

Please note this hunt uses the rules for going on a hunt within [Amellwind's Guide to Monster Hunting](#). A reference can be found at the end of this hunt.

Musical Mischief

Requested by: Bamboozled Bard

- **Where.** Ancestral Steppes
- **When.** Asap
- **Guild Reward.** 900 gp
- **Character Levels.** A group of four 2nd-level characters.

A Great Maccao and its troop ambushed our travelling band on our way to the festival, stealing all of our instruments. We can't make a living without them! Please recover them safely, and we'll reward you greatly!

Goal. retrieve the instruments (5 normal instruments + the Rare Hunting Horn).

False Creatures a *kulu-ya-ku* (3 false signs to encounter)

Guild Supplies Recommendation: 1 potion of first aid each (potions of healing that is returned to the guild if not used), 2 days rations each.

The Twist

The great maccao and its pack of maccao are able to use the instruments some how: flute in their mouth (or perhaps it swallowed it and makes noise and it moves around), holding it in their talons to play, etc. The great maccao has a Rare hunting horn that it holds in its mouth (like Sif from darksouls) and can attack with it dealing the Hunting Horn's damage and use its effects as if it is attuned to the weapon. In general it will use one of the following notes: the Damage (M), Defense Up (s), Movement Up (s) in addition to other random notes whenever it hits and then completes a melody.

The maccoa themselves each can use the instruments as a bonus action to provide bardic inspiration (1d6) to each other, but not to the great maccao. They can each use bardic inspiration twice per Short or Long rest.

Final Encounter

Besides the twist above, the great maccao uses Alpha Call as initiative is rolled to summon its maccao allies to the battle. the great maccao has its maximum hit points +50% (126) if it has two or less allied maccao called, or 84 hit points if it has three or more maccao allies.

The False Creature

The Kulu-Ya-Ku would be a tough fight for a group of level 2's, but the kulu isn't interested in the party. It is interested in the instruments. When they encounter the kulu, they watch it steal 1d4 instruments from maccao. Now they could try to fight it, but this also provides the party an opportunity for the party to think outside the box and obtain them from the kulu another, since it will run away instead of fight if given the option.

Minor Challenges

1d4 **maccao**, half of them (rounded down) have an instrument.

+1 false sign

1d2+1 **grimalkyne** captured a **maccao** in a net that has an instrument. They aren't willing to give up their spoils, but might trade depending on the parties actions.

A **vespoid queen** plus 1d8 **vespoids**

Mosswine Stampede. 1d10+2 mosswine run into the area from the opposite side of the area to the party. They travel in a straight line (using dash as their action) to the entrance by the party in a 20-foot wide line. During this move, the mosswine can move through another creature's space. Each creature the mosswine moves through must succeed on a DC 10 Dexterity or take 1d4 bludgeoning damage and be knocked prone.

2d4+2 **great thunderbugs** are agitated by the out of tune music heard in the area (A maccao is playing an instrument on the way to the next area).

Game of Chance. Choose 20 (1d20+10) spaces on the battle map. When a creature moves through the area and touches a space you picked, a random toad (nitro toad, paratoad, sleep toad) dies in that space. A creature can use its action on its turn to try locate toads on the ground (DC 13 perception check). On a success, the PC locates the closest toad within 20 feet of it. If it succeeds by 4 or more, it finds one additional toad. After each player has gone, the toads move one space in a random direction. The area remains like this for the duration of the hunt and this challenge cannot be picked again, until the next day.

A **king shakalaka** a **tobi-kitachi**

Major Challenges

A **juvenile zinogre**

Landslide. A loud rumble is heard off in the distance. A landslide occurred on the path the party is currently following, blocking the path/tracks they are following. The landslide is an ongoing issue as they get near it and doesn't seem to be stopping anytime soon. They will need to find a new path (-1 sign, +1 false sign) by backtracking or find some way to traverse this active landslide.

+2 false signs

Benefits

+2 Signs

A **Shrine of Rest** (DC 10 arcana or investigation check to determine it is a good shrine. On a failed check, the shrine gives off no aura). This shrine depicts a lynian laying down resting its head on one arm. The first time a creature touches this shrine, it falls under the effects of the *catnap* spell.

The corpse of a **young mizutsune** (1 carve).

