Second Iteration

## Rapid Idea Prototyping for Games

Fall 2014

Photosynthesize

A game by Julia Wlo

# Instructions

## About:

* 2+ players
* 10-15 minutes
* Ages 10+

## Objective:

* **Be the first to grow to the top!**

## Materials:

* A corkboard wall which you can stick thumbtacks or staples into
* A stapler for each player. Staplers must be able to fold apart so you can staple the wall.
* Assorted rubber bands
* Two thumbtacks (optional)
* A ruler or straightedge (optional)

## Setup:

* **Lay out the boundaries. If you’re playing on a wall, decide where on the wall you are going to play, then mark it out somehow. You can use extra rubber bands and staples and thumbtacks to do so. It’s recommended that the top border is no higher than players can reach, and that the side borders are 2 to 3 fully-stretched rubber band lengths apart. If you are playing with more than two players, add a rubber band length to the width of the playing area for each additional player.**
* **Place a seed for each player. A seed is a staple with three rubber bands hanging off of it. Seeds are placed at the bottom of the playing area. Seeds must be more than one rubber band length apart.**
* **Set the angle of the sun.** (optional) Towards the top of the playing area, place two thumbtacks about an inch apart with a rubber band connecting them. The angle of the rubber band represents the angle that the sunlight is shining down. It’s recommended that you set the sunlight completely vertical at the start of the game.

## Gameplay:

* Play has two phases: **day** and **night.**

Day**: It’s time to grow!**

* On the count of three, players start stretching out their rubber bands and stapling them to the wall. Don’t staple your fingers!
* **Everyone acts simultaneously!** Act quickly to get the best spots on the board.
* **Grow towards the top!** The first player to reach the top wins!
* **Try to shade your opponent’s buds!** If you block the sun from other player’s buds, they won’t be able to grow next turn!
* **Only touch your own tree!** You and your staples cannot touch other players’ rubber bands or staples.
* Your rubber bands CAN touch other players’ rubber bands and staples.
* You can stretch your rubber bands as far as you want, in any direction you want (but remember to grow towards the top!) This includes stretching your rubber band over others’ rubber bands.
* **Don’t drop your rubber bands!** If one of your rubber bands falls to the floor, tough luck! You can’t pick it up.
* **Don’t let your staples come loose!** If one of the staples you’ve placed falls off the board, you can’t pick it up! Any rubber bands that fall off with it are also lost. Remember, you can push down on staples you’ve already placed.
* **Don’t snap rubber bands!** You’ll poke someone’s eye out! If you break one of your rubber bands, you don’t get another.
* **The exception to the last 3 rules is your seed.** If your seed comes loose or if you drop/break the first 3 rubber bands on it, then you may replace those items. **You may only do this once per item.**
* **SAFETY WARNING:** Don’t poke any eyes out! The pressure of the rubber bands could cause a staple to come loose and go flying out and kill someone. Don’t make that happen. If any of your staples comes flying off the board at a dangerous velocity, YOU LOSE IMMEDIATELY. (If it just kinda falls to the ground then that’s okay.)

Night: New buds form, seasons change.

* Each player counts up which thumbtacks on their tree are collecting sunlight. Draw an imaginary line from the top of the board to your staple, at the same angle of the sunlight. Use a ruler if you want to be really accurate with this part.
* If there is nothing in the way, then your seed grows a new bud! Staple a loose rubber band onto it.
* If your line crosses through any other staples or rubber bands, including your own, then that staple does not grow a new bud and you do not place a new rubber band on it.
* The angle of sunlight is the same anywhere on the board. If the sunlight is going diagonally to the left, then everything on the board is receiving sunlight at that angle.
* So, a good way to measure sunlight is to actually start from the staple and then extend upwards at the angle of the sunlight. If you make it off the board without touching anything, you’re good!
* Change the angle of the sunlight. The sun should gradually move from being vertical to more horizontal, but never completely horizontal. Sunlight always points downwards.