

Designed by
OLEG MELESHIN, GEORGIJ SHUGOL
& ALEXANDER KRYS

CRYPTICTIC NATURE

RULEBOOK



AGE 10+



90+ MIN



2-4 PLAYERS

CRYPTIC NATURE

There is less and less space left where wildlife can feel safe. This is also true for cryptids – mysterious creatures whose existence is yet to be proved.

You are engaged in cryptozoology, searching for the traces of these extraordinary creatures. Though they do exist in this world, they have learned to hide from humans very well. Your task is not only to locate these unique species while traveling around Europe, but also to relocate them to a safe habitat. Various environmental associations are ready to settle some creatures in their special facilities, and for the rest you are building a unique wildlife sanctuary.

Your goal is to become a renowned cryptozoologist and gain the most reputation by finding and relocating cryptids.

CONTENTS

1. Components	4	7. Game modes	25
2. Setup	6	• Wolpertinger.....	25
• General setup.....	6	• Without bid markers.....	26
• Player setup.....	8	8. Icon overview	27
3. Cryptid cards	9		
4. Game overview	10		
I. Cryptozoologist Phase	10		
• Movement.....	10		
• Collect evidence.....	11		
• Track a cryptid.....	12		
• Relocate a cryptid.....	13		
• Reset evidence and cryptids.....	15		
• Using skills.....	16		
II. Assistant Phase	17		
• Assistant actions.....	17		
• End of turn.....	19		
5. Turn example	21		
6. Game end	24		
• Scoring and victory.....	24		



1. COMPONENTS



12 cryptid cards
level I



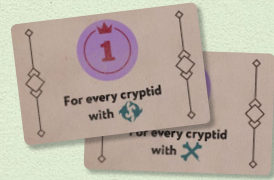
12 cryptid cards
level II



11 cryptid cards
level III



1 game board



9 contract cards



4 player boards



10 bonus rumors



32 evidence tokens



1 sanctuary board



3 sanctuary fences
(for 2-3 players)



8 request tokens



32 settlement markers
(8 for each player)



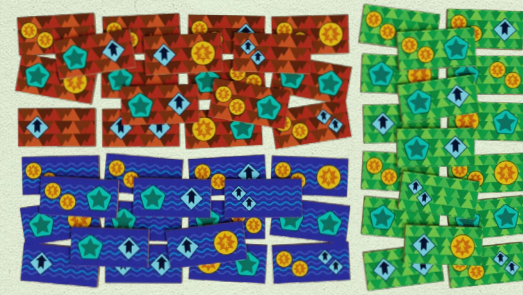
5 assistant dice



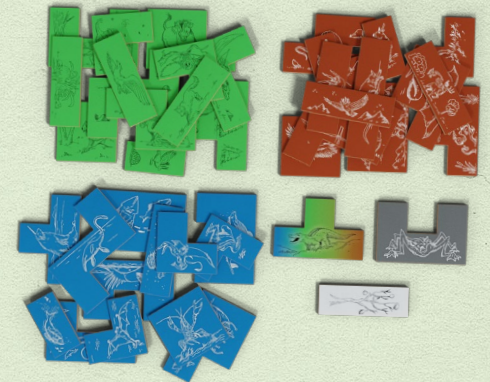
2 tracking dice



1 evidence bag



51 terrain tiles: 17 brown (mountains),
17 blue (water), 17 green (forests)



35 cryptid tiles: 11 brown, 11 blue,
10 green, 3 special



4 cryptozoologists



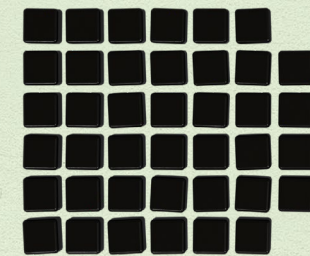
4 assistants



8 action markers
(2 for each player)



8 bid markers
(2 for each player)



40 skill markers



20 coins «1»,
10 coins «3»



20 experience tokens «1»,
10 experience tokens «2»



4 player aid cards



1 scorepad



11 Wolpertinger
tokens



1 Wolpertinger
card

WOLPERTINGER MODULE

2. SETUP

GENERAL SETUP

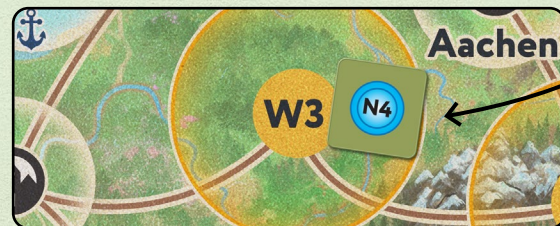
1. Place the **game board** in the center of the table.
2. Place the **sanctuary board** next to the game board.
3. Put all **evidence tokens** into the bag and shuffle them.

Note: Do not put bonus rumors into the bag.

- Draw 3 evidence tokens from the bag and place them in the evidence market on the game board **face down** (location number N / E / S / W must be on top).



- Check the **location number** on the **right-most token** in the evidence market — it shows where you will place your next token. Draw a token from the evidence bag and put it **face down** in the corresponding location on the game board. Continue laying out evidence until there are 7 tokens on the game board (excluding the market). To find out the location of every following evidence token, always check the location number on the **last token placed**. As a result, you might have up to 2 evidence tokens at the same location.



- Turn all evidence tokens face up.

4. Shuffle the **cryptid cards** into 3 separate decks, one for each level. Place them face down next to the game board.

5. Lay out 6 face-up **cryptid cards (level 1)** next to the game board. Some cryptids have a question mark. If you have any face-up cryptid cards with this sign, cover it with an evidence token from the bag:
 - If there is a question mark **at the bottom left** of the card, place an evidence token **face down** on this symbol to reveal the **location number**.
 - If there is a question mark **on the right**, place an evidence token **face up** to reveal the type of evidence required.

6. Place 2 **tracking dice** next to the cryptid cards.
7. Split the **cryptid tiles** into piles according to their colors and place them face up next to the cryptid card decks.

8. Make a supply of **coins**, **experience** and **bonus rumors** (they show the same icon on both sides). Place them in the designated area at the bottom left of the game board.

9. Shuffle the **contract cards**. Reveal 1 card and place it in the designated area at the bottom right of the game board.

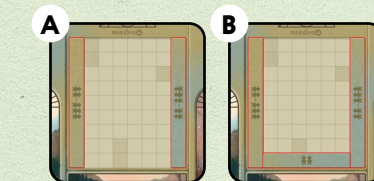
10. Shuffle the **request tokens** and place 4 of them face up in the slots on the sanctuary board.

11. Shuffle the **terrain tiles** into 3 piles by color and place them face up in the designated areas on the sanctuary board.

12. Place the **assistant dice** near the initiative track of the game board:
 - for 2 players — 3 dice.
 - for 3 players — 4 dice.
 - for 4 players — 5 dice.

13. **In a 3-player game**, place the fences for 2–3 players on the sanctuary board as shown in Picture A.

- In a 2-player game**, place the fence for 2 players and the fences for 2–3 players as shown in Picture B.



