



ROOT

A Game of Woodland Might and Right



Learning to Play

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Lilypad Diaspora



As the Lilypad Diaspora, you wish to establish **enclaves** as safe havens in the Woodland, and you score points by spending cards matching enclaves on their **Peaceful side**. These enclaves introduce your culture, adding the frog suit to their clearing. With this, you add a set of **frog cards** to the shared deck, along with a new frog discard pile called **The Pond**. However, your Peaceful enclaves cannot protect you. To gain warriors, you need enclaves on their **Militant side**. These enclaves cover their clearing's suit as the Diaspora expels threats real or imagined, forcing you to battle each turn and making you lose essential Woodland support.

Enclaves & The Frog Suit

Your **enclave tokens** represent concentrations of your people in the Woodland. Each clearing can only hold 1 enclave. Enclaves are double-sided—either **Peaceful** or **Militant**:



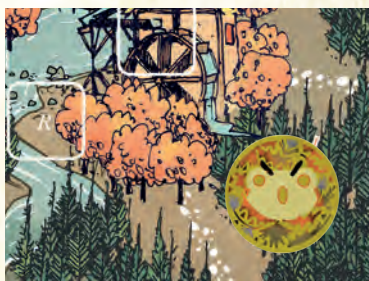
A Peaceful enclave **adds** the frog suit to its clearing.



A Militant enclave **replaces** its clearing suit by covering it.



This clearing is double-suited:
frog and mouse!



This clearing is only the frog suit!

Peaceful enclaves let you score points through the Integrate action in Evening, and they increase your card draw. Militant enclaves let you place warriors and force you to battle.

When crafting at a Peaceful enclave, craft with **either** the frog or printed suit, not both.

Frog Cards

The Diaspora shuffles all of their **frog cards** into the shared deck.

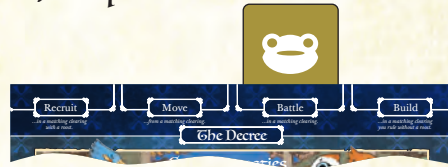
Through the game, players draw these cards from the deck and can use them just like any other: you can use their **frog suit** or craft them.



Some frog cards show a **frog crafting icon**—you'll need a crafting piece in a frog clearing.

Frog Card Example

The Eyrie has a frog card in their Decree.
This means they must act in a frog clearing—a clearing with an enclave.



The Pond

Frog cards are discarded face up to the top of **The Pond** placard, making a second discard pile. When a player draws any cards, they may take the **first** card they draw from the top of the Pond instead of the shared deck.

When the shared deck is reshuffled, also shuffle in all cards from the Pond.



Birdsong

First, Craft. You can craft using your enclaves.

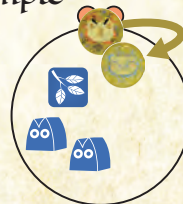
Second, Rally or Reconcile. You must choose whether to Rally or Reconcile.

- » **Rally:** Place 1 warrior at *each* Militant enclave.
- » **Reconcile:** Any number of times, flip a Militant enclave to Peaceful. Each time you do, the enclave's ruler draws 1 card.

Reconcile Example

The Diaspora reconciles a Militant enclave to Peaceful.

The Eyrie rules this clearing, so they choose to draw the top card of the Pond.



Daylight

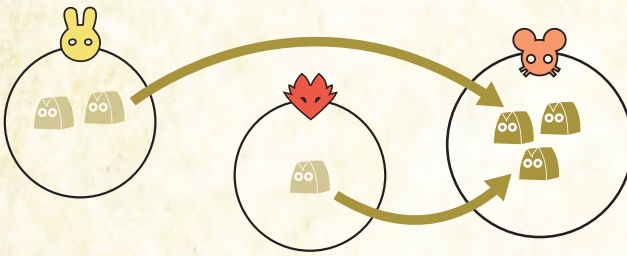
In Daylight, you may Settle or Provoke *up to 3 times* in any combination and order:

- » **Settle:** Choose a clearing. You may move *into* it any number of times. After these moves, you may battle in that clearing, or you may place a Peaceful enclave there if you rule it.

Remember, you can only place an enclave in a clearing without one.

Settle Example

First, you move in a few times from clearings you rule.



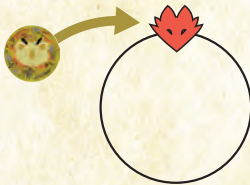
After these moves, you rule the clearing, so you choose to place a Peaceful enclave there.

