Mike Elliott

THUNDERSTONE™ QUEST



RULEBOOK

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A game by Mike Elliott.
For 2-4 players, ages 14 and up.

Visit our website at **www.alderac.com/thunderstone**
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Objective

In *Thunderstone Quest*™, you take on the role of a Champion, recruiting mighty Heroes, casting magic Spells, and wielding powerful Weapons. Then delve into the Dungeon, battle Monsters, gain Experience Points (XP), and find Treasures. As you defeat Monsters, you will sometimes find Guardian Keys. After 4 Keys are found, the Thunderstone Guardian is summoned and players will each have one final turn.

When the game ends, players score Victory Points (VP) from cards in their deck and XP tokens gained during play. Highest total wins!

UNPACKING THE BOX

This box should include the following Basic Components. If it does not, please contact **CustomerService@alderac.com** for assistance. Most of these components will be needed in each game. However, you do not play with every card you own every game. For now, open only the Basic Components card bundle in the box.

- 24 Adventurers
- 8 Thunderstone Shards
- 8 Lanterns
- 8 Daggers
- 21 Treasures
- 16 Side Quests
- 16 Guild Sponsorships
- 25 Legendary Cards
- 24 Festering Wounds
- 6 Guardian Keys
- 1 The Wilderness Dungeon Room
- 60 Experience Point tokens (45 1-point tokens, 15 10-point tokens)
- 32 Wound tokens
- 48 Gear tokens (16 Iron Rations, 16 Lanterns, 16 Potions)
- 6 Player Champions (Figurines)
- 1 Village Board
- 4 Player Boards
- 16 Dividers
- 1 Questbook
- 5 Six-Sided Dice

Throughout this Rulebook, we are going to follow a few turns of the first game for our three example players: Ashley, Drew, and Adam. In this first game, they are going to play with fewer cards and game elements while they familiarize themselves with *Thunderstone Quest*™.

We encourage you to shuffle your decks and play through your first game using the same setup as our example players. We are going to introduce the various cards, tokens, and rules as the example players encounter them.

These examples, which contain useful play tips for new players, are written in these special, brown boxes. If you already know how to play, you may skip these.

This box should also include a number of Quest Expansions: bundles of cards that come packaged together with suggested setups, allowing players to experience the story of *Thunderstone Quest* with their cards. For the component checklists and stories of each Quest, refer to the Questbook located in this box. We recommend opening the Questbook only after you have played your first game of *Thunderstone Quest.*

Dividers

Dividers help keep your Thunderstone Quest cards separated. Dividers are taller than standard cards and contain only the card's title. Beyond the Dividers found in the Basic Components, each Quest contains 1 Divider for each Hero, Item, Spell, Weapon, and Monster group in that Quest. Monster group Dividers have a checklist of that group on the back.

Setting Up Your Player Area

Player Boards help players keep their cards, tokens, and Hit Points straight as shown below. Give each player a Player Board.

1. Your deck is placed here.
2. When cards are discarded, place them here.
3. Your Gear tokens are placed here.
4. Your XP tokens ( ) are placed here.
5. All players have 6 HP, but as the players battle Monsters and take Wounds ( ), this number drops, as indicated. **At the end of their turn, players draw cards equal to their current Hit Points.** Some cards give you HP temporarily for that turn. Extra HP increase the number of cards you draw **at the end of that turn**.
6. Quick guide to how each turn proceeds.



Setting Up the Village and Dungeon

Place the Village Board in the middle of the table so the side with labels in The Marketplace and The Guilds' Quarter are face up. After your first game, players may wish to try the unlabeled side. For now, we will now set up as show to the right.

1. Choose the cards with which you will play. If this is your first game of *Thunderstone Quest*, open the *A Mirror in the Dark* Quest bundle, separate the cards listed in the brown Sidebox on page 6, and use them for setup. Set out 4 Hero stacks face up in their respective Class spots in The Guilds' Quarter: 1 Cleric, 1 Fighter, 1 Rogue, 1 Wizard. If a Hero has more than one Class, you choose which spot to put it in. Arrange the Heroes so the Level 1 (I) versions are on top, then the Level 2 (II) versions, with the Level 3 (III) versions at the bottom.

2. In their respective spots in The Marketplace, set out two stacks of each: Items, Spells, and Weapons. Add an additional stack from two of these three categories to the Any spots.

Dungeon Rooms and Monsters

3. Each game uses 7 Dungeon Rooms; 2 I rooms, 2 II rooms, 2 III rooms, and The Wilderness (0). Set these out as shown.

4. Choose three groups of Monsters (a I, a II, and a III). Each group has 10 total Monsters in it. Take two random Monsters from each group and place them face up into their appropriately matching Dungeon Rooms so that each room has 1 Monster.

5. Take the 6 Guardian Keys and shuffle 1 Key into the I Monster group, shuffle 2 Keys into the II Monster group, and shuffle 3 Keys into the III Monster group. These form your three Monster decks. Place them into their respective spots on the Village Board. We will come back to the Guardian Keys later.

6. Now choose a Thunderstone Guardian. Guardians are special high-level "boss" Monsters that you fight at the end of the game. Guardians have three versions (IV, V & VI), each more powerful than the last. Players should familiarize themselves with the Guardian they will be facing (this information is open throughout the game if players want to check it).

7. Place the Guardian into The Wilderness, face down, so the 0 Monster is showing.

Starter Cards

8. Give each player a starting deck of 6 *Adventurers*, 2 *Lanterns*, 2 *Thunderstone Shards*, and 2 *Daggers*. They shuffle their decks and place them on their Player Board.

Tokens

9. Sort the various tokens by type; Iron Rations, Lantern, Potion, Thunderstone (XP), and Wound. Place the Gear tokens (Iron Rations, Lantern, Potion) in The Bazaar. Place the Wound tokens in The Wilderness. Place the XP tokens nearby so everyone can access them.

Champions

10. Each player selects one figurine as their Champion. They will move their Champion through the Village and Dungeon to activate new abilities and battle Monsters.

Treasure

11. Shuffle all the Treasure cards together to form the Treasure deck. Set it face down in the Shop of Arcane Wonders. *Treasures can be identified by the pile of gold at the bottom of the card, as well as the Treasure Chest in the bottom right of the card.*



Side Quests, Guild Sponsorships & Legendary Cards

In a full game of *Thunderstone Quest*, there are three additional card types: Side Quests, Guild Sponsorships, and Legendary cards.

Our example game will not be using them, and if this is your first game of *Thunderstone Quest*™, or even if you have not played in a little while, we recommend you wait on using these cards for now.

If you are going to play with them, follow these steps in the order listed:

12. Deal 3 random Side Quests to each player. Each player chooses 1 to keep and returns the rest. Some Side Quests reward the player who completes them with powerful Legendary cards (this is the only way to acquire Legendary cards). Legendary cards (such as *Vampire Acolyte* below) have a pile of platinum coins at the bottom of the card, as well as the Legendary keyword. Players should review any Legendary cards rewarded by their Side Quest, as they may greatly alter your game strategy. Keep your Side Quest secret so other players do not know your strategy until you need to reveal it to collect its reward.

13. Next, each player chooses 1 Guild Sponsorship; these are cards which give you bonuses for focusing on particular Class-strategies in the game. Place these next to your Player Board as indicated.

14. Put all unchosen Side Quests, Legendary cards, and Guild Sponsorships back in the box. They will not be needed again. **Make sure that no Legendary cards get into the Treasure deck.**

To read more about these card types, see page 15.





It's Your Game

We have found that there are a lot of different types of Thunderstone players out there, each with their own preferences. Later in this book, we provide alternate styles of play and setups that some *Thunderstone Quest*™ players may enjoy even more (see Random Setups, Epic Thunderstone, and Campaign Mode, page 18). Find the style of play that you and your group enjoy most.

Some players may also wish to adjust the length of their game based on time allowed or number of players. An easy way to do this is to adjust the number of Guardian Keys that are needed to be found before the Guardian is revealed. For example, in a four-player game, the number of Guardian Keys needed to be found can be increased, allowing each player more turns to develop and play their deck. Feel free to increase or decrease this number to adjust the game length.

The cards used in this first example game will all be found in the *A Mirror In the Dark* Quest; open that now if you have not done so yet. You may leave the other Quests packaged until after you play through your first game.