Example setup for 3 players



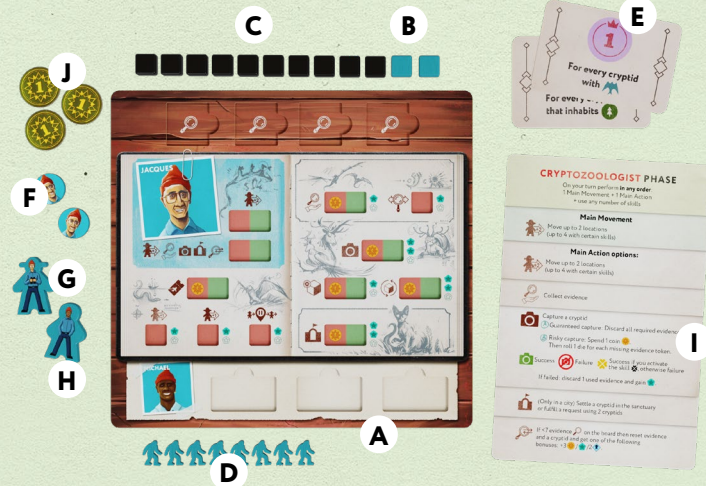
PLAYER SETUP

1. Each player chooses a color and places their **assistant** on the left part of the initiative track one after the other in random order starting from the highlighted spot. The initiative track shows the order in which players take turns, starting from the top.



2. Each player receives the following components:

- A. Player board
- B. 2 action markers
- C. 10 skill markers
- D. 8 cryptid markers
- E. 2 random contract cards
- F. 2 bid markers
- G. Cryptozoologist
- H. Assistant
- I. Player aid card
- J. Regardless of the total number of players, everyone gets a certain amount of coins according to their position on the initiative track:
 - 1st player — 1 coin
 - 2nd player — 2 coins
 - 3rd player — 2 coins
 - 4th player — 3 coins



3. On your player board, place the **action markers** in the slots for the Main Action and the Main Movement.

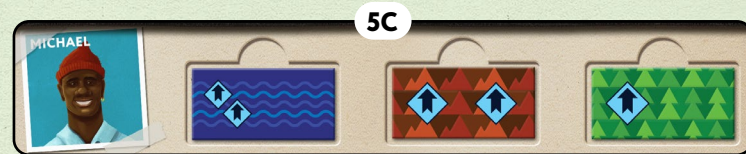
4. Place 1 **skill marker** in the “flight ticket” slot. Set the other 9 markers aside.

5. Starting with the first player and proceeding in the order of the initiative track, do the following:

5A. Place your cryptozoologist in any unoccupied **city** on the game board.

5B. Put your bid markers on any 2 revealed cryptid cards (even if there are already other player markers on it).

5C. Draw **any** 3 terrain tiles. You can choose tiles of any type; it is not necessary to draw from the same or different piles. Place the tiles face up in the designated slots at the bottom of your player board.



Note 1: During the game, you may track only those cryptids that have your bid markers on them. However, you will be able to move these markers later on in the game.

Note 2: At the end of the game, you will have to discard 1 of your contract cards, so you will score reputation points from only 1 contract.

3. CRYPTID CARDS

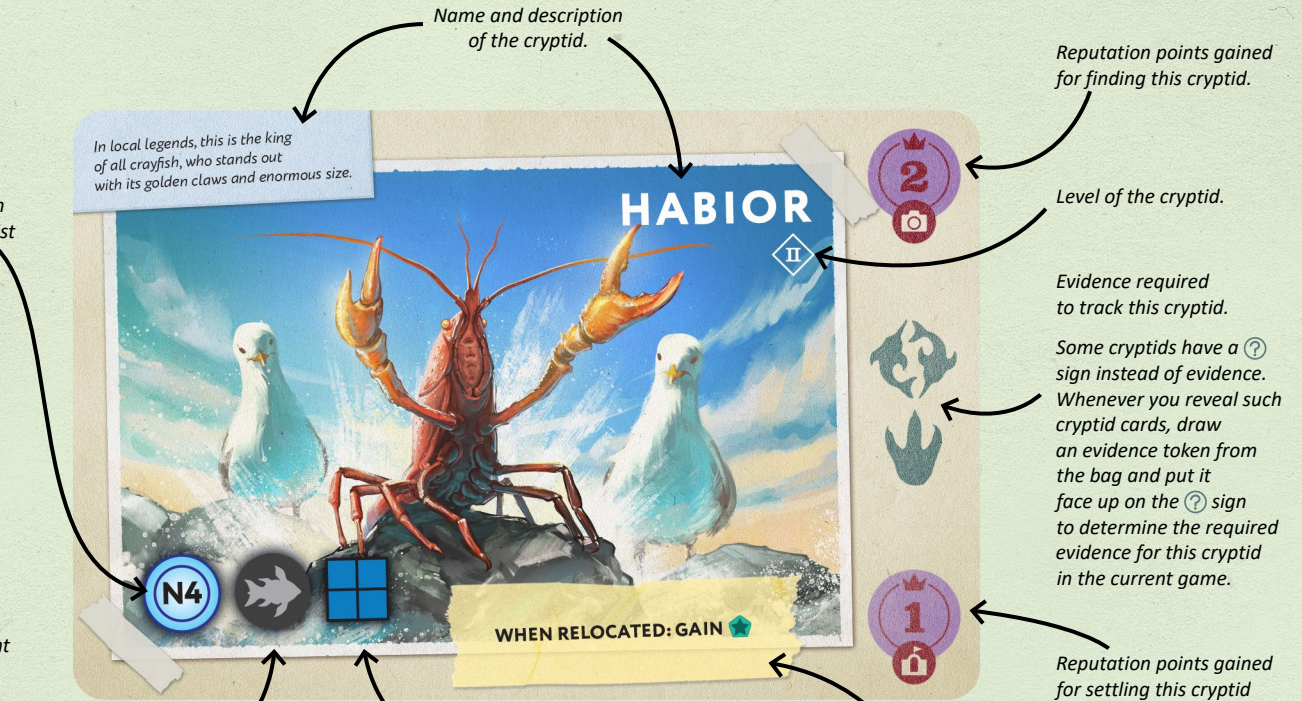
Cryptid cards are the key element of the game. You are going to find and relocate cryptids. Cryptid cards are divided into 3 levels based on the difficulty of tracking them. Here's the common structure of a cryptid card:

Location on the game board: To capture a certain cryptid, your cryptozoologist must be at this location.

Some cryptids inhabit cities — you will see a symbol and the name of the city.

There are also cryptids with a sign instead of the location. Whenever you reveal such cryptid cards, draw an evidence token from the bag and put it face down on the sign to determine the location of this cryptid in the current game.

Those are runaway cryptids. Other cryptozoologists had tried to deliver them to the sanctuary, but the cryptids escaped and now inhabit new regions.



Type of cryptid: there are 4 types — some cryptids combine 2 types; some of them do not belong to any type.

Color and shape of cryptid tile: when you settle a cryptid in the sanctuary, you have to place its unique cryptid tile over terrain tiles of a certain type. Cryptids inhabit 1 of 3 terrains — water (blue), mountains (brown) and forests (green). Some cryptids have special settlement rules written on the card, so the color of their cryptid tile might be different from the standard ones.

Special power: Cryptids can provide a bonus or require a special condition when tracked or relocated. There are several types of powers:

This power will trigger at the end of the game during scoring.

GAME END: If you have obtained all skills, score 2

IF YOU FAIL TO FIND THIS CRYPTID: Gain 2

This power is resolved if you have just failed an attempt to find this cryptid with dice.

This power is resolved when you settle this cryptid in the sanctuary or use it to fulfill a request.

WHEN RELOCATED: Gain

WHEN FOUND: Gain an evidence token from the bag

This power is immediately resolved when you successfully find this cryptid.

The effects of cryptid powers always prevail over the general game rules.

