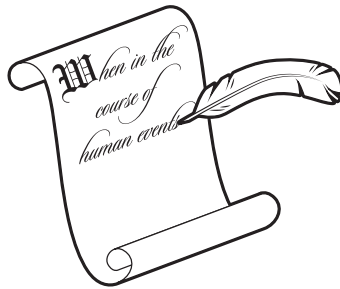
## VOGUE



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



## THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



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



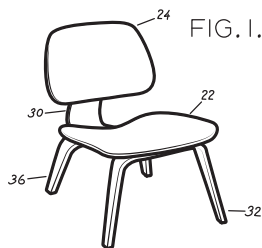
## AK-47 ASSAULT RIFLE



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



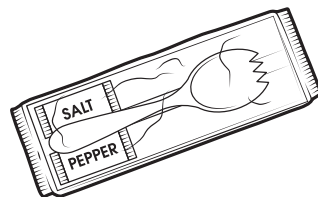
## EAMES LOUNGE CHAIR WOOD



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



## THE SPORK



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



## COCA-COLA



Bubbly caffeinated caramel-colored sugar water. Just like nature intended. The Coca Cola Company, 1886.



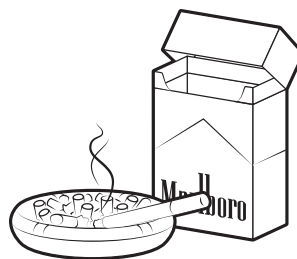
## SPAM



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



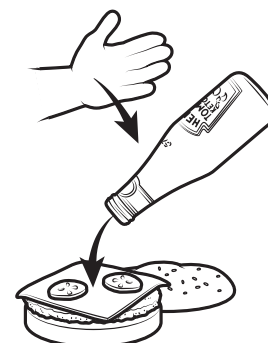
## MARLBORO CIGARETTES



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



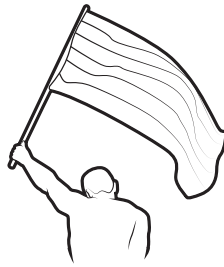
## HEINZ KETCHUP



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



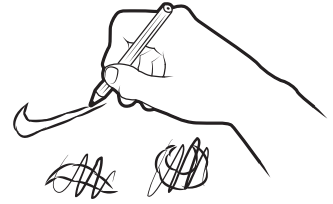
## THE RAINBOW FLAG



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



## THE NIKE SWOOSH



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



**WHICH IS  
MOST MAGICAL?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH IS  
A BETTER TOOL  
FOR DICTATORS?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH  
REPRESENTS  
THE SOUL  
OF AMERICA?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH COULD  
BE THE BASIS  
OF A CULT?**



The Metagame.

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



The Metagame.

**WHICH BETTER  
CAPTURES THE  
ZEITGEIST  
OF ITS TIME?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH IS  
A SIGN OF THE  
APOCALYPSE?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH WOULD  
YOU WANT  
TO FIND  
IN BED?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH FEELS  
LIKE FIRST LOVE?**



The Metagame.



**WINS THE MOST  
HEARTS AND MINDS.**



**SALTY.**



**WHICH IS MOST  
OPPRESSIVE?**



**WHICH IS MORE  
FABULOUS?**



**WHICH IS  
MOST USEFUL ON  
A DESERT ISLAND?**



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



**WHICH SAYS  
MORE ABOUT  
GENDER?**



**EVERYBODY SHOULD  
HAVE ONE.**



**WHICH WOULD  
FREUD WANT?**



**A TRADITION  
HANDED DOWN  
FROM FATHER  
TO SON.**



**THE VOICE  
OF AUTHORITY.**



**THE THING THAT  
EVERYONE LOVES  
TO HATE.**



**COULD HAVE  
BEEN MADE  
BY A CHILD.**



**WHICH IS  
THE MOST META?**



**WHICH HAS  
THE MOST  
EMPTY CALORIES?**



**WHICH WOULD  
MARX APPROVE?**



**BEST DRESSED.**



**TWO WORDS:  
UNINTENDED  
CONSEQUENCES.**



**SHINY.**



The Metagame.

**INSTILLS  
A SENSE  
OF MALAISE.**



The Metagame.

**WOULD MAKE  
THE STRANGEST  
FETISH EVER.**



The Metagame.

**WASH  
YOUR HANDS  
AFTER USING.**



The Metagame.

**PROOF THAT  
ABSOLUTE POWER  
CORRUPTS  
ABSOLUTELY.**



The Metagame.

**BEST DEFENSE  
AGAINST BULLIES.**



The Metagame.

**PURE EVIL.**



The Metagame.

**SQUISHY.**



The Metagame.

**MOST  
ENLIGHTENED.**



The Metagame.

**MORE STYLE THAN  
SUBSTANCE.**



The Metagame.

**KID TESTED,  
MOTHER  
APPROVED.**



The Metagame.

**WHICH GETS  
MORE ACTION?**



The Metagame.

**COMPLETELY  
INAPPROPRIATE.**



The Metagame.