Ancestral Steppe

The Ancestral Steppe features vast, wide open fields of yellow grass, rocky outcroppings, deciduous forested areas, and subterranean caves, with towering mountain peaks seen in the distance. This area is home to many species of monsters, such as seltas, kecha wacha, gore magala, and many others. Hunters can take advantage of the uneven terrain to give themselves a height advantage over their target and gain the upper hand during battle.

Area Descriptions

STARTING LOCATION: A.

As the Hunter's start their hunt read the text below:

You arrive at camp in the Ancestral steppes. The camp is hidden in an area surrounded by rocky outcroppings. There is a small blue chest next to yellow cloth tents that holds your supplies given to you by the guild as part of this hunt. Beyond that you see large red stone arches leading out to the great jaggi's hunting grounds.

AREA 1.

As you leave the camp, you travel through the red stone arch. Wide open fields of yellow grass spread out in all directions, off in the distance you see the canopy of a deciduous forest with towering mountain peaks beyond.

Describe small animals and what not in the area. (insects and Kelbi for instance).

AREA 2.

The yellow fields of grass give way to red dirt with patchy grass. In the center of the area is a large (10-20 foot tall) tree trunk that supports the canopy of green vines, along with the other smaller tree trunks in the area. This area has an abundance of insects.

AREA 3.

The field of grass continues eastward between the hills and mountains of the ancestral steppes. The area is quiet with few insects to be heard and the silhouette of some creatures far off in the distance. Small depressions can be seen in the grass in random directions in front of you.

AREA 4.

From Area 3, The fields of grass slowly begin to fade and you journey further into the ancestral steppes.

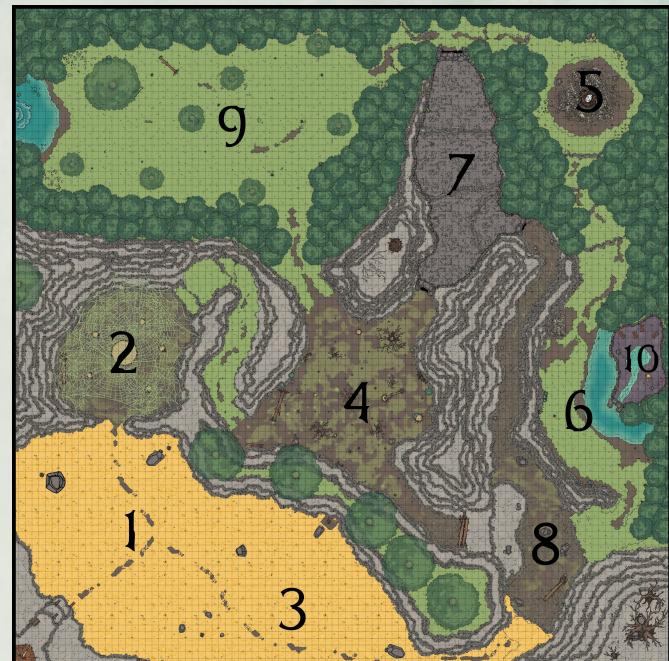
From Area 7. The forest gives way as you travel south.

From Area 5. The valley funnels you west, twisting and turning you continue you on your way.

The ground turns to dirt and other vegetation begin to take hold. Rocky outcroppings form from the earth and trees of old lie on the ground.

AREA 5.

A small clearing in the forest hidden behind dense brush. The canopy is broken here letting the light shine down a grassy hilltop. Wyverns are known to nest in this area.



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AREA 6.

The watering hole of the ancestral steppes. Creatures of all sizes come to this area to drink and bask in the sun. The water is shallow, no more than a foot deep at its lowest point. In the water, an entrance to a small cave can be found (Area 10). It is too small for a large creature to fit in, but a Medium one could squeeze into it.

AREA 7.

A small cave, no more than 150-200 feet by your guess. The walls are jagged and dust is kicked up. It reminds you of a tunnel more than your standard cave. From the entrance you can see the light at the exit.

AREA 8.

A very sandy area, not like a beach, the ground still holds firm; but you can see why the yellow fields of grass end here in this valley. Very little vegetation grows here and the ground cracks from the lack of water.

AREA 9.