4. GAME OVERVIEW

The game is played over a series of rounds. Each round consists of 2 phases: the **Cryptozoologist Phase** and the **Assistant Phase**.

At the beginning of each phase, determine the turn order according to the position of players' assistants on the initiative track, starting from the topmost player. After all players have taken their turns in the Cryptozoologist Phase, the Assistant Phase begins. After all players have taken their turns in the Assistant Phase, the Cryptozoologist Phase begins again.



Example: The first player in the Cryptozoologist Phase will be yellow, then orange and blue. After the blue player finishes their turn, the Assistant Phase begins.

I. Cryptozoologist Phase: Use your cryptozoologist to travel around the game board, collect evidence, and find and relocate cryptids. At the end of your turn, move your assistant to the right slot on the initiative track.

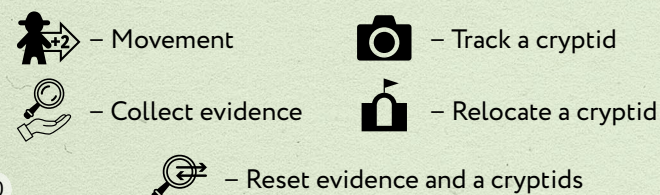
At the beginning of the Assistant Phase, the starting player rolls the assistant dice.

II. Assistant Phase: Move your assistant up or down the initiative track and gain resources or spend them on skills. At the end of your turn, place a terrain tile on the sanctuary board and reactivate your actions. Then move your assistant back to the left slot on the initiative track.

The game-end condition is triggered when players cannot place any more terrain tiles in the sanctuary. The current round is played till the end, and the next round becomes the final one. After the final round, the game ends and scoring begins. The player who gains the most reputation points wins.

I. CRYPTOZOLOGIST PHASE

On your turn perform **1 Main Movement** and **1 Main Action** of your choice:



Additionally, at any time during your turn, you can **use your skills**.

Main Action, Main Movement and the use of skills can be performed **in any order**.

Whenever you perform an action, movement or use skills, **slide the action marker or the skill marker to the right** on your player board from the ready state (visible green) to the spent state (visible red).



MOVEMENT

Cryptozoologists have to travel a lot while looking for traces of cryptids and trying to track them, in order to prove their existence to the world.

Move your cryptozoologist figure to another location, connected by lines, up to 2 spaces from your current location.

There are 2 types of locations:

Regions N / E / S / W — in these locations, you can find evidence of cryptids' presence and track down cryptids.

Cities — this is where you can settle cryptids.



Note: During the game, it is possible to boost your movement by obtaining up to 2 "movement range" skills, which allows you to move up to 3 locations (with 1 skill) or up to 4 locations (with 2 skills). See p. 16 "Using skills".

Important: Movement cannot be split. If you decide to move only 1 location and then perform another action, you will not be able to move 1 more location again, since your movement action has already been completed.



Note: During the game, it is possible to obtain the skill "interrupt movement". It allows you to use a part of your available movement points, make a stop to use an action or skills, and then continue movement to use up your remaining movement points (see p. 16 "Using skills").

Important: Every turn, you can move using your Main Movement, but sometimes the movement points are not enough to reach your desired destination. In this case, you can also use your Main Action as movement. The rules described in this section apply both to the Main Movement and the movement performed as a Main Action. They are considered different actions, so you can also use skills in between these 2 types of movement.

If you do not want to move on your turn, mark your Main Movement as spent and remain in your current location.

COLLECT EVIDENCE

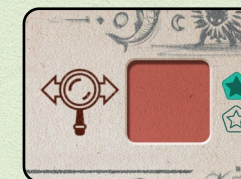
To track down cryptids, you have to find proof of their existence. The most popular traces of cryptids are rumors. You can also find many curious objects in local private collections.

Pick up 1 evidence token from the location where your cryptozoologist is standing. Put that evidence in an empty slot on your player board.



If there are no available slots on your player board, you may not perform this action.

Important: If you've taken the last evidence from the board, immediately place 7 new evidence on the board drawn from the bag (see p. 15 "Reset evidence").



Note: In the Assistant Phase, it is possible to obtain the skill "collect evidence from an adjacent location". This will allow you to pick up evidence from the neighboring connected locations while taking the action or skill "collect evidence".

Basically, evidence can be picked up only in regions N / E / S / W, but with that skill, you will be able to collect evidence from any nearby location, even while you are in a city.

EVIDENCE TOKENS

There are 7 types of evidence. 6 main ones:



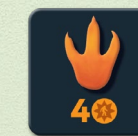
Victim



Bones



Eyewitness



Footprint



Silhouette in the sky



Outline in the water

The number on their face shows the cost of purchase and sale in the evidence market (see p. 18 "Buy and sell evidence").

The seventh type of evidence, **rumor**, is special. Like other evidence, it is required for tracking level I cryptids, but it can also be used as a **wild token**: you can spend 2 rumors instead of 1 other evidence.



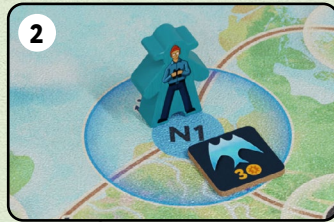
Advice: This feature is especially useful for tracking level II and level III cryptids, as they require much evidence. But it may also come in handy for level I cryptids if you can't gain necessary evidence.

TRACK A CRYPTID

As a true cryptozoologist, you are trying to find cryptids in order to resettle them in a safer habitat. You can search hard for evidence to be sure that you will find a cryptid, or push your luck and try to track a cryptid without knowing much about it. But in the latter case, you might return empty-handed.

To perform a capture, you must fulfill all of the following conditions:

1. Your **bid marker** must be on the card of the cryptid you want to track.
2. Your cryptozoologist must be in the **location** shown on the cryptid card.
3. You must have **at least 1** of the required evidence shown on the cryptid card.



Advice: Remember, you can always use 2 rumors as 1 evidence of any other type.



If you have all required evidence, you may **find a cryptid**. Alternatively, you can **attempt to find** a cryptid if:

- you have only part of the required evidence
- you have all required evidence tokens but want to keep some of them.

FIND A CRYPTID (with all evidence)

Discard all required evidence tokens from your player board and put them **near** the evidence bag.



1. Remove players' bid markers from the chosen cryptid card and return them to their owners. Take the cryptid card and place it next to your player board. Find and take the cryptid tile shown on the cryptid card.
2. Draw a new cryptid card from the deck and put it in place of the found cryptid.

If you found a level I cryptid, replace it with level II; level II with level III, and level III with another level III.

3. If your cryptid has a **"When found"** power, activate it.

Note: Players must place their removed bid markers on a new cryptid card before the end of the current round.



ATTEMPT TO FIND (with dice)

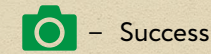
Roll 1 tracking die for **each missing** evidence token. The cryptid will be found only if all dice show success.

Example: Your chosen cryptid requires 3 evidence: silhouette in the sky, bones and footprint. You use 2 rumor tokens as a replacement for bones. You have to roll 2 dice because you are still lacking silhouette in the sky and footprint.



Note: If you have 2 out of 3 required evidence, you may still choose to roll 2 dice as if you only had 1 evidence. This option might be useful if you want to keep more evidence and believe in your success.

Dice values



– Success



– Failure



– Failure BUT if you have the skill **"luck"**, you can activate it, and this face value will be considered success for all rolled dice (see p. 16 **"Using skills"**).

Note: If you have the skill **"second chance"**, you may activate it to reroll the failed dice (see p. 16 **"Using skills"**).