- » **Provoke:** Flip a Peaceful enclave to Militant, or place a Militant enclave in a clearing on the river or with a Diaspora warrior. Then, you place 1 warrior at *each* Militant enclave. Finally, discard a random card.

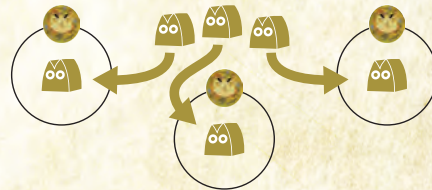
This random discard includes frog cards, even though they have a different card back. Just shuffle your hand under the table, or close your eyes.

Provoke Example

You place a Militant enclave in an empty river clearing, covering its clearing suit.



Then you place 1 warrior at each Militant enclave.



Finally, you discard a random card. Since you have no cards, you skip this step!

Evening

First, Retaliate. You *must* battle at each Militant enclave.





Skip battles in clearings with no enemy pieces.

Second, Integrate. You may spend one card to Integrate. If you do, score 1 victory point per Peaceful enclave in clearings matching the card suit. You cannot score the frog suit.

You cannot Integrate multiple times per turn.

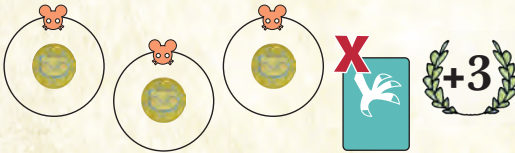
Third, Draw and Discard. You draw cards based on the number of Peaceful enclaves on the map, as shown on your player board. Then, if you have more than five cards, discard down to five.

Draw cards from Peaceful enclaves on the map.

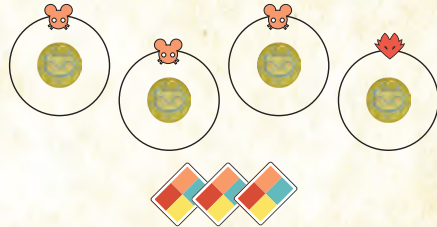
0-1:  2-3:  4-7:  8+: 

Integrate & Draw Example

You have 3 Peaceful enclaves in mouse clearings, so you spend a bird card as a mouse to score 3 points. You can't Integrate multiple suits per turn, so you're done.



You have a total of 4 Peaceful enclaves on the map, so you draw 3 cards.



Swimmers

The Diaspora are **Swimmers**—you treat rivers as paths, and they ignore rule while moving along rivers.

This ability is the same one that the Riverfolk Company has!

Negotiations

The Diaspora's enemies can flip enclaves to Peaceful by entering into **Negotiations**.

Once on their turn, an enemy at a Militant enclave may flip it to Peaceful. If another player rules it, the flipping player must give a card to the ruler in order to flip the enclave.

The enemy can give a card of **any** suit. It doesn't have to match the suit covered by the enclave.

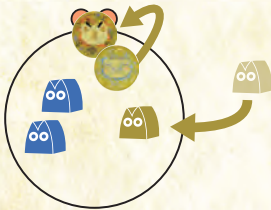
Fears Come to Pass

The Diaspora's enemies can flip enclaves to Militant by making the Diaspora's **Fears Come to Pass**.

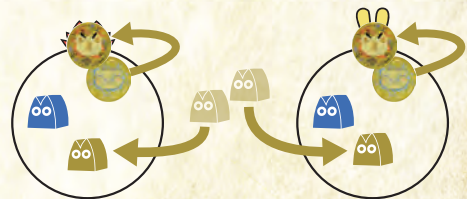
After an enemy removes a Peaceful enclave or battles you at one, flip all Peaceful enclaves with that enemy's pieces to Militant and place 1 Diaspora warrior at each one you flipped.

Fears Come to Pass Example

The Eyrie battle you at an enclave. It survives the battle, so you flip it to Militant and place 1 warrior at it.



The Eyrie are at two other Peaceful enclaves, so you flip them to Militant and place 1 warrior at each.



Common Interactions with the Frog Suit

Woodland Alliance

You may spend frog Supporters to Spread Sympathy and Revolt in clearings with enclaves. If it's a Peaceful enclave, you may combine frog Supporters and Supporters of the clearing's printed suit.

You cannot Revolt at Militant enclaves because your bases don't have the frog suit.

You can Train by spending cards of your bases' clearings, not their printed suits.

