READING GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Extinction Game

An exciting and fast moving geological game for up to six players.
Suitable for ages six to sixty plus but is unsuitable for under 6 years.
Learn about the geological time periods, fossils and mass extinctions and try to avoid becoming an extinction victim.

How to play.

- Each player chooses a counter and places this at the start. This represents the Cambrian period, one of the earliest times that life evolved on Earth.
- Players take turns to throw the dice and move their counters along the indicated number of squares on the board. As they do so, they are travelling forwards through geological time.
- If a player lands on an extinction square, indicated by a red arrow, they become extinct and must leave the game - but children might be given a second 'life.'
- The first person to reach the 'survivor' square is declared the winner. They have survived the mass extinctions and reached the most recent geological era, the Cenozoic.
- The game may be speeded up by doubling the dice number.

Constructing the Game

Print out the board and join the sections together with paper fasteners to make a continuous line.

Make the counters using real fossils or cardboard cut-outs. For example the dinosaur and trilobite outlines @ https://www.shutterstock.com/image-vector/simple-set-16-outline-icons-on-1194181915 could be printed and stuck onto card. A “foot” made from cardboard or a metal washer will enable the counter to stand up.

A large sponge dice is effective when playing with younger children.
If real fossils are available, these can be placed along the time-line to make the game more interesting and informative.

The Reading Geological Society provides lectures and field meetings and attends STEM fairs in schools. We also offer “School Rocks” a loan service of rock and fossil collections which include lesson plans and teacher information.

David Ward and Alison Barraclough
GA & RGS
Readinggeology.org.uk
07 05 2019