Success:

Discard all used evidence tokens and put them **near** the evidence bag. Then, follow the same procedure as in **"Find a cryptid"**.

Failure:

1. Discard 1 of the evidence tokens used for the attempt to find a cryptid and put it **near** the evidence bag.
 - **Note 1:** If you used 2 evidence to track a level III cryptid, discard 1 token of your choice and keep the other.
 - **Note 2:** If you used 2 rumors as a replacement for 1 evidence, you have to discard both rumor tokens. But if you used 2 rumors + 1 other evidence (as 2 out of 3 required evidence), you may choose to discard either 2 rumors or 1 other evidence.
2. Gain 1 experience from the supply.
3. If your chosen cryptid has a power **"If you fail to find this cryptid,"** activate it.

RELOCATE A CRYPTID

After you have finally tracked down the cryptid, you are hurrying to the nearest city in order to contact the local wildlife protection organization and arrange the cryptid's resettlement. The unique cryptid sanctuary is ready to welcome new inhabitants. Plus, some environmental associations established an award for the cryptozoologists who can fulfill the request for conservation of certain species.

You can perform relocation action only if your cryptozoologist is located **in a city** and you have an unsettled cryptid (with an available cryptid tile) in your player area.

Relocation can be performed in one of two ways:

- Settle 1 cryptid in the sanctuary.
- Fulfill the request for 2 cryptids of a certain type.

SETTLING A CRYPTID IN THE SANCTUARY

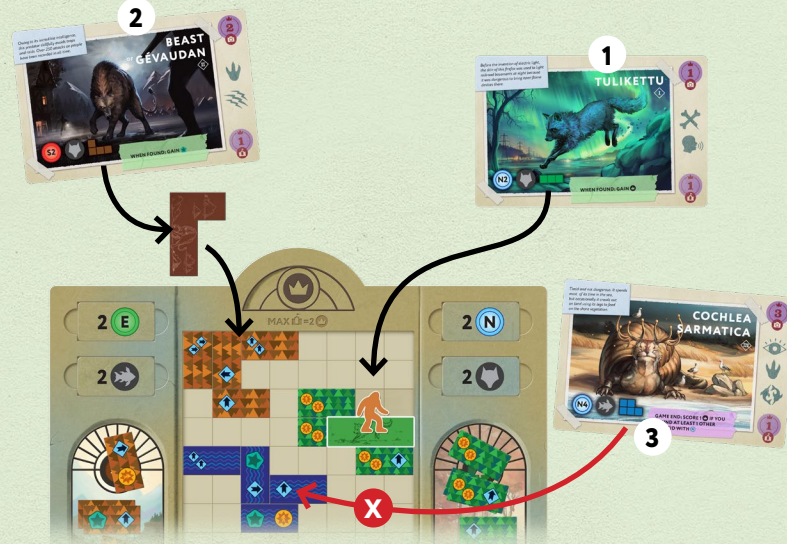
To settle a cryptid, you have to place its tile on suitable terrain in the sanctuary. At the beginning of the game there are no terrain tiles, but at the end of each player's turn in the Assistant Phase, new terrain tiles will be placed, making it possible to settle cryptids.

To perform this action, the sanctuary must contain terrain tiles matching the color of your cryptid tile (blue for water, green for forests, brown for mountains), with enough vacant space on them. This condition is considered fulfilled if the cryptid tile can entirely cover the terrain tiles of the necessary type without covering any other cryptid tiles. A cryptid tile can be rotated but cannot be laid face down.

If there is no suitable vacant space in the sanctuary, you cannot take this action.

Note: Some cryptids have special rules of settlement written on their card (e.g., they must be placed on spaces without any terrain or on 2 terrains at the same time, or even cover other cryptid tiles). Check if your cryptid card has **"When relocated"** power.

1. Place the cryptid tile in the sanctuary. On top of it, place a cryptid marker of your color.
2. Gain all bonuses for each covered symbol on the terrain tiles:
 - — gain 1 experience
 - — gain 1 coin
 - — (optional) move your assistant on the initiative track 1 space up or down. If there is another player's assistant in your way, jump over it and end on the nearest unoccupied space. **Do not gain any extra bonuses** (such as assistant dice or skills) for this bonus movement.
3. If your cryptid has a **"When relocated"** power, activate it.



Example: The orange player can settle Tulikettu (1) or the Beast of Gévaudan (2) by rotating Beast's tile 90°. There is no suitable place for Cochlea Sarmatica (3) in the sanctuary, so it cannot be settled yet. The player settles Tulikettu in the sanctuary, then gains 1 experience and 1 coin as a bonus. On top of the cryptid tile, the orange player places their cryptid marker.

FULFILLING A REQUEST FOR 2 CRYPTIDS

At the beginning of the game, there are 4 request tokens on the sanctuary board. Players can use their relocation action to fulfill these requests and gain reputation points.



To perform this type of relocation, you must have 2 unsettled cryptids matching the symbol on one of the available request tokens. Request symbols show either the habitat region or the type of cryptid.

If you do not have a suitable pair of cryptids, you cannot perform this action.

Take the following steps:

1. Remove the cryptid tiles of these cryptids from the game.
2. Take the chosen request token, turn it face down and cover the symbols of reputation points gained for settling these 2 cryptids (see the picture below). Instead of the points indicated on the cards, you will receive 4 reputation points for this token at the end of the game.
3. If either of the used cryptids has a **"When relocated"** power, activate it.



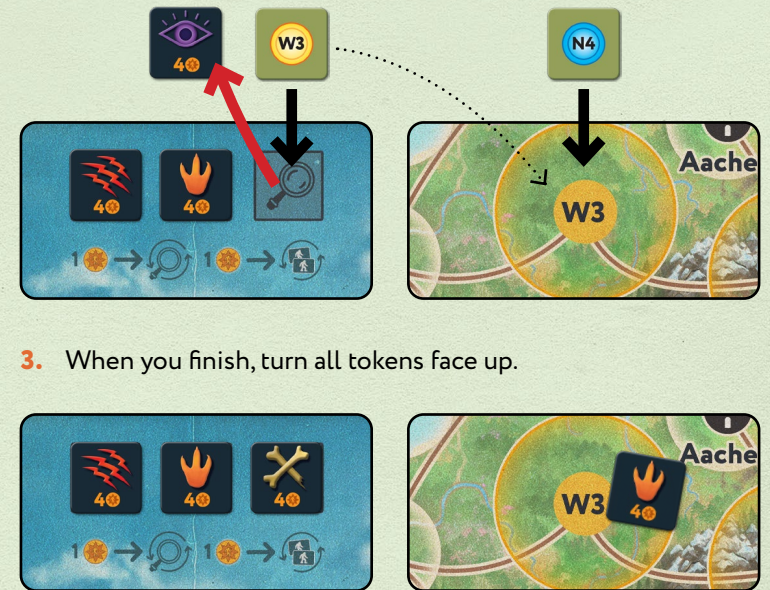
RESET EVIDENCE AND A CRYPTID

Sometimes you have to take a break in your pursuit of cryptids and evidence. Old traces are ending, but new ones are appearing on the horizon and worth paying attention to!

To perform this action, there must be **fewer than 7** evidence tokens on the game board (the ones in the evidence market do not count). If there is no evidence at all, the evidence **must be reset** (see next page **"Automatic evidence resetting"**).