When a base is removed, discard Supporters of suits matching the base's **clearing**, not the printed suit on the base. *(For example, if a base is removed from a fox clearing with a Peaceful enclave, discard foxes, frogs, and birds. If one is removed from a clearing with a Militant enclave, discard frogs and birds only.)*

Lizard Cult

You may reveal frog cards to Recruit and Build at enclaves—place a garden whose printed suit matches the clearing's printed suit. *(We include a reminder card that the Lizard Cult can use, since their player board only shows fox, mouse, and rabbit cards for these actions.)*

You cannot Build at Militant enclaves.

You can craft with gardens whose printed suit match the Outcast, but they fulfill crafting icons based on their **clearing**, not the printed suit on the garden. *(For example, if the Outcast is mouse, your mouse gardens are crafting pieces. If one is at a Militant enclave, it only fulfills a frog icon. If one is at a Peaceful enclave, it fulfills either mouse or frog.)*

Riverfolk Company

You may place trade posts at Peaceful enclaves, but not Militant enclaves. Place a trade post whose printed suit matches the clearing's printed suit.

Corvid Conspiracy

You may spend a frog card to Recruit at **every** enclave.

Keepers in Iron

If you Recover from a clearing with a Peaceful enclave, count clearings you rule of matching printed suit **and** clearings you rule with enclaves.

Twilight Council



Sickened by the constant civil war, the Twilight Council works to bring the conflict to an end. By convening **assemblies**, the Council gains legitimacy as they **Oversee** enemy buildings and tokens. Their assemblies can also **Govern** their clearings, limiting their enemies' actions in them. With sufficient strength, the Council can **empower** assemblies to promote Woodland peace and solidarity. The Council's mission is supported by a vanguard of **Loyalists**, warriors they can gain and place as their enemies **Entreat** them for favors.

Assemblies

The Council gains power through their **assemblies**. Assemblies start on their **Closed** side. In Evening, you can flip assemblies to **Governing** in various ways, and you may take actions at your assemblies, whether they're Closed or Governing.



Closed Assembly



Governing Assembly

Assemblies on their Governing side will **Govern** their clearings—enemies there cannot craft with, flip, place, take, or remove pieces there, except in battle. In Evening, you score victory points from Governed clearings that have any enemy buildings or tokens.

Not even the Vagabond can craft at Governing assemblies.

Loyalists

Your player board can hold 4 warriors from your supply as **Loyalists**. You gain them with various actions on your turn or if an enemy Entreats you on their turn (page 9).



You can place Loyalists in Birdsong with your Assemble action or if an enemy Entreats you.

When an enemy removes an assembly, remove 1 Loyalist.

You can freely put Loyalists back in your supply.

Entreating the Council

Any number of times on their turn, an enemy can **Entreat the Council** to flip an assembly to Closed. The Council must do so, but they may either gain 1 Loyalist—placing a Council warrior from their supply on an empty Loyalists slot—or place any number of Loyalists at the assembly.

Birdsong

First, Take Actions. Any number of times, you may reveal a card from your hand to take one of these actions in a clearing matching the revealed card:

- » **Move:** Take a move.
- » **Recruit:** Place 1 warrior.
- » **Battle:** Initiate a battle there. If an assembly is there, *discard the revealed card*.
- » **Assemble:** If it has no assembly, place a Closed assembly and any number of Loyalists from your player board. Then, if you don't rule the clearing, *discard the revealed card*.

Daylight

Sleep. Flip assemblies ruled by enemies to their Closed side.

Yup, that's it! You're nocturnal, after all.



Evening

First, Convene Woodfolk. In any order, return each card that you revealed in Birdsong to your hand to act at a matching assembly. Return these cards one at a time.

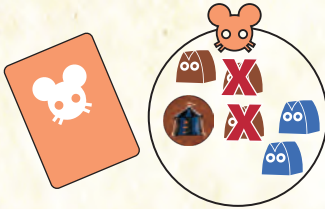
You can act at both Closed and Governing assemblies.

When you return a *card except a bird*, you may agitate or banish at a matching assembly:

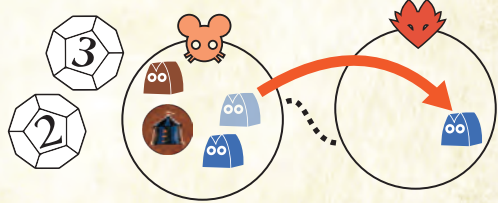
- » **Agitate: Spend the returned card.** Flip the assembly to Governing if it's Closed. Gain 1 Loyalist.
- » **Banish:** Initiate a battle. You take no rolled hits and cannot hit buildings or tokens. Your hits do not remove defending pieces—instead, the defender moves all of their hit warriors to a single destination you choose, ignoring rule.