**IS  
FUNDAMENTALLY  
MISUNDERSTOOD.**



The Metagame.

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



The Metagame.

**MOST FUN  
AT PARTIES.**



The Metagame.

**WHICH GOES  
BEST WITH  
A BEER AND  
HOT DOG?**



The Metagame.

**BEST REMINDER  
OF OUR MORTALITY.**



The Metagame.

**WHICH MAKES  
A BIG DEAL  
OUT OF NOTHING?**



The Metagame.

**MORE MYTH  
THAN FACT.**



The Metagame.

**¿QUE ES  
MAS MACHO?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH IS  
MOST SQUARE?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH IS  
A LEADING CAUSE  
OF DEATH?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH WILL  
GET YOU LAID IF  
YOU MENTION IT?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH IS  
HOTTER?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH SPEAKS  
UNIVERSALLY  
TO EVERYONE?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH WILL  
OUTLIVE  
US ALL?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH EXPRESSES  
THE INEXPRESSIBLE?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH HAS  
THE MOST  
SUBVERSIVE  
POTENTIAL?**



The Metagame.

**PEOPLE HALFWAY  
AROUND THE WORLD  
COULD CARE LESS  
ABOUT IT.**



The Metagame.

**EVIDENCE THAT  
OUR SOCIETY IS  
ALL SCREWED UP.**



The Metagame.

**WHICH IS  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THE FRAYING  
OF OUR MORAL  
FABRIC?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH IS  
SIMPLY THE MOST  
BEAUTIFUL?**



The Metagame.

**LOVED BY  
PIRATES.**



The Metagame.

**WHICH WILL SAVE  
THE WORLD?**



The Metagame.

**WHICH HAS BEEN  
MORE INFLUENTIAL?**



The Metagame.

WHICH IS  
IMPOSSIBLE  
TO UNDERSTAND  
WITHOUT EXPERT  
GUIDANCE?



WHICH LULLS  
YOU INTO  
COMPLACENCY?



WHICH SHOULD  
BE REQUIRED  
IN SCHOOLS?



BEST ENJOYED  
BY A \_\_\_\_\_  
YEAR OLD.



KILLS \_\_\_\_\_.



THE IDEAL  
ACCESSORY FOR  
PEOPLE WHO  
\_\_\_\_\_.



BEST EMBODIES  
THE SIN OF  
\_\_\_\_\_.



WHAT WOULD  
\_\_\_\_\_ DO?



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





**MAKES  
\_\_\_\_\_ PEOPLE  
UNCOMFORTABLE.**



The Metagame.

**YOU CAN BUY  
THIS FOR  
\$\_\_\_\_\_.**



The Metagame.

**THE CURE FOR  
\_\_\_\_\_.**



The Metagame.

**THE BEST  
EXPLANATION  
FOR \_\_\_\_\_.**



The Metagame.

**4 OUT OF  
5 \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMEND THIS.**



The Metagame.

**A SUITABLE  
SUBSTITUTE FOR  
\_\_\_\_\_.**



The Metagame.

**MAKES YOU THINK  
OF THE COLOR  
\_\_\_\_\_.**



The Metagame.

**CUTER THAN  
A BABY \_\_\_\_\_.**



The Metagame.

**IS THE GOLD  
STANDARD FOR  
\_\_\_\_\_.**



The Metagame.

SYMBOL OF  
THE \_\_\_\_\_  
LIFESTYLE.



The Metagame.

MAKES MEN FEEL  
INSECURE ABOUT  
THEIR \_\_\_\_\_.



The Metagame.

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



The Metagame.

YOU CAN FIND  
THIS UNDER THE  
DICTIONARY  
DEFINITION FOR  
\_\_\_\_\_.



The Metagame.

LADIES LIKE  
THIS FOR ITS  
\_\_\_\_\_.



The Metagame.

WHICH IS  
THE ICON  
FOR THE NATION  
OF \_\_\_\_\_?



The Metagame.

FILE UNDER  
\_\_\_\_\_.



The Metagame.

VOTED MOST  
LIKELY TO  
\_\_\_\_\_.



The Metagame.

MAKES THE PERFECT  
ADVERTISEMENT  
FOR \_\_\_\_\_.



The Metagame.

HOPELESSLY

\_\_\_\_\_.



The Metagame.

TASTES LIKE

\_\_\_\_\_.



The Metagame.

BELONGS IN

A \_\_\_\_\_.



The Metagame.

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



The Metagame.

UNSAFE AT  
ANY SPEED.



The Metagame.

BRINGS OUT  
\_\_\_\_\_ FEELINGS.



The Metagame.

WHICH IS  
THE BEST ICON  
FOR THE DECADE  
OF THE \_\_\_\_\_?



The Metagame.

SPARKS \_\_\_\_\_  
AMONGST FRIENDS.



The Metagame.

WHICH IS  
WHISPERED  
IN AWE BY  
THE HIPSTERS  
IN BROOKLYN?



The Metagame.

WHICH KICKS  
THE MOST ASS?



The Metagame.