Take the following steps:

1. Remove 1 of the evidence tokens of your choice from the evidence market and place it near the bag. Draw a new evidence token out of the bag and place it face down in the evidence market. On the back of this token, you can see the location number of the place where you have to put your next evidence.
2. Draw the next evidence from the bag and put it face down at the location determined in the previous step. Now this newly laid token shows the location number for the next token. Continue laying out evidence at the locations indicated on each previous token, until there are a total of 7 evidence tokens on the game board.



3. When you finish, turn all tokens face up.

4. **Optional:** You can replace up to 2 cryptid cards without any players' bid markers on them. Discard the chosen cryptid card to the discard pile corresponding to its level. Then draw and put a new cryptid card of the same level in place of the removed one.

Note: If all cryptids have at least 1 bid marker, you cannot perform this action



5. Choose and gain one of the following bonuses:

- 3 coins 🍀🍀🍀
- 1 experience 🌟
- move your assistant up to 2 spaces up or down the initiative track 🏠

AUTOMATIC EVIDENCE RESETTING

If at any moment of your turn there are no more evidence tokens on the game board (apart from the ones in the evidence market), immediately place new evidence until there are a total of 7. This does not count as an action. The player on whose turn this occurs must complete steps 1, 2 and 3 of the resetting evidence action but SKIP steps 4 and 5.

USING SKILLS

In addition to the Main Action and the Main Movement, you can use skills. At the beginning of the game, only one skill is available to each player 🏠 – “flight ticket”.

In the Assistant Phase, you will be able to spend your accumulated experience to gain new skills.

The cost of obtaining skills is indicated next to each skill on the player board. To obtain a skill, you have to spend experience, not coins. Coins are only used for the reactivation of already obtained and used skills.

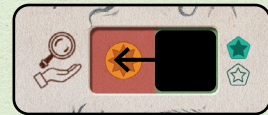
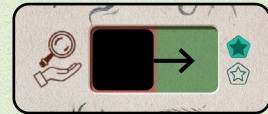


Note: In a 2-player game, the cost of obtaining new skills is always +1 from the basic cost. This is marked with 🌟 symbol.

Note: In the Cryptozoologist Phase, you can only use skills. New skills are obtained in the Assistant Phase (see p. 18 “Moving up”).

There are 2 general types of skills:

ACTIVE SKILLS – Once obtained, such skills can be used but only for a single activation. In order to use this skill again, you have to refresh it by paying 1 coin in the Assistant Phase. To use an active skill, slide its skill marker to the right – from the ready state (visible green) to the spent state (visible red).



Flight ticket – When using this skill, move your cryptozoologist to any location on the game board, regardless of distance. This skill is available to all players from the beginning of the game.



Collect evidence – The same as the corresponding Main Action (see p. 11 “Collect evidence”). Cost 🌟🌟.



Track a cryptid – the same as the corresponding Main Action (see p. 12 “Track a cryptid”). Cost 🌟🌟🌟.



Luck – Use this skill after a dice roll while attempting to find a cryptid. Consider all 🍀 symbols on the tracking dice as success for the current tracking attempt. Cost 🌟🌟.



Second chance – Use this skill after a dice roll while attempting to find a cryptid. In case of failure, reroll the dice of your choice (if you also have the “luck” skill, activate it only after you have finished rerolling). Cost 🌟🌟🌟.



Relocate a cryptid – the same as the corresponding Main Action (see p. 14 “Relocate a cryptid”). Cost 🌟🌟🌟.

Note: Remember to slide the skill marker to the right when you use any skill.

PASSIVE SKILLS – After obtaining these skills, you can always use them at no additional cost. Passive skills are not independent actions; they modify other actions or active skills.



Movement range – This passive skill allows you to move up to 3 locations instead of 2 **whenever you perform movement** (either by using Main Movement or Main Action). There are 2 identical “movement range” skills; if you obtain both, you can move up to 4 locations. Cost 🌟🌟.



Interrupt movement – This passive skill allows you to split your movement. When you spend only some of movement points, you may stop to take another action or skill(s) and then continue moving with the remaining movement points. If you have many available movement points, due to the “movement range” skill, you can split your movement into more than 2 parts. Cost 🌟🌟.



Collect evidence from an adjacent location – This passive skill allows you to take evidence from any neighboring connected locations whenever you take the “collect evidence” action or use the “collect evidence” skill. Cost 🌟🌟.

At the end of your turn, move your assistant to the right slot on the initiative track, then pass the Cryptozoologist Phase turn to the topmost player on the left track. When all players have taken their turns, the Assistant Phase begins.

II. ASSISTANT PHASE

At the beginning of the Assistant Phase, the starting player rolls all assistant dice.

1. ASSISTANT ACTIONS

Perform 1 mandatory action, plus take optional actions. You do not have to start with the mandatory one; all these actions can be performed **in any order**:

- Mandatory: Move your assistant
 - **DOWN** the initiative track to gain a bonus from one of the assistant dice
 - **UP** the initiative track to obtain new skills for experience and refresh spent skills for coins

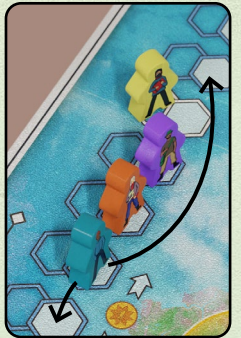
- Optional: Spend any number of coins to move your assistant that number of spaces on the initiative track, up or down.
- Optional: Spend coins to reset evidence or cryptids.
- Optional: Purchase and/or sell evidence in the evidence market.
- Optional: Change a bid.

MOVING THE ASSISTANT (MANDATORY)

The movement of assistants on the initiative track can change the turn order for the next phase.

Move your assistant 1 space up or down the initiative track. If the next space is occupied by another player, move to the nearest vacant space in the chosen direction. **Different players may never occupy the same space.**

Note: You have to skip another player's assistant, even if it is on the opposite side of the track. Two assistants may not stand on the left and the right of the same spot.



If there are no vacant spaces above or below your assistant, you may not move in that direction and must move in the other direction. According to the chosen direction, apply the movement effect.

MOVING DOWN



When you move your assistant down, choose 1 of the available assistant dice and gain the bonus shown on its top face.

Set aside this die; it will be unavailable to other players in this round.

Assistant dice values:

- 🍀 – gain coins (2 🍀 or 3 🍀🍀)
- 🌟 – gain experience (1 🌟 or 2 🌟🌟)
- 🟩 – refresh 2 skills for free – if you have any spent skills, move up to 2 skill markers from the spent state (visible red) to the ready state (visible green)
Note: This bonus allows you to refresh an already used skill, not to obtain a new one.
- 🗣️ – gain 1 bonus rumor from the rumor supply; if all your evidence slots are occupied, you may not gain this bonus

Note: Bonus rumors are used in the same way as rumors: You can use them to capture cryptids, 2 of them make a wild token (or 1 rumor + 1 bonus rumor) and they can also be sold and purchased. There is only one exception: When you discard a bonus rumor token (either from your player board or from the market), return it to the rumor supply. Bonus rumors must never go into the evidence bag.

MOVING UP



When you move your assistant up the initiative track, you may spend experience to obtain new skills and pay coins to refresh spent skills.

You may obtain and refresh any number of skills, you are limited only by the amount of experience and coins in your personal supply.

Obtaining new skills



To obtain a skill, pay its cost by discarding the necessary amount of experience. The cost is indicated on your player board next to each skill.

Note: In a 2-player game, the cost of obtaining new skills is always +1 from the basic cost. This is marked with a star symbol.

For a detailed description of the skills and their cost see p. 16 "Using skills".

