Rules

This boardgame is our adaptation of Game of the Goose.

Equipment - this board, 4 pieces and two six-sided dice
Objective - The first person to reach 62 wins.
Preparation - Place the pieces on the ourside of the spiral. Highest role of the dice starts.
Play - Players take turns to roll the dice and move their piece forward by the sum of the two dice. If a piece lands on an enemy piece, the enemy piece is returned to the space that the piece started from in that turn (i.e. the two pieces swap places). Of course, not everything will go as planned, just as in the lab. If you reach any icon, please follow the stated rule:

You have lab cleaning duty. Wait a turn

Lab workers are almost always in a hurry and use great amounts of products, so it can often become a bit messy. Luckily we have lab cleaning days. During these days all the lab workers come together to clean up the lab.

You are stuck explaining your project to your grandma. Wait a turn.

Explaining what we do is not always easy. Sometimes it seems that we speak a different language. Sometimes, we ourselves don't even understand what we're doing.

Your agarose gel bands are of the correct size: move to spot 21.

After doing experiments with DNA, like making many copies, or cutting or glueing DNA together, the result is visualized using an agarose gel. When you see the DNA fragments at the positions you want it feels great.

Rules

Stakeholder conversation is productive, roll the dice again.

Sometimes you talk to the perfect stakeholder. Someone who completely understands what you are doing, is excited about it and gives very good advice that you can use.

Windows has to update, move to 9.

This problem most people can relate to. It happens quite regularly that windows has decided that it is the right moment to perform updates, exactly at the moment you need the computer. Bonus points if the computer has to be used for a presentation.

You used the wrong restriction enzyme, wait a turn.

Cutting DNA makes use of restriction enzymes. These are a sort of molecular scissors that can recognize a specific DNA sequence and make a break in the DNA. Using a restriction enzyme that recognizes a different DNA sequence will result in either no cutting or cutting at different location(s) than desired.

You used the wrong antibiotic, move to 19 so that you have time to repeat your experiment.

When growing cells an antibiotic is often used to select for cell containing a desired piece of DNA (and a specific antibiotic resistance). Using the wrong antibiotic will sadly result in an empty plate.

Rules

Wait a turn to have time to catch spittlebugs.

To do tests on insects we need to catch them ourselves, as breeding spittlebugs is very difficult. The spittlebugs can be found in nature. Going on spittlebug hunting expedition is not too bad, it just takes time.

Someone supported the crowdfunding: move to 45.

Thank you so much for supporting us!

Your agarose gel has not yet solidified, wait a turn.

When visualising fragments of DNA agarose gels are used. An agarose gel is a sort of maze for the DNA. Smaller fragments can more easily navigate the maze than bigger fragments, allowing you to separate DNA fragments based on size. An agarose gel is made by dissolving agarose (a sugar) in water. When pouring an agarose gel, you should wait for some time for the gel to solidify. Sometimes a lab worker is in a hurry, and the result is not pretty.

Stakeholder advises you to completely change your project, move to spot 4.

Some stakeholders give really good advice, that sadly requires us to make big changes to our project. We have changed a lot to improve our project.

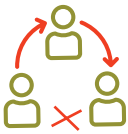
Rules

Stakeholder bashes the project, work on it your next roll.

As part of the project we talk to many different stakeholders. These stakeholders are not always convinced of our project and can give some harsh criticism. This is exactly what we want from them. It helps us make our project better. Still, changing things means extra work.

Your transformation went okay, roll the dice again.

Adding DNA to bacterial cells is always a bit stressful. When you see colonies on the right plates the next morning, indicating that it was succesful, it always feels amazing.



Your collaboration failed, move to spot 34.

A big part of iGEM are the collaborations with other teams. However, communication between teams is not always easy. Equipment and lab practices can differ between labs leading to mistakes.

Sequencing reveals mutations, wait a turn.

When doing genetic engineering it is quite possible for DNA sequences to change overtime by errors made during copying of the DNA. Luckily, we have sequencing to reveal these mutations to us. It is a major setback when mutations are found, as that usually means either screening for a rare colony without the mutations or repeating experiments.

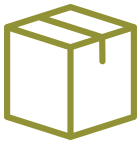
Rules

No errors in your script at first trial, roll the dice again.

Coding ncludes a lot of trial and error. It is extremely satisfying if your script works immediately.

Wait a turn while you wait for your supervisor to return from holiday.

Even PhD's sometimes need a break. While we support this wholeheartedly, it can be frustrating when you are not sure on how to proceed with your project and really need their feedback.



A company sends us their product, roll the dice again.

For our iGEM project we need many different lab supplies. Luckily, companies are often willing to sponsor us by sending us some of their product.

You got a no at the Go/No-go meeting, go back to start.

The Wageningen iGEM team represents the university at a prestigious international event. For this reason, the groups that organise iGEM want to have some quality control before sending a team there. The decision is made in September, quite a stressful time for the team.

Your teammate helps you out, go one step forward.

Together your reached the finish line, congratulations!