Our players use the following cards:

1. **HEROES**
   Avania, Hawkswood, Pylorian, Stormhand.
2. **MARKETPLACE**
   Short Bow (Weapon), Short Sword (Weapon), Magic Missile (Spell), Tome of Knowledge (Item).
   For the first game, there are only 4 Marketplace cards used, not 8.
3. **MONSTERS**
   Goblin Grunts, Hobgoblin Brutes, and Goblin King's Guard.
4. **GUARDIAN**
   Smorga the Queen IV .

Before the game begins, Adam, Ashley, and Drew look through the Village and read the cards. Many cards will combine with each other to make them even more powerful, and the players want to find a strategy for the game. Ashley is looking for a lot of card draw, Adam wants to use Wizards and Spells, and Drew wants to test a Rogue strategy with lots of Light. Drew knows Light is a very important element of the game in order to quickly and frequently access higher rewarding II and III Monsters.

Let's go through the card types on the Village Board now.

THE GUILDS' QUARTER

Over the course of the game, you will need to recruit and level up your Heroes from The Guilds' Quarter, making your deck stronger in order to battle more dangerous and rewarding Monsters. Hero cards have blue frames.



1. **GOLD PRODUCTION VALUE**
   The amount of gold ( ) the card produces. Gold is used to buy cards in the Village.
2. **ATTACK VALUE**
   The amount of Attack the card produces. Attack is used for battling Monsters. There are two types of Attack: Physical Attack ( ) and Magic Attack ( ). Monsters may be resistant to one type or the other.
3. **SKILL VALUE**
   The Hero's Skill value ( ) . This determines how proficient a Hero is at wielding Weapons. A Hero may wield any number of Weapons that have a combined Skill Requirement of less than or equal to the Hero's Skill.
4. **LIGHT VALUE**
   The amount of Light ( ) the card produces. Light is used to move deeper into the Dungeon.
5. **LEVEL**
   All Heroes (and Monsters) have a Level. Heroes in your starting deck begin as Level 0 *Adventurers*. As they gain power, they may be upgraded into Level 1, 2, and even 3!
6. **TEXTBOX**
   It contains the card's Title, Keywords, and game text.
7. **VP VALUE**
   The amount of VP the card is worth at the end of the game.
8. **GOLD COST VALUE**
   The amount of gold the card costs.

3 Marquee Rules

There are 3 marquee rules that always apply to games of *Thunderstone Quest*:

1. *Thunderstone Quest* has dozens of different cards, and many of them disagree with the Rulebook. When a card's text contradicts a rule, the card's text takes priority.
2. Whenever something references "your cards" or "cards you have" during play, it is always referencing the cards that you revealed from your hand that turn and are currently in front of you; never cards in your deck, discard pile or Guild Sponsor/Side Quest cards, unless it explicitly says otherwise. This holds true for all game components (e.g. tokens).
3. The effects of a card last as long as that card remains in play. If a card ever leaves play for any reason, its effects end immediately.

Empty Deck

If a player ever needs a card from their deck for any reason, but their deck is empty, they first shuffle their discard pile to form a new deck, and then continue. This process does not happen when a deck becomes empty, only when a card is needed from an empty deck.

Boosts

Some cards (such as Heroes and Spells) add their Attack value directly to your total, while other cards (such as Weapons and some Items) do not and instead boost one of your Hero's values. Boosts will always be listed with a + symbol preceding the value (e.g., +3). If you do not have a Hero, then you do not receive the effects of the boost, though you may still gain the effects of other parts of the card, such as the card's ability.

Weapons are special. A Weapon must be wielded by a Hero before a player can use any of its abilities.



THE MARKETPLACE

Heroes are most effective when properly supplied with Items, Spells, and Weapons. These cards may be bought in The Marketplace.



1. **GOLD PRODUCTION VALUE**
   The amount of gold the card produces. Gold is used to buy cards in the Village.
2. **ATTACK VALUE**
   The amount of Attack the card produces. Attack is used for battling Monsters. There are two types of Attack: Physical Attack ( ) and Magic Attack ( ). Monsters may be resistant to one type or the other.
3. **ATTACK BOOST VALUE**
   The amount of Attack a Hero is boosted. Boosts increase a Hero's value; they do not provide their own value. Boosts always have a + symbol preceding the value.
4. **SKILL BOOST VALUE**
   The amount of Skill a Hero is boosted. As with all boosts, they boost a Hero's value, they do not provide their own value.
5. **SKILL REQUIREMENT VALUE**
   The amount of Skill this Weapon requires to be wielded. A Hero must have Skill equal to or greater than the combined Skill Requirement value ( ) of all Weapons he or she wields.
6. **LIGHT VALUE**
   The amount of Light the card produces. Light is used to move deeper into the Dungeon.
7. **TEXTBOX**
   It contains the card's Title, Keywords, and game text.
8. **VP VALUE**
   The amount of VP the card is worth at the end of the game.
9. **GOLD COST VALUE**
   The amount of gold the card costs.

ITEMS

You may use the ability on Items even if you do not have any Heroes. Some Items will boost a Hero's Attack or Skill. When getting boosts, you need to have a Hero to benefit from those boosts. Item cards have green frames.

SPELLS

Spells may be used even if you do not have any Heroes, though many of them get stronger the more Wizards and/or Clerics you have, especially as they reach higher levels. Spell cards have purple frames.

Discard vs. Destroy

Many effects discard cards, while others destroy them. Discarded cards are always put into your discard pile and may be drawn again later. Destroyed cards are removed from the game; they may not be used again this game. Destroyed tokens return to the pile they came from to be acquired again later.

If a destroyed card came from a stack of cards in play, we recommend you return it to the bottom of the stack, but face down to signify it is not a usable card. This helps clean up at the end of the game.

WEAPONS

Unlike Items or Spells, Weapons must be wielded by your Heroes to use them. To wield a Weapon, place the Weapon underneath the Hero, but leave the left side of the Weapon card showing.



The Hero is now wielding the Weapon.

A Hero may wield any number of Weapons as long as the total Skill Requirement ( ) of the Weapons are equal to or less than the Hero's Skill. For example, to wield a Weapon with a 3 Skill Requirement, and another Weapon with a 2 Skill Requirement, a Hero would need at least 5 Skill.

If a Hero ever has too little Skill, immediately remove Weapons from the Hero until this is no longer true. Weapons which are not wielded sit in front of you, providing no effects but their Gold Production value. Weapon cards have brown frames.

Starting the Game

The first thing players do is draw a starting hand of 6 cards. Then randomly determine who goes first, with turns proceeding clockwise around the table. Players (other than the starting player) will receive extra Iron Ration Gear tokens to begin the game; 1 token for playing second, 2 tokens for playing third, and 3 tokens for playing fourth.

THE BAZAAR

Iron Rations are one of three types of Gear tokens that may be bought in The Bazaar. Unlike cards, tokens are not discarded each turn. Gear tokens are held until used for a special effect. When used, destroy the Gear token and return it to The Bazaar.