If you obtain an **active skill**, put a skill marker in the **left red slot**. This way, the skill is in the **ready state**.



If you obtain a **passive skill**, just place a skill marker in the single slot.

Refreshing skills

If you have an active skill in the spent state (after using it), you can pay 1 coin to toggle it back to the ready state. You can refresh multiple skills as long as you have coins.

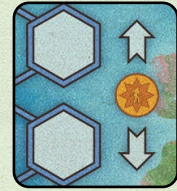


Note: The Main Action and the Main Movement are automatically refreshed at the end of your turn; you never pay coins for this.

Advice: Sometimes it is a good idea to move up the initiative track even if you have no coins or experience for skills, just to be the first player in the next round.

Example: The player moves their assistant up the initiative track. Now they want to obtain the skill "collect evidence". There are 3 players in the game, so the cost of this skill is 1 experience. The player returns 1 experience to the supply and puts a skill marker in the left slot of the skill "collect evidence". Then they spend 1 more experience to put a skill marker in the slot of the passive skill "collect evidence from an adjacent location". On their player board there is one active skill in the spent state — "flight ticket". The player decided to return 1 coin to the supply to toggle the "flight ticket" back to the ready state.

SPEND COINS TO MOVE THE ASSISTANT EXTRA (OPTIONAL)



You can spend any number of coins to the supply in order to move your assistant up or down the initiative track. Pay 1 coin for each space you want to move. The direction of this movement does not have to be the same as the direction of your mandatory movement.

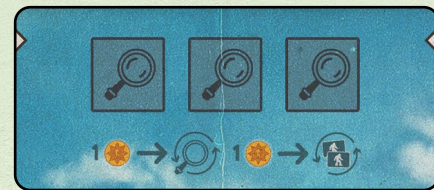
Do not gain any bonus effects, such as assistant dice or skills, for this optional movement.

Advice: This action can be useful to change the turn order for the next phase or to get out of the edge space on the track. For example, if you are already on top of the track, you may only move down with your mandatory action. But if you spend 1 coin, you can first move down and then move back to the top with your mandatory movement, thus getting the possibility to obtain and refresh skills and ensuring you go first in the next round.

SPEND COINS TO RESET EVIDENCE OR CRYPTIDS (OPTIONAL)

You may spend 1 coin to:

- Replace **all** evidence tokens in the evidence market with 3 new evidence from the bag. Place the removed evidence near the bag.
- Discard up to 2 revealed cryptid cards **without** players' bid markers on them and replace them with new cryptids of the same levels. Alternatively, you can replace 1 cryptid twice.



You may perform both types of resetting multiple times.

Refilling the evidence bag: Whenever the evidence bag is empty, put into the bag all evidence tokens set aside next to it and reshuffle them.

Cryptid discard piles: Keep all discarded cryptids in separate discard piles per level. Whenever any cryptid deck runs out, shuffle the corresponding discard pile to form a new deck.

BUY AND SELL EVIDENCE IN THE EVIDENCE MARKET (OPTIONAL)

You can buy and sell multiple evidence tokens for coins during this action and do it in any order. The number indicated on the face of evidence tokens is both the purchase and sale price.

To buy new evidence:

1. Return to the supply the amount of coins indicated on the chosen evidence token in the market.
2. Put the purchased evidence in an empty slot on your player board.



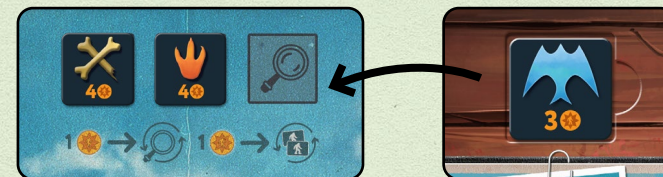
Note: If all evidence slots on your player board are occupied, you cannot buy more evidence. But you can do one of the following:

- Sell an evidence token before buying a new one.
- Sell and buy evidence simultaneously.

To sell your evidence:

1. If there is no empty slot in the evidence market, first remove 1 evidence token of your choice from the evidence market and put it near the evidence bag.
2. Put the evidence you want to sell in an empty slot in the evidence market.
3. Gain the amount of coins shown on the token you have sold.

Important: You may not buy back the evidence that you sold in the current Assistant Phase nor sell the evidence you've just purchased.



To sell and buy evidence simultaneously:

1. Swap an evidence token on your player board for an evidence token from the market.
2. Pay or receive the difference in the cost.

Advice: Simultaneous purchase and sale can be useful when you do not have enough coins to buy evidence or there are no available slots on your player board.

CHANGING A BID (OPTIONAL)

You can move 1 of your bid markers from a cryptid to another cryptid.

Advice: This option can be useful when you notice that your collected evidence is more suitable to a cryptid card that does not have your marker on it.

Important: If you have an available bid marker (as a result of you or another player finding a cryptid), you must place it on a cryptid card before the end of the round. Even if you place an available marker this turn, you can still change your other bid.

2. END OF TURN

In the meantime, you've been managing a large-scale construction of the unique wildlife sanctuary, where you tried to create an environment close to cryptids' natural habitat, for their safe resettlement.

At the end of your Assistant Phase turn, take the following **mandatory** steps:

1. Replenish the evidence market (only if it is not already full).
2. Place 1 terrain tile in the sanctuary.
3. Refresh your Main Action and Main Movement by sliding your action markers to the left red sloty.
4. Move your assistant to the left slot on the initiative track.

REPLENISHING THE EVIDENCE MARKET (MANDATORY)

If there are any empty slots in the evidence market due to your purchases, fill them with new evidence tokens from the bag, placing them face up.

PLACING A TERRAIN TILE (MANDATORY)

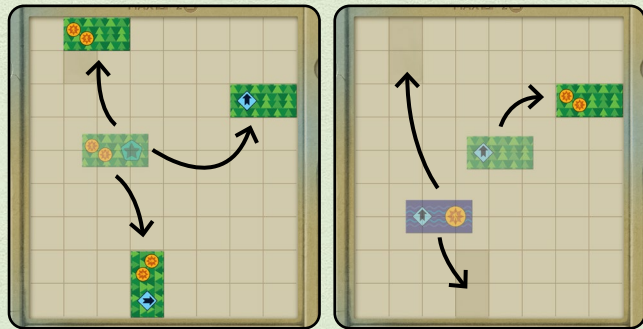
Choose 1 of 3 terrain tiles on your player board. Place it face up in the sanctuary, following the rules of the construction. Then choose and draw a terrain tile from any pile and put it face up into the empty slot on your player board.

RULES OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE SANCTUARY

The first terrain tile placed in the sanctuary should cover at least 1 square of the starting space, marked with a darker color. The first terrain tiles of different types should be placed in different starting spaces.

Note: When playing with 2 or 3 players, there will be fences on the sanctuary board, so only 1 square will remain visible on some of the starting spaces.

Afterward, you must place new terrain tiles next to tiles of the same color.



There are 3 types of terrains – **water** (blue), **mountains** (brown) and **forests** (green).

Terrain tiles have bonus symbols on them: coins 🪙, experience 🌟 and initiative 📍. Upon their construction, you do not gain these bonuses; instead, they are activated only when a player covers these spaces with a cryptid tile (see p. 14 “Relocate cryptid”).

Advice: Lay out the tiles with bonus symbols next to each other if you are about to settle your cryptid there, or place bonus-free tiles if you want to prevent your opponents from gaining an advantage.