Banish Example

You return a mouse card to banish the Eyrie. They play an ambush card, leaving you with 1 warrior.



You roll 3-2. You only have 1 warrior, so you force 1 Eyrie warrior to move how you choose.

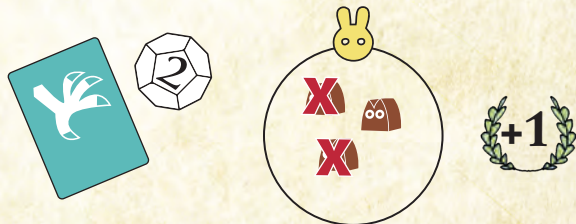



When you return a *bird card*, you may **empower** any assembly: Roll one battle die and remove your warriors from the assembly equal to the rolled number. Then, either gain Loyalists equal to your removed warriors, or score 1 victory point if you rule the assembly.

Empower Example

The Council returns a bird card to empower and rolls a 2.

After removing 2 Council warriors, they still rule, so they choose to score 1 victory point.



Second, Inspire. You may craft cards with assemblies. If you do not, you draw 1 card for each  icon showing on your assemblies track.

Third, Adjourn. You may remove any assemblies you choose. Flip assemblies you rule to Governing.

Fourth, Oversee. Score victory points based on the number of Governing assemblies in clearings with any *enemy buildings or tokens*, as shown on your player board.



Fifth, Draw and Discard. Draw 1 card. Then, if you have more than 5 cards, discard down to 5 cards.

You can only draw extra cards based on your Assemblies track in the Craft or Inspire step.

Peacekeepers

The Council are **Peacekeepers** at their assemblies **unless the Vagabond is defending**.

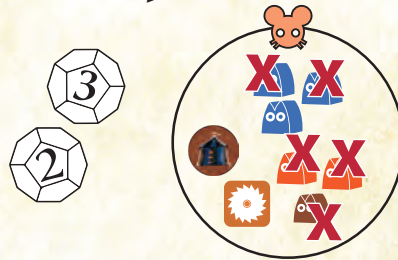
In battle at an assembly, if an enemy is defending against anyone except the Council, you must add your warriors there as defending warriors. However, your warriors only take hits after all of the defender's own warriors have been removed.

This ability helps defend enemy pieces that you might want to Oversee.

Peacekeepers Example

The Eyrie battles the Marquise at an assembly, so the Council warrior adds to the Marquise's.

The Eyrie roll 3-2, removing all defending warriors but not the Marquise's sawmill.



Knaves of the Deepwood



The *Knaves of the Deepwood* are a crew of miscreants who seek to gain **acclaim** by aiding the needy and battling the warring factions, taking their warrior into the forests as **Prisoners**. Each turn, the *Knaves* act with one of three **Captains**, supported by a rowdy band of **Skunks**. However, they are a disorganized, scattered crew, so their **Captains** need to **Take It Easy** before they get to act again, giving their enemies an opportunity to rescue their **Prisoners** right out from under the *Knaves*' noses.

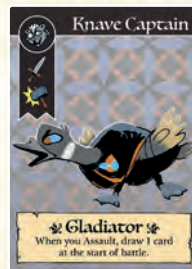
Captains

The *Knaves* are led by 3 unique **Captain** warriors that can move in and out of forests, ignoring rule.

Each turn, you choose one **Captain** to act by placing its **Captain** card on the Acting **Captain** slot of your player board. After it acts, you flip its **Captain** card face down and set it aside.

On later turns, you cannot act with a facedown **Captain**. However, once all three **Captains** are facedown, you **Take It Easy**, flipping their **Captain** cards face up so they can act again.

Captains cannot be placed except in setup and their **Ready** step in **Birdsong** (page 14), and they cannot be replaced, such as with the **Convert** action of the **Lizard Cult**.



Items & Your Stash

In setup, each **Captain** adds the 2 starting **items** shown on its banner to the **Stash** box on your player board. In total, you set up with 6 items.

When you craft or take items in play, place them in your **Stash**.

