

THE MAGICIAN'S ASSISTANT

Your uncle lifts the flap of the tent and introduces you to a nervous young man inside.

“This is supposed to be our magic show,” the man says, “but my whiny boss won’t leave his trailer because of the cold. He had this great act, but I don’t know how to replicate it; whenever groups would come to watch, he would hand them a deck of cards and have each person pick a card and write a word on the back of it. Then, after he collected all the cards, he could tell who picked out each card just by what group they came with. Even better, by sorting the cards chosen by each group, he would reveal a secret message he had planted in their minds.”

Before you sit eight empty tables, each abandoned by the last group of five people who sat there and picked their cards. Small placards sit on each table, naming the group that last sat there.

Table 1: The Henry F. Society

Table 2: The Baltimoreans

Table 3: The Sdrawkcab Club

Table 4: The Card Counters (3 4 8)

Table 5: The Gifted Kids

Table 6: The Eyes Only Association

Table 7: The Perisha-bulls

Table 8: The Potterheads

5 4 2 5; 5 4 4 6 5

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NOTE: To sort the cards, any part of the front of the card is fair game, but no gameplay or cultural knowledge of Magic: The Gathering™ is required to solve this puzzle. The backs of the cards won’t be used until after the cards are sorted.



ANGEL



COLON



ERROR



SALAD



SHEEP



DECOY



WIDOW



FIBER



ATTIC



PILOT



FEVER



PIANO



ANVIL



EMAIL



SOLID



RIVER



PANEL



INUIT



IMAGE



OFTEN



OTTER



MONEY



CHAIR



CONGO



WHISK



SUGAR



MONEY



ONION



TOUGH



SYRUP



PAPER



MIAMI



BUDDY



OLIVE



GRAIN



METAL



LILAC



MINOR



PANDA



FUNGI



THUMB



MOLDY



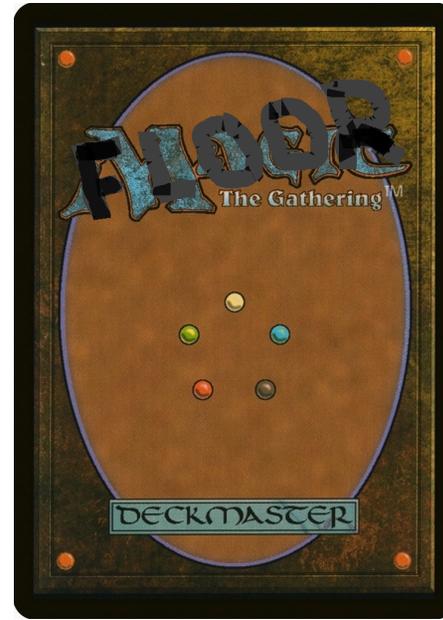
CAMEL



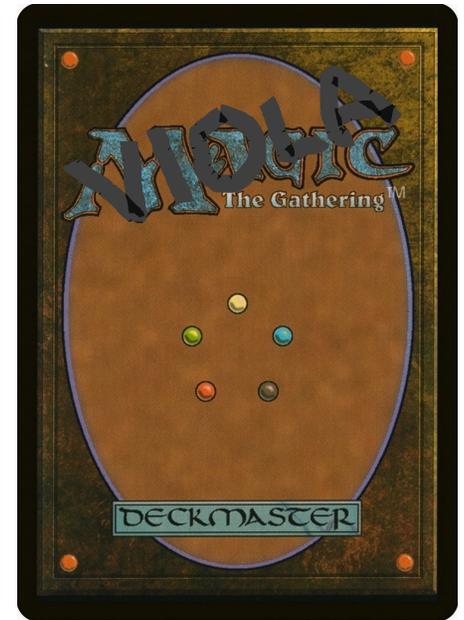
MOUSE



CHESS



FLOOR (example)



VIOLA (example)