IRON RATIONS

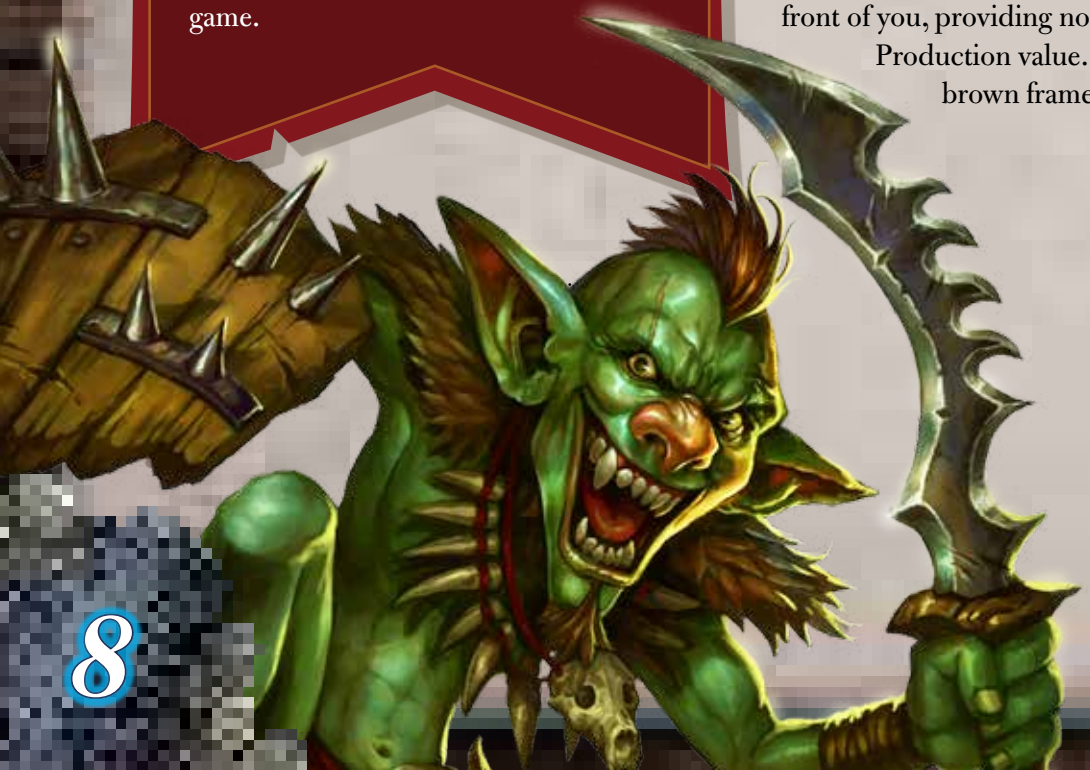
An Iron Ration ( ) costs 2 gold and may be destroyed as a Village, Dungeon, or Spoils ability to produce 1 gold this turn or to give a Hero +2 Skill this turn. This choice is made when the token is destroyed.

LANTERN

A Lantern ( ) costs 3 gold and may be destroyed as a Dungeon ability for 1 extra Light this turn.

POTION

A Potion ( ) costs 4 gold and may be destroyed as a Village or Dungeon ability to heal 1 Wound.



Adam wins the die roll to start the game. Play proceeds clockwise around the table, Drew will go second and Ashley will go third. **For going second, Drew gets 1 Iron Rations Gear token to begin the game. For going third, Ashley receives 2 such tokens.** If there had been a fourth player, they would have received 3 such tokens.

Turn Sequence

PREP PHASE

The first choice a player makes on their turn is to decide whether they will be going to the Village (taking a Village Phase) or exploring the Dungeon (taking a Dungeon Phase).

If you choose to enter the Dungeon, you will move your Champion (figurine) through the Dungeon this turn to battle Monsters. Whenever you enter the Dungeon, you must place your Champion there. If it is currently in the Dungeon, leave it where it is. Otherwise, place it in The Wilderness. This is not considered movement.

If you instead go to the Village, place your Champion (figurine) on one of the indicated spots ( ) on one of the Village Locations. This is not considered movement. The four Village Location abilities are:

- **THE TEMPLE**
  Before proceeding with your turn, place 1 or more cards in your hand back on top of your deck.

  You then take a normal Village turn except: you may heal 1 extra Wound this turn, you MAY NOT level up Heroes this turn, and card effects will not allow you to enter the Dungeon this turn (e.g. the *Lantern* in your stating deck).

- **THE BAZAAR**
  After you take your Village abilities this turn, you may also buy 1 Gear token, placing it on your Player Board. If you buy a Potion token from The Bazaar, you may use it immediately.

- **SHOP OF ARCANE WONDERS**
  After you take your Village abilities this turn, you may also spend 10 gold to buy the top card of the Treasure deck, placing it directly into your discard pile.

- **THE GUILDS' QUARTER**
  When you level up 1 Hero this turn, you may level up 2 different Heroes instead (paying XP costs for both).

Abilities and Traits

Abilities are text on cards that are preceded by VILLAGE (for use in the Village phase), DUNGEON (for use in the Dungeon phase), or SPOILS (for use after you defeat a Monster). Abilities may only be used once per turn. These abilities are optional to use. Sometimes there is an opportunity to use an ability in more than one circumstance, such as VILLAGE OR DUNGEON. Players may use these abilities in either phase, but they may still only be used once per turn.

There are also two more types of abilities, usually found on Monsters: BEFORE BATTLE abilities and AFTER BATTLE abilities (see page 1810). Before Battle abilities and After Battle abilities are not optional.

Many cards in your deck and in the Dungeon also have traits on them. Traits are any text that is not preceded by an ability designator (e.g., Village, Dungeon, Before Battle). Trait text automatically resolves and is not optional.

Now you are ready to start the game. All players shuffle their deck and draw cards equal to their current HP as indicated on their Player Board. With no Wounds, players have 6 HP. Each player draws 6 cards now, and then Adam takes his first turn. The first choice a player makes on their turn is to decide if they are going to spend their turn in the Village (buying cards and improving their deck) or in the Dungeon (defeating Monsters and reaping the rewards). Adam, like most players, decides to go to the Village for his first couple of turns to improve his deck. Adam places his Champion (figurine) on The Bazaar Village Location, which will allow him to buy a Gear token this turn.

VILLAGE PHASE

If you choose the Village, do all the following steps in the order listed below:

1. Reveal all cards in your hand, placing them in front of you **(required)**. Any future cards drawn during the turn are also immediately revealed and placed in front of you.
2. You may use Village and Gear token abilities in any order you wish **(optional)**.
3. Total the gold you produced **(required)**. You may now buy 1 card from either The Marketplace or The Guilds' Quarter **(optional)**. If your Champion is in The Bazaar or Shop of Arcane Wonders, it triggers now **(optional)**. Place purchased cards in your discard pile.
4. You may heal 1 Wound **(optional)**. If your Champion is in The Temple, heal 1 extra Wound **(optional)**. When a Wound is healed, you may return the rightmost Wound token on your Player Board to The Wilderness or you may destroy 1 of your cards with the Wound keyword (e.g. Festering Wound). Return destroyed Wound cards to the stack they came from.
5. You may spend (destroy) XP tokens to level up 1 Hero **(optional)**. If your Champion is in The Guilds' Quarter, it triggers now **(optional)**. The XP cost of leveling up a Hero is equal to their printed Level +2 (e.g., leveling up from Level 0 to Level 1 costs 2 XP, from Level 1 to Level 2 costs 3 XP, from Level 2 to Level 3 costs 4XP). Destroy the current Hero, search the appropriate Hero stack for a version with the next highest Level (0 to I, I to II, II to III), and place it in your discard pile. If there are no more copies of the next highest level version, then that Hero may not be leveled (e.g., If you have a Level 1 Hero and there are no more Level 2 versions of that Hero). *Adventurers* are special Level 0 Heroes; they may level up into any Level 1 Hero.

After you have finished your Village Phase, you enter the End of Turn Phase (see page 11).

Adam reveals a hand of 2x *Lanterns*, 2x *Daggers*, and 2x *Thunderstone Shards*, giving him 10 gold! This is all of the gold in the starting deck, which means next turn when he draws the other half of his starting deck he will be as broke as a Kobold. He may now use the abilities on his cards.

There are abilities on his *Thunderstone Shards*, but at this point in the game their abilities are not relevant, just their Gold Production. The *Dagger* abilities are only usable in the Dungeon, so Adam is ready to move onto purchasing.

Adam knows that he has a lot of gold this turn, so he will want to buy something expensive while he can.

He decides to buy a *Magic Missile* for 7 gold. He notices his *Dagger*, in addition to its Dungeon ability, has a trait. It may be destroyed when he buys a card. **A destroyed card is removed from the game.** Since the Starter cards in your deck are almost always less powerful than the cards you buy from the Village, we recommend destroying your Starter cards as you gain better cards. Like most deckbuilding games, keeping a thin deck is powerful. Adam has two *Daggers* here, but the *Daggers* state that he may only destroy one of them, so he does so at this time, returning it to the box. **Anytime one of your cards is discarded or destroyed, it immediately ceases to have any further effect on the game.** He then places the newly purchased *Magic Missile* in his discard pile.

Because of his chosen Village Location, Adam may also buy 1 Gear token. With his remaining 3 gold, he spends 2 of it to buy an Iron Rations Gear token. Spell users may not get much use from the Skill boost of Iron Rations, but the 1 Gold Production on a future turn will come in handy.

Adam may now heal 1 Wound and/or destroy XP tokens to level up a Hero, but he hasn't fought any Monsters yet to get wounded or gain XP, so he skips these steps and ends his turn. The 1 gold he never spent this turn is lost. When his turn ends, he discards all of his cards and draws a new hand of 6 (his current HP).