A heavily forested section of the ancestral steppes. It is filled with ancient deciduous trees creating a thick canopy, making it difficult to see for those who can't see in the dark. Animal trails and tracks are abundant giving you the sense that many creatures live or travel through this forest constantly.

AREA 10.

This small cave is home to one of the many lynian races of the old world. It could be a peaceful felyne & melynix village, or perhaps the home of a group of shakalaka that worship one of the monsters in the area. The area itself is mostly water due to the small waterfall that streams in from a crack in the ceiling. Plants are abundant in the area.

Going on a Hunt

The hunt above tells us what creature we are hunting, what territory it is located in, and what our areas within that territory look like. Below we will look into the roles our party members have and how you as the GM will help them track it down.

Setting Roles

When a hunt begins, the PCs choose between 4 different roles to take on. These roles are the Trailblazer, Scout, Spotter, & Artisan.

Trailblazer

Whenever the group enters an area, the trailblazer rolls a survival check vs the creatures carve DC. On a failure the GM rolls a d10 on the finding signs table, on a success the GM rolls a d20 instead. On a critical, the GM rolls a d20 and takes the highest roll, on a nat 1 the GM rolls 2d10 and takes the lowest roll.

Spotter

The spotter uses their passive perception to scope out for any ambushes or dangers missed initially by the scout. There can be 2 spotters, the 2nd spotter gives a +4 perception bonus to the other.

Scout

The scout is the initial person who enters an area, they get the lay of the land, potential resources, creatures in the area, potential hazards. When a scout notices a potential spot for an ambush it gives the spotter a bonus to their perception

Artisan (work in progress)

See Amellwind's Guide to Monster Hunting Chapter 2 for more information on the artisan.

Sometimes the party may split up, when split into groups of two. The only roles available are the trailblazer and the spotter.

If someone is alone, they are both the trailblazer and spotter, but they either have to choose to take disadvantage on their survival roll for finding signs or take a -4 to their passive perception.

Tracking down your prey

Tracking down the creature the party is hunting is the main goal of monster hunters. So how do we find the creature? As a GM, do we just put it down in an area and say that is where it is always going to be? do we put it in the last area and they eventually get to it, much like the end of a dungeon?

NO! This creature is in the wilderness; it travels around, leaves signs, and acts like any animal would. That is what the system below is designed to represent. The party travels around the creature's territory, dealing with environmental hazards, skill challenges, and other creatures while searching for signs of their prey.

Finding Signs

On the hunt, the party must discover signs of the creature: distant roars, tracks, marking, fresh kills, etc. **The party will need to typically find between 3 and 5 signs. Once they do they locate the monster and the final battle of the hunt begins.**

False Signs

When you are on a hunt, the creature you are looking for is not the only one in the area. One of the GM options in the minor and major challenges is finding false signs. These signs work the same as finding signs for the creature you are hunting. Once you find 3-5 of these false signs, a hard or deadly encounter occurs.

It is typically best to know what creature the PCs will encounter when they find these false signs. It wouldn't make much sense if they are finding tufts of fur and then end up fighting a rathalos.

How to Find Signs

Whenever the trailblazer rolls a survival check for entering an area, the GM rolls on the table below to determine what signs, challenges, or benefits they may find in the area.

Finding Signs Table

ROLL	RESULTS
1	major challenge
2-9	minor challenge
10-17	1 sign, minor challenge
18-19	1 sign
20	2 signs, benefit

Challenges and Benefits

If the trailblazer rolls anything less than an 18 on their Tracking Roll, they must overcome a challenge on their hunt. These challenges can be either minor or major, depending on the result. Likewise, if a group rolls a 20 on their Tracking roll, they come across a benefit that can seriously aid them in their hunt.

Minor Challenges include non combat encounters, skill checks, or minor environmental hazards. They might also include minor combats against weaker foes (medium difficulty encounter). In general, minor challenges should cost a few resources and be a minor setback, but shouldn't stop the PCs dead in their tracks.

Major Challenges are potentially deadly or severely hinder the party. A major challenge might include a dangerous environmental hazard, a deadly encounter, expending limited resources such as spell slots or items. They shouldn't be impossible to overcome but should require MUCH more effort from the PCs.

Benefits are a boon to the party. These could be a hidden cache of hunter supplies, the carvable corpse of a recently deceased monster that is normally outside the party's ability to kill, or anything else the GM might come up with.