

Trivial Pursuit -- Problem Statement

This project is to create a computer game to test knowledge of the U.S. Declaration of Independence (“... that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”). The game play is very similar to the familiar board game, Trivial Pursuit® from Hasbro Games. For this special version, the board is square rather than round. The player tokens are also square and hold up to four square chips called pieces of cake (as opposed to the original game where the chips are shaped like pie slices – this is in reference to the old joke, “pi r round, cake r square.”). There are only four colors used in this game: red, white, blue and green (to make it more environmentally friendly). The colors refer to question categories, which are all related to the Declaration of Independence and the Continental Congress, which approved the document in 1776. Red is for questions about people. White is for questions about events. Blue is for questions about places. Green is for questions about the Independence Day holiday. This game could be used as a teaching tool in a high school civics class.

The questions and answers should be stored in a separate database, spreadsheet or flat file, and you should provide an easy way for someone (e.g., a teacher) to make changes (add, delete, modify) to the set of questions and answer, including possibly changing the category names and colors. Consider allowing multimedia questions.

With the exceptions of game board geometry and question categories, the rules for game play are the same as they are for the regular versions of the Hasbro Trivial Pursuit® game. For example, the rules regarding the center hub are the same as in regular Trivial Pursuit®. There should be two “roll again” squares in each of the sides of the board. The spokes should emanate from the hub out to the middle of each of the sides of the board. The “headquarter” squares should be in the corners of the board. There may be a maximum of four players. Their tokens (into which the pieces of cake are inserted) should be red, white, blue and green.