Play proceeds to the next player, Drew, who has been preparing for his next turn. Unlike Adam, he decides to enter the Dungeon this turn.

DUNGEON PHASE

Instead of going to the Village, players may go to the Dungeon on their turn. The Dungeon is home to many Monsters, which, if defeated, earn the players XP tokens and other rewards.

After placing your Champion in the Dungeon, do the following steps in the order listed below:

1. Reveal all cards in your hand, placing them in front of you **(required)**. Any future cards drawn during the turn are also immediately revealed and placed in front of you.

2. You may now do any of the following:

a. Use Dungeon abilities **(optional)**.

b. Give Weapons to Heroes **(optional)**.

c. Use Gear tokens **(optional)**.

You may take these in any order you wish. For example, you may use a Dungeon ability, give a Hero a Weapon to wield, use a Gear token, use another Dungeon ability, then use the wielded Weapon's ability.

3. You now produce your Light and may move through the Dungeon **(optional)**. You must have enough Light for each room into which you wish to move. For example, if you move through a room with 1 Light requirement and into a room with a 2 Light requirement, this would require 3 Light total.

Only the Monster in the final Dungeon Room you move into (and the room itself) resolve their text, so you mostly will only need to pay attention to the Monster and the Dungeon Room in which you finish your move. However, the Alert! Icon ( ) signifies a Monster or Dungeon Room that could affect you even if you don't end your movement there.

4. Battle the Monster in the Dungeon Room:

a. Resolve its "Before Battle" abilities. **(required)**.

b. If the Monster has Armor ( ) or Magic Resistance ( ), reduce your Physical or Magic Attack, respectively, by the stated value.

c. If your total Attack (+) is now equal to or greater than the Monster's Health ( ), it is defeated.

d. Whether you defeated the Monster or not, receive Wounds (if any, as indicated on the Monster) and resolve "After Battle" effects **(both required).** Wound tokens ( ) are placed on your Player Board, from left to right, reducing

Buying Stuff

To buy a card or Gear token, first total the Gold Production value of your cards and any Iron Ration Gear tokens you used. This gives you the total gold amount you can spend this turn. Gold Production on your cards in front of you is always available, even if it is from a Weapon which is not being wielded.

When you buy a card or token, subtract its Gold Cost from the amount of gold you have available to spend this turn. If you do not have enough gold to pay the Gold Cost of a card or token, then you may not buy it.

Place cards you buy on top of your discard pile. Place tokens onto your Player Board in the appropriate spots.

You may only buy the top card of each respective stack when buying a card (e.g., you cannot buy a level 2 Hero unless it is the top card of its stack). Each stack has a limited supply; when the last of a card of a stack is bought, you can no longer buy cards from that stack.

Gold Production value that is not used is lost, and does not carry over from turn to turn.

your HP. Some Monsters give Wound cards, instead of tokens, such as Festering Wounds ( ). Wound cards received are placed in your discard pile.

5. If you did not defeat the Monster, nothing else happens; skip this step. If you defeated the Monster, do the following in order **(required)**:
   a. Gain XP tokens ( ) and rewards.
   b. Destroy the Monster and replace it with the top card of the Monster deck appropriate to the level of the now empty Dungeon Room. If you reval a Guardian Key, set it aside and continue refilling until the Dungeon Room has a Monster. If the Monster deck is empty, refill from the next highest level Monster deck that is available.
   c. Spoils abilities may now be used **(optional)**.
   d. Only one Guardian Key may be found per turn. If you reveal more than one, set them aside until after all rooms have Monsters. Then, shuffle the second and later Guardian Keys revealed this turn back into their appropriate decks. If four Guardian Keys have now been found, the Thunderstone Guardian is summoned and the end of the game is close (see page page 14).

After you have finished your Dungeon Phase, you enter the End of Turn Phase.

END OF TURN PHASE

After completing your Village Phase or your Dungeon Phase, you proceed to the end of your turn. Check your Player Board, as well as the cards you played this turn, to determine your current HP. Discard all your cards (but not your tokens) and draw cards equal to your current HP. If a player ever needs a card from their deck for any reason, but their deck is empty, they first shuffle their discard pile to form a new deck, and then continue.

All effects end at this time and any gold not spent is lost. Play passes to the left.

MONSTERS

The Dungeon is populated with tough Monsters that will battle you, wound you, and if you are strong enough to defeat them, shower you in rewards. You can only see a few Monsters at a time, but more lurk in the Monster decks. Players may ignore all Monsters except the one they are battling that turn (and Monsters with). Monster cards have red frames.

1. **ARMOR VALUE AND MAGIC RESISTANCE VALUE**
   Sometimes a Monster will have
   (1a) Armor or
   (1b) Magic Resistance .
   Armor reduces the player's Physical Attack by the stated value. Magic Resistance does likewise to Magic Attack.
2. **HEALTH VALUE**
   A player's total Attack (+) must meet or exceed the Monster's Health to defeat it.
3. **ALERT! ICON**
   If the Monster should not be ignored (as mentioned above), it will have this icon. For example, the *Kobold Shaman* destroys 1 of your Gear tokens when you move through its room.
4. **WOUND VALUE**
   Most Monsters deal Wounds after the battle, regardless of whether you defeat them.
5. **XP VALUE AND REWARDS**
   Monsters give you rewards when you defeat them. Most Monsters give you XP tokens (the amount is shown on the Monster), though many also give Treasure cards or Gear tokens.
6. **TEXTBOX**
   It contains the card's Title, Keywords, and game text.
7. **LEVEL**
   All Monsters have a level. Monsters usually reside in Dungeon Rooms which have the same level.



DUNGEON ROOMS

Dungeon Rooms are tiles that, when combined together, form the Dungeon where the Monsters live. Players move their Champion through the Dungeon Rooms to find the Monster they wish to battle. However, the deeper you go, the more Light you need. Players must meet the Light Requirement of each room they enter. Using the example diagram to the right, if a player wished to move into the Sunken Well room, it would require 1 Light. If they wished to then move into the Throne Room, it would require 2 additional Light. It would require 3 Light total to do this movement in a single turn. Players may not move diagonally through the Dungeon. Players may ignore all Dungeon Rooms except the one they are battling in that turn and Dungeon Rooms with the Alert! icon ( ).

1. **DEFENSE BOOST VALUE**
   Some rooms give the Monster in them a boost to its Health and/or a boost to its Armor or Magic Resistance. This will give Armor and Magic Resistance to a Monster without it.
2. **ROOM PENALTY**
   It generally indicates any negative effects associated with the room.
3. **WOUND BOOST VALUE**
   Some rooms give the Monster in them a boost to the Wounds it deals.
4. **ROOM BENEFIT**
   It generally indicates any positive effects associated with the room.
5. **ROOM REWARDS**
   Some rooms boost the Monster's XP value, give you Treasure cards, and/or give you Gear tokens when the Monster is defeated.
6. **ROOM TITLE**
7. **ALERT! ICON**
   If the Dungeon Room should not be ignored, it will have this icon. For example, the *Crypt* may destroy 1 Gear token when you move into its room, even if you are not stopping in that room to battle.
8. **LIGHT REQUIREMENT VALUE**
   This indicates how much Light is required to move into or through the room. The deeper into the Dungeon you need to go, the darker it gets. Players must meet the Light Requirement of EACH room they enter during a turn.
9. **LEVEL**
   All Dungeon Rooms have a level. Monsters usually reside in Dungeon Rooms which have the same level.

THE DUNGEON



Having entered the Dungeon, Drew places his Champion in The Wilderness and reveals his hand. He reveals a hand with 5 Attack. He has 1 Light which would allow him to move through the level 1 Dungeon Rooms and into a level 2 room, but the Monsters in level 2 are too tough for him for now, so he is going to fight some weaker Goblins instead. He moves his Champion out of The Wilderness into the level 1 room *Mine* to fight the *Goblin Berserker* in it.



The *Goblin Berserker* has 4 Health, +1 from the *Mine* for a total of 5. With his 5 Attack Drew defeats it, but in return the *Goblin Berserker* deals him 2 Wounds. OUCH! He takes 2 Wound tokens from The Wilderness and places them on his Player Board. The Monster also has rewards: 2 XP tokens and a Treasure. He draws the top card of the Treasure deck and places it in his discard pile. The *Mine* also rewards Drew with an Iron Rations Gear token.

