

Make Haste!

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Version: 0.3 – very early draft; I would love feedback! Reach out to randy@diegeticgames.com

Players: 2-5

Time: 1-2 Hours

Materials: a big piece of paper and 10-20 different-color implements

About

This is a collaborative game where players make a map as they tell the story of group going on a quest. The players trace the group's journey as they build the world and draw the map. The group will be an ensemble of characters - new ones may join, some may leave or die, the group might even split into sub-groups.

Setup: Materials

You need a large sheet of paper for your map. Easel pads or large drawing pads work well but a blackboard or whiteboard are great too; in a pinch, you can tape together smaller sheets of paper. Make sure the paper is white or very light.

You also need a set of colored writing implements to draw the locations and character journeys. I recommend using a sharpie for drawing and labeling locations and writing out the character list. You'll need a big set of colored pencils, crayons, or markers to draw the characters' travel lines. Each character will have their own color so aim for 10-20 different colors.

Setup: Worldbuilding

Go through the following steps as a group:

Pick a genre: High Fantasy, Adventure, Survival, Travelogue, and Space Opera all work well

Create a quest: Come up with a strong motivation for a group to be traveling from origin to destination.

Sample quest types:

- Escape from a pursuing threat
- Find or destroy a critical artifact
- Reach a new homeland
- Deliver a critical message

Create a point of origin: draw and label it in the upper-left of the map. This is where the group will start. Who has power here?

Create a final destination: draw and label it in the lower-right of the map. The group is trying to reach this place to complete their quest. Who has power here?

Build out the map: add at least four more locations to the map but leave empty space so you can add more locations later. For two or three players, create two locations each. For four or five players, create one location each. It's okay to consult with the group but ultimately each location is an individual decision. When you create a location, answer: who has power here? Leave the lower-left corner of the map empty.

Character Creation

Each player should create one character that joins the group at the origin. In the lower-left of the map, write a **Dramatis Personae** that lists each character's name, pronoun, and a word or two describing them. These characters now belong to the group, not the player.

Each player should share why the character created by the player to their left has joined the group. Pick a color for each character and draw a circle in that color next to their name and at the point of origin. The circles at the origin should be in a vertical line so that it's easy to draw the travel lines.

It's okay to create a collective character, for squad of guards or a gang of goblins. Make their travel line wider to indicate their size.

Main Game

Players take turns building the world and advancing the story. This continues until the quest is complete (or a complete failure).

Player Turn

On your turn, take two actions from the following list:

- Create or modify a location
- Move characters to a nearby location
- Define a critical event

Create or modify a location

If you create a new location, draw and label it on the map. Then, describe who has power in this place. This location doesn't need to be next to the group, it can be in any black space on the map.

Instead of creating a new location, you can update an existing location (eg. a city is destroyed, a forest catches fire). Describe what caused the change, update the drawing and, if relevant, the label. If a location is destroyed you can simply put an X through it rather than drawing the ruins.

Move characters to a nearby location

Choose a group of characters and then move them to a nearby location - extend these characters' travel lines to show their progress. Explain why and how the players are moving to this location.

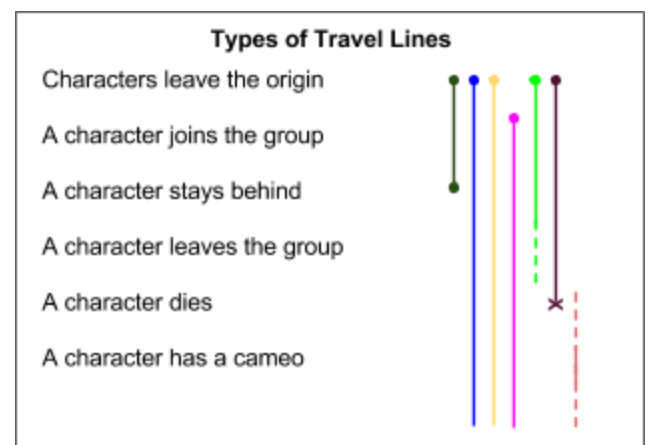
Then, briefly describe one of the following group scenes that takes place during the journey:

- A confession - one character reveals a deep secret to the others
- A near disaster - the group faces a serious threat, but overcomes it
- An argument - members of the group bicker but decide to stay together
- A kind gesture - one character does something thoughtful for the others
- A moment of levity - the characters have a fun or relaxing diversion

Define a critical event

Pick a critical event from the following list:

- **A new character joins the group** - add them to the dramatis personae just like the starting characters. Describe how they meet the group and why they join. Write their name at the location they join and start a new travel line. If you know where they were previously, you can have a short dashed line turn into a solid line when they join the group.
- **A character abandons the group** - If they stay at the location, end their line in a circle. If they continue traveling without the group, turn their line into a dashed line and end it after a short bit.
- **A character dies** - describe how they die and end their line with an X
- **The group splits** - describe why the group splits and begin to split the group lines - don't send them to a new location during this action.



- **A cameo** - a character appears at a group's location, interacts and then leaves. If this is a new character, add them to the list and give them a color. Represent them on the map as a short dashed line that briefly turns solid before turning dashed again.
- **A sub-quest begins** - the group learns of a location that they must visit before they reach the final destination. Describe why this sub-quest begins and mark the sub-quest objective on the map with an asterisk and a short description.

Conclusion - Reaching the Destination

If there are multiple groups of characters, keep playing until they all reach the destination (or disband / die). You can't take an action with a group at the final destination. Once all groups reach the destination, continue onto the next step.

Determine the quest outcome

As a group, decide whether or not the quest is successful. Decide if any characters die as they try to accomplish their goal.

Create Character Epilogues

Go around the circle and give a short epilogue for each character. When it's a player's turn they can pick any of the characters that don't yet have an epilogue.

Title the Map

Create a name for the story or the map and write it across the top of the paper.

Optional: The Adventure Continues

Play a second round of this game that shows another quest. It could be:

- The final group exploring a new map
- The final group traveling to return to their origin
- A new group having an adventure on the same map

You can use the same map or copy over major locations to start a new map.