In **Daylight**, you may flip face-up items in your **Stash** face down to take special actions (page 14).

Flipped items remain face down until all three **Captain** cards are facedown. At this point, you **Take It Easy**, flipping your items face up along with your **Captain** cards.



Skunks

You have a set of 10 **Skunk warriors**. When a Captain moves, they can move Skunks with them. Just like Captains, Skunks can move in and out of forests, ignoring rule.



Acclaim

You have 8 **acclaim tokens**. Each clearing can hold one acclaim.

Most of your items' special actions place acclaim (page 14). Also, at the end of any battle where your Captain is attacking, you place acclaim at the Captain as long as it's still in the battle clearing.

You score victory points for acclaim in Evening and they improve some of the actions you take with items (page 14).

When an enemy removes acclaim, your supporters **Run Away**: you are forced to place 1 Skunk in an adjacent forest of the enemy's choice.



If your Skunk supply is empty, don't place one.

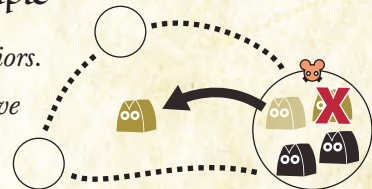
Prisoners

When a Captain attacks a faction in battle, you take one defending warrior you hit as a **Prisoner**: move it to a forest with no Prisoners, ignoring rule. Because this is a move, the forest must be adjacent.

You can lay Prisoners down to distinguish them.

Taking Prisoner Example

While attacking in a mouse clearing, you hit 2 Diaspora warriors. You take 1 Prisoner, moving it to an adjacent forest, and remove the other one.



In Evening, you score victory points for your Prisoners. When you **Take It Easy**, one enemy will have the chance to release some of their Prisoners.

Prisoners cannot be used by their owning faction in any way.

Birdsong

Ready. Place any face-up Captain card in your Acting Captain slot. If its Captain warrior is not on the map, place it in any forest, then remove all Prisoners from that forest and adjacent forests. In Daylight this turn, you take one less action.

Daylight

First, Your Captain Acts. You may take up to 4 actions with the Captain in your Acting Captain slot, as follows. If you placed your Captain in Birdsong, take 3 actions instead.

- » **Move:** Move your Captain. (*You can move Skunks with it!*)
- » **Battle:** Initiate a battle in your Captain's clearing.
- » **Filch:** Once per turn, you may take 1 item from the Crafted items box of an enemy in your Captain's clearing or forest, or you may craft a card using your Captain. If you craft an item with Filch, do not score victory points for it.
- » **Item Action:** Flip a face-up item in your Stash face down to take its action below.
 - **Dash (Boot):** Move your Captain up to twice, ignoring rule.
 - **Assault (Sword):** Initiate a battle at your Captain. Take **every** warrior you hit as a Prisoner, placing them in separate forests with no Prisoners.
 - **Skirmish (Crossbow):** Move your Captain from a forest to initiate a battle in your Captain's destination clearing. In this battle, ignore the first hit you take.
 - **Nab (Bag):** Initiate a battle at your Captain. If your Captain is hit, move it to an adjacent forest instead of removing it. If it is not hit, you may move your Captain after the battle.
 - **Revel (Tea):** Place acclaim and 1 Skunk at your Captain. If acclaim is already in your Captain's clearing, place 2 Skunks instead.
 - **Gift (Coins):** Place acclaim at your Captain and draw 1 card. If acclaim is already in your Captain's clearing, draw 2 cards instead.
 - **Serve (Hammer):** Place acclaim at your Captain. If acclaim is already in your Captain's clearing, craft cards with acclaim in all clearings matching your Captain's clearing.

Second, Retire. Flip your Acting Captain's card face down and remove it from its slot, placing it by your player board.

Each acclaim can only craft once per turn. You can track this with their "x" side if you want.

You can lay your retired Captain's warrior down flat to distinguish it.

Evening

First, Mock the Powerful. Score 1 victory point for every 2 Prisoners, and score 1 victory point for every 2 acclaim on the map.

Count and score Prisoners and acclaim separately, not together.

Second, Protect the Weak. Once per acclaim on the map, you may spend a matching card to place 1 Skunk at it.

Third, Take It Easy. If all your Captain cards are face down, flip all your Captain cards and items face up, then the enemy with the most Prisoners may choose a clearing and place all Prisoners of their faction from adjacent forests into it. On a tie for the most Prisoners, you choose which tied enemy places their Prisoners.