Drew places the destroyed *Goblin Berserker* face up under the level 1 Monster deck (easing clean up later), replacing it with the top card of the level 1 Monster deck. Drew reveals the first Guardian Key! He sets it aside and refills the Dungeon Room with the next level 1 Monster in the deck and ends his turn.

He discards all of his cards and draws a new hand. **Because he has two Wounds, he is down to 5 HP (as shown on his Player Board). He only draws 5 cards this turn.** He may want to go to the Village and recover next turn. Play now proceeds clockwise to Ashley's turn.

TREASURE



When you defeat a Monster, the Monster or Dungeon Room might drop Treasure ( ). Treasure may also be bought in the Shop of Arcane Wonders. Treasure comes in many forms: Treasure Caches, Weapons, Items, Spells, or even Heroes who were taken hostage.

Treasure cards look just like other cards (Heroes have blue frames, Weapons have brown, etc.). When a Treasure card is acquired, take the top card of the Treasure deck and put it directly into your discard pile. It is now part of your deck. Generally, once Treasure cards are in your deck, they are used just as you would use other cards. Treasure Cache cards work slightly differently. They have a one-time effect and are then destroyed; they are not added to your deck.

Ashley goes to the Village, placing her Champion in The Bazaar, and then reveals her hand. She purchases a *Short Sword* and a Gear token, placing the Gear token on her Player Board and the *Short Sword* in her discard pile. She knows that when buying a card in The Marketplace she could destroy the *Dagger* she has in front of her, but she has another plan so she chooses not to. She also revealed a *Lantern* this turn. It has a trait that allows her to venture into The Wilderness after completing her Village Phase, so she does so now.

She now gets a Dungeon Phase in which she may only go to The Wilderness (the Lantern's trait stops her from moving any deeper into the Dungeon), so she places her Champion there. She has 4 Attack (thanks to the *Dagger* she kept), so she battles and defeats the first of many *Giants Rats*.



Giant Rats do not wound, nor do they give any rewards, but they have a very handy Spoils ability.

This allows Ashley to level up 1 *Adventurer* (without destroying XP), quickly improving the quality of her deck while retaining her XP. Normally, Heroes may only level up to more advanced versions of their same Hero, but *Adventurers* are special. They are level 0 and don't have a specific path yet, so they can level up into the level 1 version of any Hero in The Guilds' Quarter.

Ashley decides to level up one of her *Adventurers* into *Stormhand*; he combos well with that *Short Sword* she just bought. She takes the *Adventurer* and destroys it, removing it from the game. She takes a copy of a level 1 *Stormhand* and puts it in her discard pile. She decides she shall call him Frank, the mighty dwarven Fighter.

Game End and Winning

The final stage of the game triggers at the end of the turn in which the fourth Guardian Key was found. Flip the Monster in The Wilderness over to reveal the Thunderstone Guardian. As indicated on the Guardian Keys, all players now draw 6 cards, and then discard 4. Each player will have one more turn, including the player who found the last Guardian Key. During this turn, the players may battle the Guardian in The Wilderness, or they may take a normal turn. If a player battles and defeats the Guardian, the player gains the rewards for defeating it but the Guardian will still remain in The Wilderness, awaiting the next challenger. Monsters cannot be removed from The Wilderness for any reason. All players will get one opportunity to battle the Guardian, though they may take a standard turn and ignore the Guardian if they prefer.

When the game ends, players total their VP from:

- Cards in their deck.
- Completed Side Quests (see page 15).
- XP tokens (XP is worth equivalent VP).

The player with the most total Victory Points wins the game. If there is a tie, the tied player with the most Wounds (tokens and cards) wins. If there is still a tie, the tied player with the most combined Treasure and Legendary cards in their deck wins. If it is still a tie, the tied players all win.

If you have not done so yet, please check out the Questbook also included in this box for background on the Thunderstone world and suggested setups to play through the story.

There are also several additional ways to play *Thunderstone Quest*, including Epic Mode and Campaign Mode (see pages 16-17).

GUARDIANS

The Thunderstone Guardian is a special, fearsome, and powerful Monster only available to battle on the last turn of the game. Guardians work the same as all other Monsters with two exceptions:



1. **XP VALUE**
   All Guardians give XP when defeated equal to half your total Attack (+), rounded up. For example, 7 Physical Attack + 16 Magic Attack would give 12 XP (7+16= 23/2= 11.5, rounded up to 12).

2. **LEVEL**
   Guardians are stronger than regular Monsters, and thus have a level of 4-6.

We pick up our example game several turns later. The players have been buying cards and leveling their Heroes into epic, level 3 versions. Ashley has just ended her turn in which she found the fourth Guardian Key. She flips the Monster in The Wilderness over (the *Giant Rat*) to reveal the Guardian, *Smorga the Queen*. Play continues around the table as normal until each player has taken one more turn, including Ashley. During this final turn, players take their turns as normal, but they also have the option to fight the Guardian in The Wilderness.

It is now time for Adam to take his final turn. After revealing his hand and using his Dungeon abilities, he has a total of 23 Attack. *Smorga* has a Health of 8, which is far less than Adam's 23 Attack, so she is defeated. But Before the Battle, *Smorga's* ability destroys 2 XP from Adam, because Adam currently has 2 Wounds. That hurts, but he is about to get a bunch more XP back.

When Guardians are defeated, in addition to any reward listed on the Guardian or The Wilderness, they also give the player XP equal to the half the total Attack, rounded up. Note that *Smorga's* **8 Health does not reduce the amount of XP the Guardian gives**; *Smorga's* 8 Health is the merely the prerequisite to defeat her. So Adam gets 12 XP for defeating *Smorga*, plus a Treasure as listed on *Smorga*. He adds this Treasure to his deck now, before end game scoring.

After Drew and Ashley each take their final turn, our example game ends. Everybody now counts their XP tokens in front of them, plus the VP of cards in their decks. If the players were using Side Quests in their game, they may possibly gain bonus VP from them at this point as well.

Ashley played a strategy that focused on cycling through the deck quickly using *Stormhand* and *Short Sword*, which led to many turns of her playing 10 or more cards.

She didn't have great access to Light from the cards in her deck, so she bought Lantern tokens whenever possible, allowing her to access the high-rewarding level 3 Monsters several times. Her final score was 57.

While Adam had a great final turn against the Guardian, he bought too many cards along the way and did not get enough of his Starter cards out of his deck. This created too many turns where his draws were not smooth and his deck didn't reach full potential. Next game he is going to make sure to get rid of those Starter cards fast and get more Light. His final score was a respectable 43.

Drew used a Rogue strategy of having lots of Light in his deck, so he had access to fight whichever Monster was best for him each turn. This let him maximize the rewards he received every turn and worked really well for him. Adam had some powerful Spell combinations for lots of Magic Attack that was often higher than Drew's, but Adam lacked the Light to consistently reach to the level 3 Monsters. Drew's final score was 54.

Following the rules listed above, you are now ready to play THUNDERSTONE QUEST!

SIDE QUESTS AND LEGENDARY CARDS



Side Quests are secondary objectives that provide specific goals for you to accomplish, rewarding you with VP or possibly Legendary cards. Side Quests are not mandatory to complete, though every VP counts. Keep your Side Quest face down and secret, revealing it only when it is time to collect its rewards. Side Quests often significantly impact your game strategy, so make sure to remain familiar with your Side Quest throughout the game.

Some Side Quests reward their players with cards that have the Legendary keyword. Legendary cards have a pile of platinum coins at the bottom of the card, as well as the Legendary keyword. Players should review any of these Legendary cards that are relevant to their Side Quest and keep them nearby. Any unchosen Side Quests and Legendary cards are put back in the box.

GUILD SPONSORSHIP



After players choose their Side Quests, they choose which Guild will sponsor their efforts. Guild Sponsorships favor one of the four Classes; try to pick one that synergizes with your Side Quest. Guild Sponsorships sit next to your Player Board and provide you a constant bonus throughout the game, as detailed on the card.

There are enough Guild Sponsorships so that each player may choose the Guild they wish. Any unchosen Guild Sponsorships are put back in the box.