If it is not possible to place a new terrain tile of a certain color (for example, all terrain tiles of that color are blocked by another terrain), all players including you must discard all terrain tiles of the unusable color from their player boards and put them back into the box. The terrain tiles of this type can no longer be drawn.

If you place a terrain tile such that leaves no space in the sanctuary for future terrain tiles, the game-end condition is triggered. The construction of the sanctuary is complete, so players no longer draw or place terrain tiles.

Note: The game does not end immediately when the game-end condition is triggered. Continue playing the current round till the end as normal. Then play 1 more round, which becomes the final one.

REFRESHING THE MAIN ACTION AND THE MAIN MOVEMENT (MANDATORY)

Slide both of your action markers to the left red slot (back to the ready state).

Important: Do not confuse action markers with skill markers. Action markers are used for the Main Action and the Main Movement and have your player color. In contrast, all skill markers are black.

Skills are not refreshed automatically at the end of turn; you have to pay coins to refresh them.

At the end of your turn, move your assistant to the left slot on the initiative track. Then pass the Assistant Phase turn to the next player whose assistant is above all other players on the right track.

Example: The purple assistant was above everyone else at the beginning of the Assistant Phase. The purple player moved their assistant down and ended up below the orange player. At the end of their turn, the purple player moves their assistant to the left slot. Now the orange assistant is standing above all others on the right track, so it is the orange player’s turn.

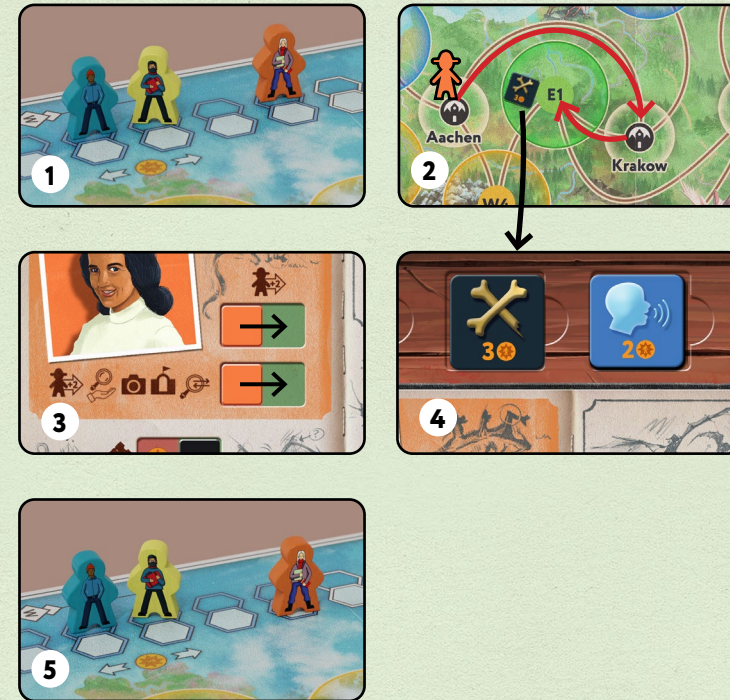


After all players have taken their turns in the Assistant Phase, a new round begins, starting with the topmost player on the initiative track.



5. TURN EXAMPLE CRYPTOZOLOGIST PHASE

On the initiative track, the orange player is the highest, followed by yellow, then blue. The orange player goes first (1). In the Cryptozoologist Phase, they use their Main Movement to move their cryptozoologist from Aachen to region E1, where the bones evidence is located (2). They slide both of their action markers to the right and choose to **collect evidence** as their Main Action (3) – they pick up the bones from the board and place them on their player board (4). So they end the Cryptozoologist Phase without using any extra skills and move their assistant to the right slot (5).



The yellow player goes second in the Cryptozoologist Phase. They use the “flight ticket” skill to move from region S1 to region E3. Then the yellow player uses the “track a cryptid” skill and wants to track Karadag Snake in region E3.



The player’s cryptozoologist is in the necessary location and their bid marker is on the card of Karadag Snake. The yellow player has all required evidence on their player board – eyewitness and outline in the water, so they find the cryptid. They remove the eyewitness and water evidence from their board and return the bid markers on the card back to the respective players. Then the player takes Karadag Snake card and the corresponding cryptid tile to their personal area. The player also receives 1 🌟 because of Karadag Snake’s “When found” power. Karadag Snake is a level II cryptid, so the yellow player draws a new card from the level III cryptid card deck and puts it in place of the removed card.



As their Main Action, the yellow player chooses to **reset evidence and cryptids** (1). There are already 5 evidence tokens on the board, so 2 more tokens must be placed to make a total of 7. The yellow player chooses to remove the rumor token from the evidence market to put a new token from the bag in its place (2). The next evidence is placed according to the location number indicated on the first drawn evidence token, in the location N3 (3). The following evidence is placed according to the location number on the last drawn evidence, in the location W4 (4). Now there are 7 evidence tokens on the game board, so the player does not place any more evidence. They turn the placed evidence face up (5).



Then the yellow player resets cryptid cards. They want to replace 1 level 1 cryptid. Trochus has the blue player's bid, so it cannot be replaced. There are no bid markers on Lomie, so the yellow player replaces it for a new level 1 cryptid card from the deck (6). As a bonus, the player chooses to move their assistant 2 spaces up the initiative track, which allows them to jump over the orange player and become the first player in the next phase (7).



With their Main Movement, the yellow player moves 2 locations forward – from E3 to E2 (8). Using the **“collect evidence”** skill, the player picks up the footprint evidence (9). Finally, they move 2 more spaces to the city of Aachen (10). The yellow player moved 4 locations in total, owing to their 2 passive skills **“movement range”** and has split their movement for 2 parts to collect evidence in between with the skill **“interrupt movement”** (11).



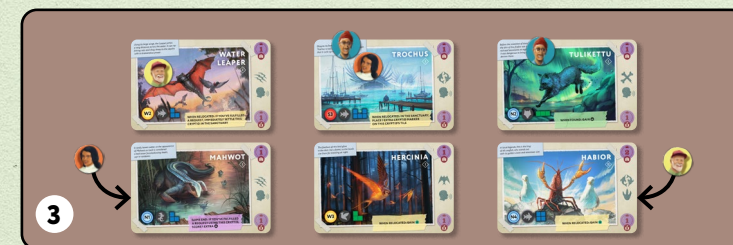
At the end of their Cryptozoologist Phase, the yellow player moves their assistant to the right slot and passes the turn to the blue player (12).

ASSITANT PHASE

The yellow player begins the Assistant Phase. During the game, the player has managed to obtain all possible skills. They move their assistant up for their obligatory movement along the initiative track (1). Now they return 4 coins to the general supply and slide all their 4 spent skills to the left in order to make them ready again (2).



Since the yellow player moved up, they do not gain any assistant dice, and the next player will have a choice of 4 assistant dice on their turn. Passive skills used by the player do not require refreshing, they are always available. The player has no money and does not want to sell evidence on the market, so they end their assistant actions. At the end of their Assistant Phase turn, the yellow player must place their available bid marker. They could have done it before, but decided to postpone it until the end of their turn. The player chose to put their bid marker on Habior, since they already have the footprint evidence to track this cryptid. At the same time, the orange player, without waiting for the end of the round, places their available bid marker on Mahwot (3).