Fourth, Draw and Discard. Draw 1 card, then discard down to 5 cards.

Captain Choices

This expansion includes 3 Captain warriors: the **Jailor**, **Gladiator**, and **Cheat**. Play your first game with them.



The Knaves have a total of 12 Captains, which use the corresponding Vagabond pawns as their warriors. For example, the Thief uses the Thief pawn from the base game.

If you want unique warriors for the other 8 Captains, you can get the **Riverfolk Expansion** and the **Vagabond Pack**. Otherwise, you can simply use proxies.

Faction Interactions

The Knaves have a couple special faction interactions because they take warriors as Hostages. These interactions are shown on an included reminder card.

- **Vagabond:** The Vagabond cannot be included in games with the Knaves.
- **Keepers in Iron:** They don't count Prisoners in whether Encamp places a warrior and waystation.
- **Lord of the Hundreds:** Prisoners don't count toward whether Anoint places the warlord on the map without replacing, and Anoint cannot replace a Prisoner.

Gorge Map

Setup

Collect the 12 **suit markers**, flip them face down, and shuffle them. Place a suit marker in each clearing on the map, then flip them all over.

The Wall

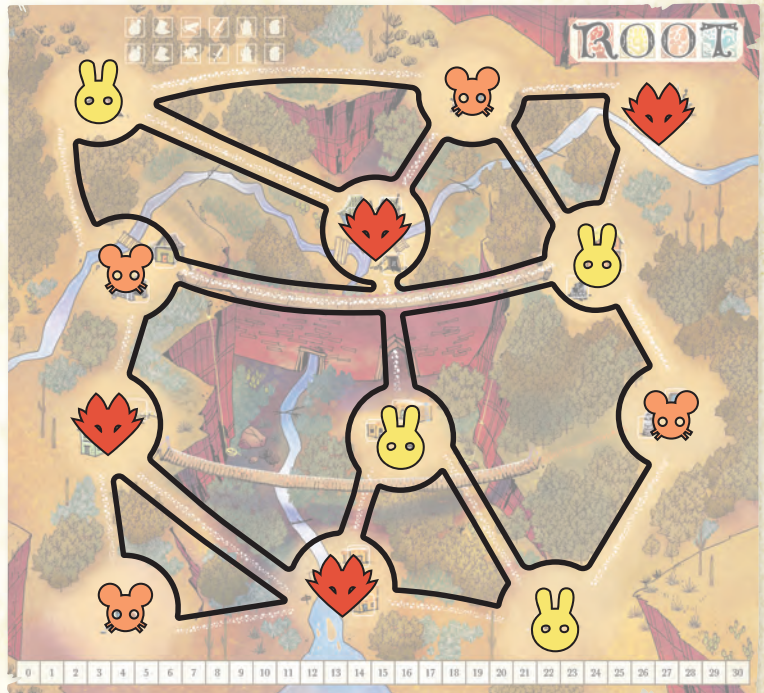
The wall supporting the top bridge separates the forests above and below it.

The Bridge

The bottom bridge does not separate the forests below it, and the path extending from the right side of the bridge does not split its forest. It is shown in orange rather than white to distinguish this.

Gorge Sides

The Gorge sides do not separate their forests—a forest is the whole area enclosed by paths.