EXPERIENCE POINTS (XP)

You may invest XP in your Heroes over the course of the game, making them stronger. XP spent this way will not count towards precious Victory Points, so spend them wisely.

It is recommended to spend your XP leveling up your Heroes until 2-3 Guardian Keys have been found. Having more powerful Heroes will allow you to defeat more rewarding Monsters. Make sure there is enough time left in the game to get good use of your powerful Heroes.

At the end of the game, combine the XP on your Player Board with the VP in your deck and on completed Side Quests to see who wins.



More Ways to Play

Random Setup

Thunderstone Quest™ is designed to be played beyond the scenarios in the Questbook. If you wish to create your own setup, Randomizers have been included in this product to help you with setup.



Randomizers are special cards that look like Heroes, Items, Spells, Weapons, Monsters, etc. with special card backs. Heroes sometimes work best with specific cards or Keywords, so some Hero Randomizers will have a small amount of special text.

To create a random setup, follow all normal steps listed in Setup (see page 4) with the following changes:

Build and Populate the Dungeon

1. Either randomly select or choose six Dungeon Room tiles; two of each level. Do likewise to select which Guardian you will be battling this game. You always use The Wilderness in every game.
2. Use the Monster Randomizers to select random level 1, 2 and level 3 Monster groups. The Monster Randomizers will list the keywords of most/all of the Monsters in that group, whether the Monsters tend to have the Alert! icon , and some may also speak briefly on the mechanics of the group. For example, if the Monster group discards and destroys your Weapons, it may say "They attack your Weapons." Use this knowledge when selecting cards for the Village. If, for example, a Monster group is particularly lethal, *Damilu Huskie* may be a good card to have in that game. We understand this means the setup is not completely random, but synergetic cards lead to better game experiences.
3. Populate the Dungeon Rooms with Monsters and then add Guardian Keys to the Monster decks as normal, placing the Monster decks in their respective spots on the Village Board.

Populate the Village

1. Shuffle the Hero Randomizers. Reveal the first Randomizer, placing the corresponding Hero stack into The Guilds' Quarter on the Village Board, in a spot which matches the Hero's Class keyword (Cleric, Fighter, Rogue, or Wizard). If the Hero has more than one Class, you decide which spot to use. Hero Randomizers display the icons they have, such as and . Some Heroes also have a brief amount of text that is relevant to set up or strategies for that Hero.
2. Repeat step 1, skipping revealed Heroes if the corresponding Class spot is already occupied. When you are done, The Guilds' Quarter will contain four Hero stacks, including at least one Cleric, one Fighter, one Rogue, and one Wizard (but with multi-Classing, there could be more than one of a particular Class). Each stack should be arranged so that the level 1 Heroes are on top, level 2 next, and level 3 last.
3. Shuffle the Item, Spell, and Weapon Randomizers and reveal them until you have revealed one for each corresponding spot in The Marketplace, with a total of 8 spots. We recommend not playing with more than 3 of any particular card type. Some Hero randomizers will have a requirement for The Marketplace. Make sure those requirements are met now. If they aren't, the players should find a Randomizer that does meet them and put it into The Marketplace instead of one of the previously selected Randomizers.

   As Item, Spell, and Weapon cards are mechanically consistent throughout the stack, the Randomizers are duplicate versions of the standard cards. Randomizers have a different back so they don't get confused.
4. Find the corresponding stacks of cards that match the Randomizers and place these stacks into The Marketplace. Put all of the Randomizers back in the box, and continue Setup as normal (see page 3 4).

EPIC THUNDERSTONE QUEST

This radical variant is a favorite of experienced players of classic *Thunderstone* and *Thunderstone Advance.* Rather than playing with only 12 different cards in the Village each game, you can play with every card you own! Epic *Thunderstone Quest* has a slightly different setup from a standard game.

SETUP

1. Get 1 copy of every Item, Spell, Weapon, and Monster (by card Title) you own. Separate the cards by type: Items, Spells, Weapons, and Monsters. We will deal with Heroes below.
2. Take 10 random Monsters of each level and populate the Dungeon Rooms as normal (see page 4). These are the Monsters you will play with this game. Put the remaining Monsters back in the box. Add Guardian Keys to the Monster decks as normal and place the Monster decks in their respective spots on the Village Board. Select a Guardian as normal, placing it face down in The Wilderness.
3. Shuffle and place the Item deck in The Marketplace near the Item section. Do likewise for the Spells, and then the Weapons.
4. Place the top two cards of each deck into their respective spots of The Marketplace. Leave "Any" spots empty to start the game.
5. Throughout the game, whenever a card in the Marketplace is purchased, replace its spot with a card from the corresponding deck. If it is empty, then there are no more cards available of that type. "Any" spots do not refill in this manner.
6. To fill an "Any" spot, players must place their Champion in The Marketplace at the beginning of their Village Phase (this is an extra Village Location only available in the Epic Mode style of game). For doing so, they take the top card of any deck in The Marketplace and put it in an empty "Any" spot. If there are no empty "Any" spots, then they first destroy 1 card in an "Any" spot, and then fill the newly emptied spot.
7. There are two different ways to play with the Heroes. Try both below and decide which style you prefer:
   a. The first style takes 1 copy of every level 1 Hero card you own and separates them into four different stacks, sorted by their Class keyword (Cleric, Fighter, Rogue, Wizard). Heroes with more than 1 Class may go into any corresponding stack. Shuffle these stacks separately, and then place them face up in their respective spots in The Guilds' Quarter. Only the top Hero on each stack is available at a time for purchase or to level an *Adventurer* into. When you need to level up a Hero into their level 2 or 3 version, use the same process as normal, but retrieve the new Hero from the box. This version of playing with the Heroes is the classic Epic Thunderstone experience. It allows you to play with the most Heroes in any given game.
   b. The second style uses the normal Hero setup (see page 4). During playtest, we came to really enjoy this hybrid version and think you will as well. It allows for a very fluid Marketplace, giving you greater access to a wider variety of cards than the normal Marketplace. However, it still allows you to focus your deck construction and strategy around the mechanics of the core of your deck (the Heroes).

Dungeon Setup and play continues as normal from here (see page 4).

EPIC THANKS

Thanks to Richard Launius and Tom Vasel for the original Epic Thunderstone idea.



CAMPAIGN MODE

If you would like to play a series of *Thunderstone Quest* games back-to-back to tell a story, you can do so by playing a Campaign. Campaigns may last as many or as few games as the players wish. In Campaign Mode, your starting decks get better the more games you play. You may wish to increase the difficulty, as your Campaign progresses, to compensate for this. Increasing the number of Guardian Keys that need to be found or rearranging in which Monster decks the Guardian Keys are placed are two options.

GUILD RECOGNITION PHASE

After each game of a Campaign is finished, players enter the Guild Recognition Phase before moving on to the next game. During this phase, players will have the opportunity to enhance their starting deck for all future games of this Campaign.

1. Starting with the player who won, and proceeding in final placement order, each player may select 1 Marketplace card from their deck. They may only select 1 Item, Spell, or Weapon (no Hero, Treasure, or Legendary cards). They may not choose a card which has already been chosen by another player this Guild Recognition Phase. If they have no legal card to choose, they forfeit their Guild Recognition choice in this game of the Campaign.
2. Players add 1 copy of their selected cards to all of their future starting decks this Campaign. This means that players should start the second game of their Campaign with their standard starting decks plus 1 additional card. Game 3 should start with 2 additional cards, game 4 should start with 3 additional cards, and so on.

After each game, keep track of each player's score. The winner at the end of the Campaign is the player with the most combined VP.

What's Different

If you're familiar with *Thunderstone Advance*, here is a list of changes/features unique to *Thunderstone Quest*.

