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The Thing From The Future (Print-and-Play Edition)

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Stuart Candy

Tecnológico de Monterrey

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Jeff Watson

University of Southern California

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THE THING FROM THE FUTURE

PRINT AND PLAY EDITION
VERSION 1.0

1. Print and cut out cards and instructions.
2. (optional) Print and cut out playsheets. Make enough copies so that each of your players will be able to play several times.
3. Start playing! Share your favorite ideas on social media using the #FutureThing hashtag.

#FUTURETHING

A game by Stuart Candy and Jeff Watson
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INSTRUCTIONS

The Thing From The Future is an imagination game for 1-6 players. The object of the game is to use the cards to generate the most interesting, funny or thought-provoking ideas for artifacts from the future. There are over 3.7 million possible prompts in the deck. For group play: <1> Form a group of 2-6 players. Shuffle deck well and deal out one dozen cards each. <2> Starting with the dealer, compose a creative prompt by taking turns placing cards of different “suits” on the table (suits are indicated by the letter at the top of each card). Take turns placing cards until the suit letters on the tops of the cards spell the word, ATOM. A complete prompt has one and only one of each letter. If you can't contribute, draw a card. <3> Give a FutureThing Playsheet to each player and record the four elements of the prompt. Silently produce your own brief description (and sketch if you wish) of your thing from the future. This gets easier as your imagination warms up! <4> When everyone is ready, share future thing ideas with the group. <5> The creator of the group's favorite idea wins the cards in play. Whoever has earned the most cards when play ends wins overall. <6> Share your favorite ideas with the gameplay community using the hashtag #FutureThing.

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KEY CARD

A

ARC outlines the type of future world that the “thing” comes from, and how far away it is from today. There are four types of Arc, each an umbrella for countless possible scenarios:

Growth - a future in which “progress” has continued

Collapse - a future in which society as we know it has come apart

Discipline - a future in which order is deliberately coordinated or imposed

Transformation - a future in which a profound historical evolution has occurred

T

TERRAIN is the thematic context or location where this object could be found in that future.

O

OBJECT is the focus for your imagination: a specific cultural artifact that reveals something about how this future is different from today.

M

MOOD suggests how it might feel to experience this thing from the future.

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ARC

COLLAPSE

A few years

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ARC

COLLAPSE

A decade

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ARC

COLLAPSE

A generation

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ARC

COLLAPSE

Two generations

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ARC

COLLAPSE

A century

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ARC

COLLAPSE

A millennium

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ARC

DISCIPLINE

A few years

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ARC

DISCIPLINE

A decade

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ARC

DISCIPLINE

A millennium

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ARC

GROW

A few years

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ARC

GROW

A decade

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ARC

GROW

A generation

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ARC

GROW

Two generations

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GROW

A century

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GROW

A millennium

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ARC

TRANSFORM

A few years

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ARC

TRANSFORM

A decade

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ARC

TRANSFORM

A generation

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ARC

TRANSFORM

Two generations

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TRANSFORM

A century

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ARC

TRANSFORM

A millennium

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TERRAIN

AGRICULTURE

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TERRAIN

THE BRAIN

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TERRAIN

CHILDHOOD

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TERRAIN

CITIZENSHIP

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TERRAIN

CLASS

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TERRAIN

CLIMATE

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TERRAIN

CLONING

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TERRAIN

COMMUNICATIONS

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TERRAIN

COURT

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TERRAIN

DISEASE

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TERRAIN

DRONES

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TERRAIN

THE ECONOMY

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EDUCATION

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TERRAIN

ENTERTAINMENT

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ENVIRONMENT

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EQUALITY

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FAMILY

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TERRAIN

FASHION

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FLIGHT

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FORESTS

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GENETICS

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GENDER

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GOVERNANCE

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HEALTH

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HOBBIES

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HOME

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IDENTITY

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INSECTS

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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JOURNALISM

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JUSTICE

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LEARNING

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MEMORY

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MINING

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TERRAIN

THE MOON

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MUSIC

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OCEANS

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OIL

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OLD AGE

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PETS

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POWER

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RELIGION

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ROBOTS

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SEX

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SHOPPING

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SPACE

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SPORTS

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THEATRE

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TRAVEL

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WAR

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WATER

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WEALTH

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WOMEN

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WORK

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ZOMBIES

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THE ZOO

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TERRAIN

WILDCARD

Topic or location of your choice

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OBJECT

ADVERTISEMENT

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OBJECT

ARTWORK

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OBJECT

BEVERAGE

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BOOK

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OBJECT

BOTTLE

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OBJECT

BOX

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OBJECT

BROCHURE

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OBJECT

BUILDING

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OBJECT

CANDY

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OBJECT

CLOTHING

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OBJECT

CORPORATION

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OBJECT

DEVICE

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OBJECT

DOCUMENT

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OBJECT

EVENT

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OBJECT

FESTIVAL

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OBJECT

FLAG

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OBJECT

GAME

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OBJECT

GIFT

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OBJECT

HEADLINE

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OBJECT

IMPLANT

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OBJECT

INSTRUMENT

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OBJECT

JEWELLERY

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OBJECT

KIT

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OBJECT

LAW

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OBJECT

LOGO

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OBJECT

LOTION

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OBJECT

MACHINE

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OBJECT

MAGAZINE COVER

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OBJECT

MAP

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OBJECT

MASK

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OBJECT

MONUMENT

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OBJECT

PASSPORT

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OBJECT

PILL

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OBJECT

PLANT

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OBJECT

POSTCARD

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OBJECT

POSTER

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OBJECT

PRODUCT

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OBJECT

PROSTHETIC

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OBJECT

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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OBJECT

RELIC

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OBJECT

RITUAL

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OBJECT

SHOW

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OBJECT

SLOGAN

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OBJECT

SNACK

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OBJECT

SONG

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OBJECT

SOUVENIR

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OBJECT

STATUE

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OBJECT

STICKER

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SYMBOL

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OBJECT

T-SHIRT

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OBJECT

TATTOO

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TOOL

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OBJECT

TOY

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OBJECT

VEHICLE

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OBJECT

VIDEO

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OBJECT

WEAPON

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OBJECT

WILDCARD

Artifact of your choice

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MOOD

ADMIRATION

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ALIENATION

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AMUSEMENT

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ANGER

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ANXIETY

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AWKWARDNESS

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CALM

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CHARM

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CHEER

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CONTENTMENT

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CURIOSITY

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DECADENCE

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DELIGHT

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DIGNITY

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DISGUST

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DREAD

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EMBARRASSMENT

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EXCITEMENT

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EXHILARATION

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FASCINATION

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FERVOR

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FRUSTRATION

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GRATITUDE

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HAPPINESS

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HILARITY

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HOPE

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LONGING

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MALAISE

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MELANCHOLY

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MELODRAMA

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NOSTALGIA

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OPTIMISM

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OUTRAGE

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PATHOS

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PLEASURE

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PRIDE

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MOOD

RATIONALITY

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RELIEF

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RESENTMENT

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RESPECT

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SADNESS

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SATISFACTION

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SERENITY

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SHAME

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SHOCK

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SORROW

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SURPRISE

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UNEASE

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WARMTH

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WEIRDNESS

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WELLBEING

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WONDER

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WORRY

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ZEN

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THE THING FROM THE FUTURE

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1) YOUR CARDS

ARC

TERRAIN

OBJECT

MOOD

2) DESCRIPTION

3) SKETCH

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