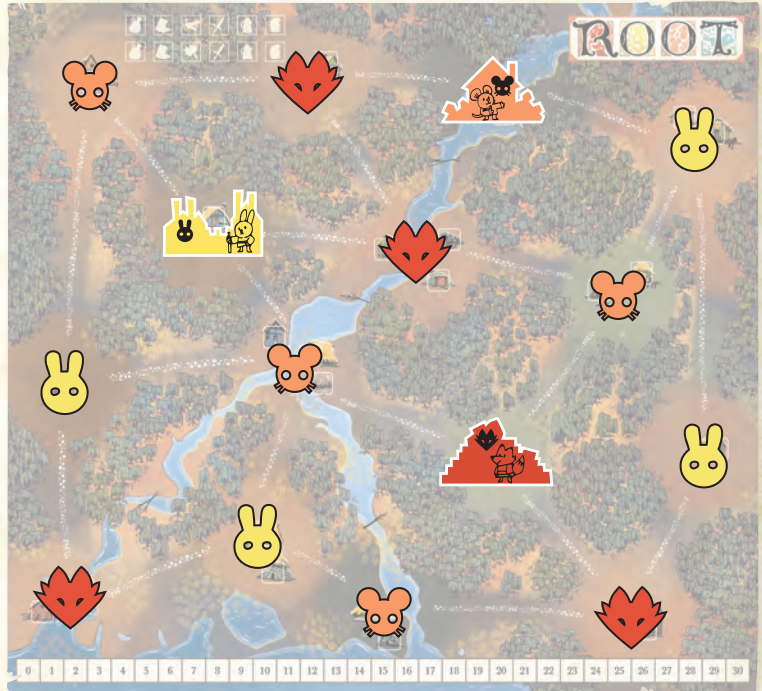


Marsh Map

Setup

Collect the 12 **suit markers**, flip them face down, and shuffle them. Place a suit marker in each clearing on the map, then flip them all over.

- **With fewer than 5 players**, cover 3 clearings with **FLOOD MARKERS**. Place a flood marker each in a light green, dark green, and dark brown clearing space. Make sure the flood marker's color matches the clearing space and its paths align to the linked paths.
- **With 5 players or more**, do not cover clearings with flood markers. Instead, place the 3 landmarks included in this expansion (page 22) in the 3 clearings with no suit marker.



Place 2 ruins in the “R” slots with no numbers and 2 ruins in the “R” slots with the lowest numbers.

Flood Markers

Flood markers are no longer clearings—they have some paths and some **FLOODED PATHS**. Flooded paths separate forests but cannot be used to move between adjacent clearings.



Landmarks

The expansion includes three suited landmarks: Foxburrow, Rabbittown, and Mousehold.

These landmarks add the fox, rabbit, or mouse suit to their clearings, respectively, and they have the effects listed below.

You use them on the Marsh Map with 5 players or more (page 16). However, you can add them to others map too during setup!

We recommend you place them in clearings of matching suit. But if you're feeling adventurous, you can place them in clearings of different suits so they are double-suited.

For full rules on landmarks, see **Section A.5** in the Law of Root.

Foxburrow

While moving, you may treat fox clearings as adjacent to Foxburrow and ignore paths when moving between them.



Rabbittown

Once in Daylight, you may spend a rabbit card to place 1 warrior in Rabbittown for each other rabbit clearing with your pieces, then battle in Rabbittown.



Mousehold

In battle, whenever a player's warriors are removed from a mouse clearing except Mousehold, they may place them at Mousehold.



Game Improvements

We have included some updated cards and new components to make this expansion compatible with the rest of Root and to make playing Root easier.

Advanced Setup Cards

We have included advanced setup cards for the factions in this expansion.

To get advanced setup cards for the remaining factions, you will need the Marauder Expansion.

For advanced setup rules, see **Appendix A** in the Law of Root.

Updated Cards

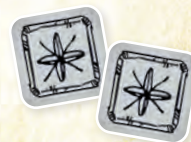
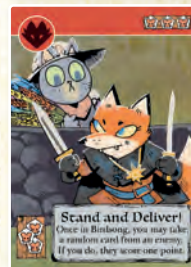
Some updated cards are included that replace cards from the base game, Riverfolk Expansion, and Exiles and Partisans deck. They have new wordings that make them more compatible with content released later.

Reminder Markers

These markers can be placed next to turn phases on your player board to remind you to trigger crafted effects or faction abilities that happen during those phases, such as the Riverfolk Company's Services.

Extra Items, Ruins, and Dice

Battle dice in a new color and a full set of ruins and items are included. You can now play two games of Root at once, as long as you have a second deck, such as the Exiles and Partisans deck or Squires and Disciples deck.

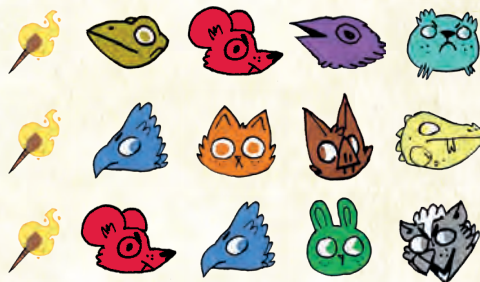


Suggested Faction Mixes

TWO PLAYERS



FOUR PLAYERS



THREE PLAYERS



FIVE PLAYERS



Need a replacement part?
ledergames.com/replacements

Learn more about *Root*:
ledergames.com/root

Rules and card clarifications:
rules.ledergames.com & cards.ledergames.com