- You can buy Gear tokens in the Village for one-time effects.
- You have a Champion (a figurine) which moves through the Dungeon to battle Monsters and visits different Village Locations, opening up access to additional abilities.
- The Prepare ability is gone, though a very similar ability is available in the Village.
- Rather than being added to your deck, Monsters deal Wounds to players when fought and reward players when defeated. Monsters are destroyed when defeated.
- Wound tokens reduce your HP, which lowers the number of cards you draw each turn. You may heal Wounds in the Village and with special effects.
- Light is now used to move through the Dungeon Rooms. Players no longer use Light to avoid Attack penalties.
- Each Dungeon Room is distinct, providing unique challenges and benefits.
- If a player fails to defeat a Monster, neither the player nor the Monster leaves the Dungeon.
- Each Dungeon level is populated with Monsters of the corresponding level (e.g., level 1 Monsters populate the level 1 Dungeon Rooms).
- Heroes may wield multiple Weapons, up to their Skill. In previous versions of Thunderstone, Skill was called Strength.
- You may level up only 1 Hero in the Village each turn.
- Most cards in the Village provide Victory Points.
- Side Quests, Legendary cards, Guild Sponsorships, and Treasures are all new card types.
- At the end of the game, players' XP are worth 1 VP each.
- Players can no longer Rest (destroy a card from their deck).
- Monster abilities now exist in two mandatory timing windows; Before Battle and After Battle. These replace the previous Battle, Aftermath, Global, Trophy, Raid, Stalk, Breach, and React abilities.
- There is no longer a restriction about using an ability to destroy another card whose ability has already been used this turn. Now, card effects last as long as they are in front of you. The moment they leave play, their effects end immediately.

Lexicon

ABILITIES
Abilities are usable once per turn. There are five types of abilities: VILLAGE, DUNGEON, SPOILS, BEFORE BATTLE, AFTER BATTLE. Village, Dungeon, and Spoils abilities are optional, Before Battle and After Battle abilities are required.

Sometimes there is an opportunity to use an ability in more than one circumstance, such as VILLAGE OR DUNGEON. Players may use these abilities in either phase, but they may still only be used once per turn.

ADJACENT
Adjacent means orthogonally adjacent. Diagonal is never adjacent.

ARMOR
Armor reduces the amount of Physical Attack you have by the stated amount. If a player has 7 Physical Attack and a Monster has 3 Armor, the player has 4 Physical Attack remaining.

BOOSTS
Boosts are bonuses to one or more values on Heroes and Monsters. Boosts are always signified by a + sign and are usually found on Items, Weapons, and Dungeon Rooms. If you do not have a Hero, you may not benefit from boosts.

CANCEL
Cancelled effects do not resolve.

CARD TYPE
There are five types of cards: Hero, Item, Spell, Weapon, Monster. Not all cards have a type, such as Guardian Keys and Treasure Caches.

CLASS
Each Hero has one or more Classes. The four Classes are Cleric, Fighter, Rogue, and Wizard.

DESTROY
Destroyed cards do not go into a discard pile. Instead, they are removed from the game. When a card is destroyed, place it in the box. If the destroyed card was in the Village, we recommend you place it face down under the other copies of that card in the Village. For example, after you level up a Rogue, we recommend you place the old, destroyed version at the bottom of its Rogue stack, face down. This helps clean up at the end.

Destroyed tokens and Festering Wounds are returned to their respective places and may be acquired again later.

DISCARD
When an effect has you discard a card, you must place a card from your hand, or from in front of you, into your discard pile. If an effect tells you to discard cards from your deck, they are discarded from the top.

DOUBLES
When dice are rolled and have the same value.

DRAW
Anytime you draw a card, take the top card of your deck and add it to your hand. If it is your turn, any card you draw is immediately placed in front of you with the rest of your hand.

If you ever need a card from your deck for any reason, but your deck is empty, you first shuffle your discard pile to form a new deck, and then continue. This process does not happen when a deck becomes empty, only when a card is needed from an empty deck.

DUNGEON
The Dungeon is made up of all Dungeon Rooms, including The Wilderness. Players use Light to move through the Dungeon and battle Monsters. Some abilities may only be used in the Dungeon.

FESTERING WOUND
Festering Wounds are a special type of Wound card that go into your discard pile when received. They do not lower your HP, but they are harmful once you draw them. Whenever you may heal a Wound, you may instead heal one of your Festering Wound cards in front of you, destroying it. Put destroyed Festering Wound cards back into the Festering Wound stack, which should be kept somewhere handy for players to reach. Festering Wounds are not used in all games.

FOUND
Guardian Keys are found whenever they are face up in a Dungeon Room.

GEAR TOKENS
Gear tokens are tokens that may be bought in the Village, if your Champion visits The Bazaar. Some Monsters and Dungeon Rooms also reward players with Gear tokens. The three types of Gear tokens are Iron Rations, Lantern, and Potion.

GIANT RAT
The level 0 Monster in The Wilderness. It stays there for the entire game until the fourth Guardian Key is revealed at which point it is flipped over to the Guardian side.

GUARDIAN
The Guardian is a special, fearsome, and powerful Monster only available to battle on the last turn of the game. All Guardians give XP when defeated equal to half your total Attack value (after Armor and Magic Resistance reduction), rounded up. For example, if you had 18 Attack, which gets reduced to 15 from the 3 Armor of the Guardian you are battling, the Guardian would give 8 XP (18-3=15/2= 7.5, rounded up to 8).

HEAL
When a Wound is healed, destroy it. If it is a Wound token on your Player Board, remove your rightmost Wound and return it to The Wilderness. If the Wound is a card with the Wound keyword (e.g. Festering Wound), put it back in the stack it came from.

HIGHEST (OR LOWEST)
When an effect or ability refers to the "highest" or "lowest" of a set of cards, and two or more cards meet the criterion, the player chooses which card or cards will be affected.

HIT POINTS (HP)
All players have 6 HP by default. As players battle Monsters and take Wounds, their HP will go down until they heal. Some cards will give players HP temporarily for that turn. At the end of your turn, you calculate your current HP, then discard your cards from that turn and redraw a new hand of cards equal to your current HP level.

IMMUNE
Some Monsters are immune to Physical Attack and/or Magic Attack. That value is ignored, and not counted when comparing with the Monster's Health. This can sometimes be Immunity to a specific source (e.g., Immune to Bows). If you have a Hero with 4 Attack wielding a Bow with 3 Attack, you would fail to defeat a Monster with 6 Health that is immune to Bows.

LEVEL UP
Some effects allow you to "level up" a Hero. To level up a Hero, do the following:

1. Destroy XP equal to the Hero's current level +2 and destroy the Hero.
2. Find the next highest level version of that Hero in its stack and place it in your discard pile. (level 0 to 1, 1 to 2, 2 to 3).

Adventurers are special level 0 Heroes and may level up into any level 1 Hero.

Since the new version of the Hero goes directly to your discard pile, it is not available again this turn. If there are no more copies of the next highest level version, then that Hero may not be leveled. (e.g., If you have a level 1 Hero and there are no more level 2 versions of that Hero).

MAGIC RESISTANCE
Magic Resistance reduces the amount of Magic Attack you have by the stated amount. If a player has 4 Magic Attack and a Monster has 2 Magic Resistance, the player has 2 Magic Attack remaining.

MAXIMUM, MINIMUM
When a card has a maximum or minimum value, then any changes to that value received beyond the minimum/maximum is ignored.

MOVE
Players use Light to move their Champion through the Dungeon to go battle Monsters. Going from the Dungeon to the Village is never considered movement. Some Monsters and Dungeon Rooms have the Alert! icon on them. These Monsters and rooms interact with the movement of a player's Champion, penalizing you for moving into, from, or through them.

- **Into a room** - The effect triggers any time a Champion moves into the room from another room.
- **From a room** - The effect triggers any time a Champion moves out of the room.
- **Through a room** - The effect triggers any time a Champion moves both into and out of the room in the same turn.

REMOVE
A Weapon is removed from a Hero anytime that Hero does not have enough Skill to wield the Weapon. Removed Weapons are set in front of you and may not be given to another Hero.

REQUIRED
When *something* is required by a Monster, you must have 1 or more of the *something* to be able to defeat this Monster. If you do not have that special *something*, you may not defeat the Monster. If your Physical Attack was reduced to 0 by a Monster's Armor, and the Monster requires Physical Attack, you would no longer be considered to have Physical Attack, and thus you would not meet the requirement. You may still choose to battle a Monster if you do not have the *something* required, you will just fail to defeat it.

SPOILS
Spoils abilities are optional abilities that you may use after you have defeated a Monster.

TOKENS
There are five different tokens; Gear tokens (Iron Rations, Lantern, Potion), Wound tokens, and Thunderstone (XP) tokens.



TOTAL ATTACK VALUE
Your total Attack value is the sum of your Physical Attack plus your Magic Attack. If your total Attack value is equal to or greater than the Health of the Monster you are battling, you defeat it.

