



STEMMING FROM THIS...

Mikołaj & Dagmara Sobociński
Kombajn Game Jam @ 2021

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"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known."

Carl Sagan

picture on the title slide and in the background by Sarah Dorweiler on Unsplash



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GOAL

The aim of this game is to...

- *become a family wizkid or Mr. Wiseguy or Ms. Wisegal in terms of botany*
- *plant flowers, fruit, vegetables or whatever else that can be grown in the house (or elsewhere)*
- *devise a cunning plan to make your plant(s) outgrow and outperform those of other players*
- *collect data, analyse it, and make your move as you can perform various actions*
- *water selected plants or not, add microelements or not, turn plants towards sunlight or not...*
- *decorate plants with markers for beautification and as the proof of your green-fingers superiority*
- *keep calm, but stay on track as this game will take weeks or even months*
- *enjoy every moment of it, especially with friends and family*



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STEM

The acronym STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and if you plan it well (or have support from your team and family), you can take advantage of STEM at every step of this game.

*Pardon my French, but as Mark Watney said in the book *The Martian*... And yes, first Andy Weir wrote the book, and only later they made the film...*

*“So, in the face of overwhelming odds, I’m left with only one option:
I’m going to have to science the s**t out of this.”*

*Your success in “Stemming from this...” should depend on your note taking, collection of data, analysis of data, proposed (and discussed fervently) experiments, failed attempts, successful attempts, finding ideas on the Net and other sources (people are good sources too), and from sciencing the s**t out of this...*



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PREPARATIONS

We strongly advise taking this game as an easygoing pastime activity that is going to become the milestone and a landmark of your personal, professional, and academic development whether you are 5 or 105!

Prepare a joint notebook, where you can write down actions of all players and their effects.

Before performing any action, predict what will happen. Write it in your notebook. Confirm or falsify what you can.

Prepare a calendar (can be in the notebook) where you mark what and when happened. And plan ahead.

Prepare the tools: dirt, pellets, glass jars (unless you can see through pottery), rullers, paper clips, the place, etc.

Prepare the seeds and find out which plants are best for your environment and available time frame.

Prepare yourself for the unexpected! You may actually enjoy this stuff!



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RULES & SUGGESTIONS

All rules mentioned in “Stemming from this...” may be changed - that’s how you conduct experiments!

- 1. Do as much as you can together, so that all jars, dirt, and plants are as similar as possible.
(Unless you want to have different plants and different techniques to compete against each other.)*
- 2. Try to limit your actions. Three actions per week is a fair suggestion.
But each player may decide to perform a different action, so plan carefully.
Check the list of actions and suggestions on the following slides.*
- 3. Assign one day at the end of the week for measurements - do not perform other actions on that day.*
- 4. Make bets (wild guesses, predictions & estimates) of how any plant may react or grow in a week.
Perform actions in the week to support your bets (and thwart those of others if you want to).
Verify results at the end of the week. Each winner should get something. Maybe a free action? Cookie?*



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RULES & SUGGESTIONS CONT.

5. *We strongly suggest older players to perform their actions first.
Younger players or less seasoned gardeners will find it easier to act after others.*
6. *If for whatever reason, you believe actions of other players may destroy your plant or experiment, issue a “cease & desist” call. Until the end of the week no one else can touch your plant.*
7. *You can perform any of the actions agreed on. But you can perform only one action per day.
We advise a weekly schedule: one action every two days, measurements on the last day of the week.*
8. *Other players may repeat your actions even on your own plant(s) unless “cease & desist” was called upon.*
9. *Players may help each other or do the opposite. Just don’t gang up on anyone. That proves nothing.*
10. *If in doubt, consult the Internet, neighbours, local shopkeepers, gardeners, and grandma or grandpa.*



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RULES & SUGGESTIONS CONT.

You may perform any action listed below.

You can also prepare cards with actions, draw 3-5 at random, and decide if you follow them or pass.

- *water one or a few plants*
- *turn around one or a few plants*
- *shade (or move into shade) one or a few plants*
- *add microelements to one or a few plants*
- *mark a specific point, stem, branch, leaf, etc. on one or a few plants -- good for betting*
- *measure plants with lego blocks (or any other blocks)*
measure plants with yarn (or any other rope)
measure plants with a ruler (try cm or inches)



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RULES & SUGGESTIONS CONT.

- *put one or a few plants in the fridge*
- *put one or a few plants in water only (no soil) - If you want to do it, it's best for longer periods.*
- *put one or a few plants in water beads only (no soil) - Again, it's best to do it for longer periods.*
- *have a control plant to check your progress or stalemate - all players agree how to treat this plant*
- *put your plants on a window sill outside or inside*
- *only sprinkle water on the plants' leaves, don't water them*
- *put a see through plastic bag on the plant and a pot, close it so the air doesn't escape*
- *water the plant with colourful water (food colouring - red, blue, yellow, green)*
- *weigh the plant (together with the jar)*
- *make your own rules and experiments*



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RULES & SUGGESTIONS CONT.

Any kind of notebook or diary will work fine, but we suggest to include the following for each action day:

day #	plant name	plant name	plant name	general comments
owner	owner	owner		_____
action	action	action		_____
_____	_____	_____		_____
performed by	performed by	performed by		_____
_____	_____	_____		_____

predictions & bets: _____



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RULES & SUGGESTIONS CONT.

Did you try tying a knot on one part of a plant? Make it loose and check if it will tighten up.

Did you try plant wrestling? Tie two plants together with a thread or ribbon. Observe weekly struggles.

Did you try playing music to your plants? Classical or heavy metal or ambience as long as you can take it.

Did you try prolonging the day? Leave a lamp on and see if it makes for a good daylight.

Did you try asking for advice? If everyone knows better (or so they think), prove them right. Or wrong.

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

Chinese Proverb



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WINNERS & WHINERS

At the beginning of the game, you should decide on the win state(s) or winning condition(s).

While you play, it may turn out that those are too difficult or too easy, and you may need to change them.

Do not rush it, and be patient. This game is supposed to be long. This gives you time to learn & to think.

When you agree that a specific size or height or weight or bloom or whatever other aspect of your plants is going to mark the end of the game and shine the spotlight on the winner, than this is the winner.

Don't cry, don't pout, don't whine if you do not win (spectacularly) or even if you think you failed completely.

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

Thomas Edison



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GLOBAL GAME JAM ONLINE & 2021 DIVERSIFIERS

It's You + Me, Kid

(Sponsored by Carina Fund)

Create a game designed for families to play together that secretly features maths.

The Possibilities are Endless

(Sponsored by Endless)

Create a fun-first educational game—a game that captures the attention of kids but also educates around a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) topic.

Moving the goalposts

The win condition of the game changes in some way each time it is played

Snail's Pace

Your game is designed to be played over multiple days and cannot be sped up.



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GLOBAL GAME JAM ONLINE & 2021 THEME

This year's theme is "Lost and Found"

Have you found STEM in you?



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