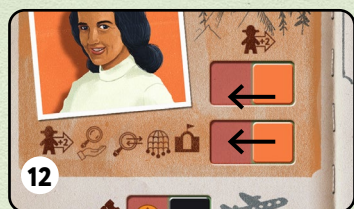
The yellow player then places the water terrain tile in the sanctuary next to another water tile (4). They slide their action markers to the left to the red slot, in the ready position (5), then move their assistant to the left slot on the initiative track (6) and pass the Assistant Phase turn to the orange player.



Now it is the orange player's Assistant Phase turn. They first decide to sell the footprint evidence and buy the rumor in place of it (7). The footprint costs 3 coins, and the rumor costs 2 coins. Therefore, after visiting the evidence market, the player receives 1 coin from the supply (8). The player uses this coin to move their assistant on the track 1 space up (9). And only after that, the orange player performs the mandatory action – moves their assistant down. They choose one of the assistant dice and receive the bonus from it – 2 experience (10).



At the end of their Assistant Phase, the orange player places the mountain terrain tile in the sanctuary next to the already laid mountain terrain (11). They move the action markers to the left into the red slot, to refresh their Main Movement and Main Action (12). Finally, they move their assistant to the left slot of the track (13) and pass the turn to the blue player.



6. GAME END

The game-end condition is triggered when there is no more available space for placing terrain tiles in the sanctuary. The round in which this condition is triggered is played till the end as normal. After that, 1 more full round is played and then the game ends.

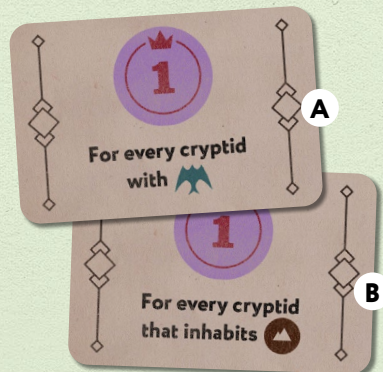
SCORING AND VICTORY

Use the scorepad to add together your (reputation points).

- Count the for all your **found** cryptids. The number is shown on the top right of the card.
- Count the for all your **cryptids settled in the sanctuary**. These points are shown on the bottom right of the card.



- Every fulfilled **request token** gives you 4 .
- The **general contract** gives 1 to every player for each of their cryptid cards that meet the contract requirements.
- Compare the reputation points for your 2 **personal contracts**. Score the from **only 1** contract, the one that gives you more reputation points, and discard the other contract.



There are two types of contracts:

- The first type (A) gives you 1 point for every cryptid card that has the shown type of evidence on the card (it does not matter whether you used this evidence for tracking).
- The second type (B) gives you 1 point for every found cryptid that lives in the shown habitat.

- If your cryptids have game-end powers, check if you fulfilled their conditions and score the indicated for them.
- Count the number of **cryptid markers** of each player in the sanctuary. The player with the most markers gets 2 . In case of a tie, the player with the largest total area covered with their cryptid tiles scores 2 . If the tie is still not resolved, all players in the tie score 2 .
- Score 1 for every 3 remaining experience tokens in your personal supply.
- Score 1 for every 5 remaining coins in your personal supply. Sell your remaining evidence if any.

The player with the most reputation points wins. In case of a tie, players compare the number of found cryptids, and the one who found the most cryptids wins. If there is still a tie, the winner is the one who relocated the most cryptids (both in the sanctuary and by fulfilling requests). If there is still a tie, the player who has the most experience and coins in total wins. If the tie is still unresolved, all players in the tie share the victory.

7. GAME MODES

WOLPERTINGER

The game module Wolpertinger increases the role of cities. We recommend adding this module as soon as you figure out how the base game works.

Wolpertinger is a legendary hare with deer antlers and bird wings. From ancient times, there were legends about this creature. But instead of proving its existence, taxidermists made bizarre stuffed hares and distributed them among collections. In this module, cryptozoologists face this hoax and collect stuffed Wolpertinger specimens across Europe.

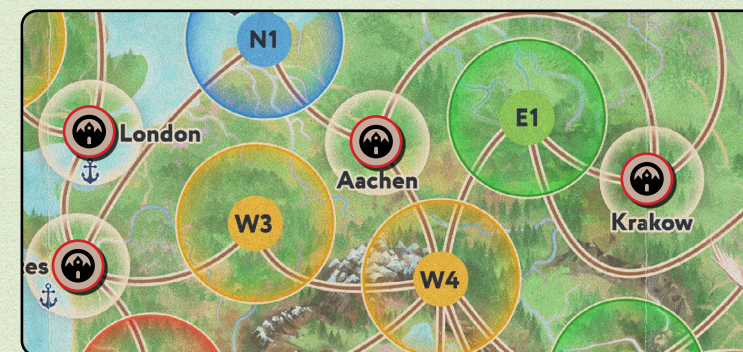
This game mode adds the following steps to the game **Setup**:

- Place the Wolpertinger card next to the game board.



- Shuffle the 11 Wolpertinger tokens face down.
- Place 1 random Wolpertinger token in each city .

A new type of Tracking action is available for all players: When your cryptozoologist is in a city with a Wolpertinger token, you can attempt to find a stuffed Wolpertinger.



To take this action, **discard 1 rumor** , then take the Wolpertinger token from your current location and place it face up next to your player board.

Note: This action can be taken either as the Main Action or the **“track a cryptid”** skill.

On the faces of the tokens you can find:

- (6 tokens) – stuffed hare. At the end of the game, score 1 reputation point for each of these tokens.
- (2 tokens) – you can discard this token to get 4 coins from the supply.
- (2 tokens) – you can discard this token to get 1 evidence token from the bag.
- (1 token) – when you perform a risky capture, you can discard this token to use the **“Second Chance”** skill and reroll the dice showing failure (even if you have not obtained this skill on your player board).

The following steps are added to the **Scoring**:

- Gain 1 for each token with the stuffed hare on its face.
- The player with the most collected stuffed hares gains the Wolpertinger card, which gives that player 2 . If there is a tie, check which of the challengers has more unspent Wolpertinger tokens (not with the hare images on their face). If there is still a tie, no one gets the card.

Note: If none of the players has a token with the stuffed hare on its face, no one gets the card, even if players have other Wolpertinger tokens.

WITHOUT BID MARKERS

In later games, you can try playing without bid markers for a more unpredictable game.

- During the setup, do not place bid markers. Return them to the box.



- When taking the **“reset evidence”** action, you may not replace cryptid cards.
- In the Assistant Phase, you may not spend coins to reset cryptid cards.
- When tracking a cryptid, you can choose any of 6 revealed cryptid cards.

Advice: In this mode, be aware that another player can track the cryptid you were collecting evidence for.

8. ICON OVERVIEW



Experience



Track a cryptid



Place an evidence token from the bag in place of this icon



Reputation point



Relocate a cryptid



Type of cryptid



Coins



Reset evidence and a cryptid



Region



Movement of the assistant on the initiative track



Collect evidence from an adjacent location



City



Second chance



Collect evidence



Port. Used in the expansion “Islands”



Luck



Flight ticket



Movement range



Interrupt movement

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A million thanks to thousands of people who helped playtest the game and bring it to life! The rulebook is not thick enough to list all of those who contributed to this project, but we will always have a place in our hearts for you.

CREDITS

Game design: Oleg Meleshin, Georgij Schugol and Alexander Krys

Illustration: Evgeniy Shvenk, Viktor Ziburdaev

Graphic design: Viktor Ziburdaev

Editing: Denis Levchenko

Proofreading: Christina Doka

Product manager: Tatsiana Hofer

© 2024 iDventure UG

Meisenweg 6 • 40667 Meerbusch • Germany