VILLAGE
The Village is made up of all elements on the Village Board except the Monster Decks. Some abilities may only be used in the Village.

WIELD
A Hero may wield any number of Weapons; the Hero's Skill must be greater than or equal to the combined Skill Requirement of all their wielded Weapons. If a Hero ever has too little Skill, remove Weapons from the Hero until this is no longer true. Weapons which are not wielded sit in front of you, providing nothing but their Gold Production value.

WOUND
Wounds come in 2 forms: Wound tokens ( ) and Wound cards (e.g., Festering Wounds). The most common form, Wound tokens, go onto your Player Board. This lowers your HP which lowers the number of cards you draw each turn.

Cards with the Wound keyword go into your discard pile, clogging up your deck on later turns.

KEYWORDS
Keywords are a useful way of having cards interact with each other. In many cases, however, they do not necessarily do anything in and of themselves. The following is a list of Keywords that have no special rules that apply to them, but that you will see appearing on cards:

HEROES
Race (e.g. Human or Elf) and
Class (Cleric, Fighter, Rogue, Wizard).

ITEMS, SPELLS, WEAPONS
Weapon type (Blunt, Bow, Edged) and/or
Magic type (Arcane, Chaos, Divine, Elemental) and/or Misc keywords (e.g. Magic, Starter).

MONSTER
Creature type (e.g. Undead or Giant) and
Monster group title (e.g. Goblin Grunts).

FAQ

Who wins ties in battle?

The player wins. If the player's total Attack (+) is greater than or equal to the Monster's Health, the Monster is defeated.

Do Ogre* abilities trigger during Setup?

No, Ogre Abilities do not. The same goes for other abilities that trigger "when revealed" or "when they enter the Dungeon".

Can abilities like those on *Thunderstone Shard* be used in both the Village and Dungeon in the same turn?

Some abilities have multiple opportunities to be played, such as VILLAGE OR DUNGEON, but abilities may still only be used once per turn. If you use *Thunderstone Shard* in the Village, you may not also use it in the Dungeon.

Can you level up a Hero more than one level in a turn?

No. The new version of the Hero goes directly to your discard pile and is not available to be leveled again that turn.

How does *Felin** work?

Felin is a special Cleric Wizard that can transform into different animals. On your turn, you may choose one of these two forms to assume, though as abilities are optional, you may choose to not shapeshift at all.

Can Heroes such as *Markennan*** get their Skill boosts in time to wield Weapons?

Yes. Thus, *Markennan* may wield a Blunt Weapon with an 8 Skill Requirement.



How do I battle a face down Monster? What if it is a face down Guardian Key?

If a player battles a face down Monster, flip it face up before the battle, resolving all of the Monster's text and continuing the battle as normal. If the player finds a Guardian Key instead, set the Key aside and replace it with a new Monster from the appropriate deck and battle it. The found Key may cause the Guardian to appear at the end of this turn.

If I have a card that cannot be destroyed (or discarded) and a Monster ability destroys or discards a card, can I choose the card that is "protected"?

Yes, the Monster's ability simply has no effect.

If I have a Hero that cannot be destroyed by card effects, what happens if I level it up?

The ability to level up a Hero is an effect from the Rulebook, not from a card, so you may level up that Hero as normal (and you **must** destroy it in the process).

Can a card without a value (such as Armor or Light) gain +X to that value?

Yes, it will now have X in that value.

How many XP do I gain with *Battle Axe**** after battling a *Demon Spider*?





Assuming you had a Treasure card to trigger *Demon Spider*'s After Battle ability, you would gain 2 XP. *Battle Axe* activates whenever you gain one or more Wounds. You gain the Wounds from the spider's After Battle ability, and another 1 Wound from its Wound value.

Can I destroy more than one *Dagger* when I buy a card?

No, *Dagger*'s trait specifically only allows one to be destroyed.

Do the effects of cards that temporarily change my HP that turn end before I draw my new hand?

No, you calculate your current HP before discarding your cards from that turn.

Is The Wilderness tile a Dungeon Room and is it in the Dungeon?

Yes to both, and it is adjacent to both level 1 Dungeon Rooms.

If my Light total is reduced after I start moving through the Dungeon, such as from a Monster who discards my Item, does it reduce where I may travel in the Dungeon? Does it reduce the amount of Light I have for Spoils effects?



Once your Light total has been produced and you begin moving, having your Light reduced will not affect that movement.

For example, if you produce the 4 Light you need to get to the *Darkness Temple*, and along your way to the *Darkness Temple**** a Monster discards your *Lantern* (reducing your Light to 3), this does not interrupt your current movement. You still make it to the *Darkness Temple*. However, after you defeat the Monster, the *Darkness Temple* only gives you +3XP, not +4XP.

If I have a Hero with 2 Physical Attack wielding a Weapon that has +3 Magic Attack, is the Hero considered to have Magic Attack?

Yes. Boosts (anything with a +) add directly to the Hero's (or Monster's) values. So the Hero would have 2 Physical Attack and 3 Magic Attack.

What happens if a card looks for a value on a card that is not there or has an *?

It defaults to 0.

If I buy a Potion token in The Bazaar, may I drink it immediately? Can I use Potion tokens any time I want?

Potion tokens may be used as a Village or Dungeon ability, or immediately after they are bought from The Bazaar. You may not use Potion tokens any other time (e.g. after receiving Monster rewards or as a Spoils ability).

Do I have to be in The Guilds' Quarter to level up or buy a Hero?

No, you may usually buy and/or level up 1 Hero each turn, even if your Champion is not in The Guilds' Quarter. The Guilds' Quarter simply allows you to level up 1 extra Hero.

Do I need to be in The Temple to heal?

No, you may always heal 1 Wound normally, even if your Champion is not in The Temple. The Temple simply allows you to heal 1 extra Wound.

Do I need to be in The Marketplace to buy a card from there?

No, The Marketplace is not a Village Location where you place your Champion (unless you are playing the Epic variant, see page 17). It is simply the name for the area that holds a specific subset of cards (Items, Spells, and Weapons). You may always buy 1 card regardless of your Champion's Village Location.

If I have a *Punching Dagger* and a Starter *Dagger* on a Hero with 2 attack, how much attack do I have?

You would have +6 attack. 2 from the Hero, +1 from the Starter *Dagger*, +3 from the *Punching Dagger*.

What happens if I reveal two Guardian Keys in a single turn? What happens if the last two cards in the Monster deck are both Guardian Keys?

Set aside any revealed Guardian Keys and refill the Dungeon Room with the next card in the appropriate Monster deck. If the appropriate Monster deck is empty, refill the room from the next highest available Monster deck. Once all rooms have been filled with Monsters, re-shuffle the second and later Guardian Keys back into the Monster deck(s) from whence they came. It is possible that a re-shuffled Guardian Key is now the only card in its Monster deck.

* Denotes contents from the Kickstarter exclusive Quest, A Total Eclipse of the Sun.

** Denotes contents from the Risen from the Mire Quest.

*** Denotes contents from the At the Foundations of the World Quest.

Campaign Log

Keep track of your Campaigns over time recording how many games the Campaign was, the final score, and most importantly, the winner's name.

WINNER	SCORE	GAMES	WINNER	SCORE	GAMES

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Iconography Reference Guide



PHYSICAL ATTACK



MAGIC ATTACK



THE HERO'S SKILL (FOR WIELDING WEAPONS)



THE WEAPON'S SKILL REQUIREMENT



SKILL BOOST (FOR BOOSTING HERO'S SKILL)



LIGHT AND LIGHT REQUIREMENT



VP AND XP



PROMOTIONAL CARDS



RISEN FROM THE MIRE QUEST



GOLD PRODUCTION



GOLD COST



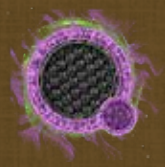
LEVEL



MONSTER'S HEALTH



MONSTER'S ARMOR



MONSTER'S MAGIC RESISTANCE



WOUND TOKENS



A MIRROR IN THE DARK QUEST



AT THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE WORLD QUEST



FESTERING WOUNDS



TREASURE CARD



IRON RATIONS GEAR TOKEN



LANTERN GEAR TOKEN



POTION GEAR TOKEN



ALERT! ICON (READ FOR DANGER)



LEGENDARY FOOTER



TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN QUEST



RIPPLES IN TIME QUEST

AEG™