

Capturing Children's Attention and Imagination with Investigative Play

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Vanished: A “Curated Game”



Photos, L to R:
Smithsonian Forensic Anthropologists Kari Bruwelheide & Doug Owsley (AnthroNotes Volume 28 No. 1 Spring 2007)
Volcanologist Liz Cottrell
Vanished player at North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (Photographer: Liz Baird)

Applications for Commercial Games



Photo: Phillip Toledano, "Gamers"

The ARG Model

The image is a collage of various items, including a newspaper clipping with the headline "BREAK IN ARKHAM!", a map, a list of contacts, a "TO DO" list, a mug, a plate of food, and a small figurine. The "TO DO" list includes tasks such as "Participate in local election but make it as close as possible", "Recruit henchmen, sacrifice one to take own death", "Make everyone everywhere look like me", "Filter out the same ones", "Give select goons secure phones (avoid cakes, poisoned cakes)", "Cultivate a taste for the electricity", "Send cops down the wrong lane", "Make fun of 'the Batman'", "Reveal ugly face of 'Gotham Justice'", "Hit em where it hurts", "Get ready to really blow up", "Be good to my guests", "Gather all my fans", and "Leave a big mark". The list is dated with handwritten notes like "11/23", "11/1", "11/30", "4/11", "4/29", "6/16", "6/19", "6/25", "7/1", "7/1", and "7/9". The contacts list includes names like "The Gotham Times", "Betsy's Place of Pies", "Gotham Victim Advocate Foundation", "Gotham City Church", "Salva Swisher Church", "Acme Security Systems", "Gotham City Fence", "Acme Travel", "Kinley's Home", "Rosa's Dollhouse", "Pasquale's Haircut", "Bartorelli and Associates", "Concannon Citizens for a Better Gotham", "Gotham City News", "Gotham City Rail", "Gotham City Plaza", "Gotham Regional Bank", "Gotham Police", "Gotham Internal Affairs Division", "GPD Major Crimes Unit", "GPD Major Crimes Unit", "We Are the Answer", "Regimenting Gals", "Maiden Avenue Report", "Dare Warrington", "Trail Goggles", "Citizens For Gotham", and "Gotham City Clerk".

Image source: 42 Entertainment

Image source: 42 Entertainment

The ARG Model

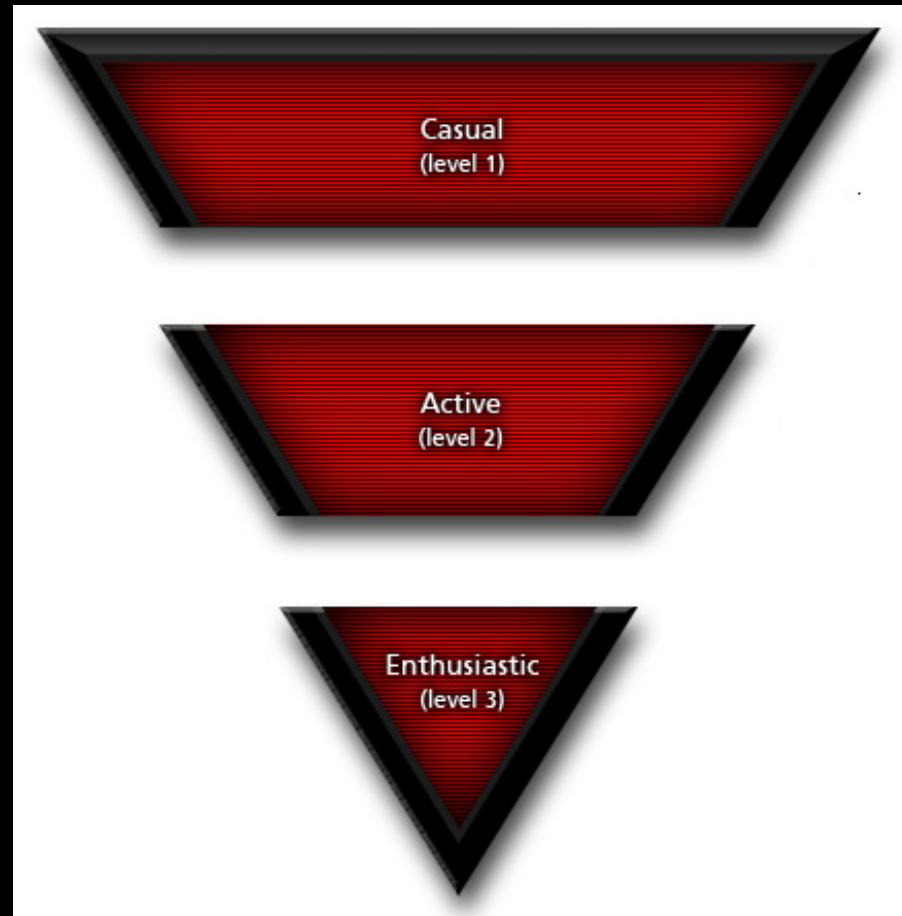


Image source: 42 Entertainment

The Pyramid Must Be Crushed!!*



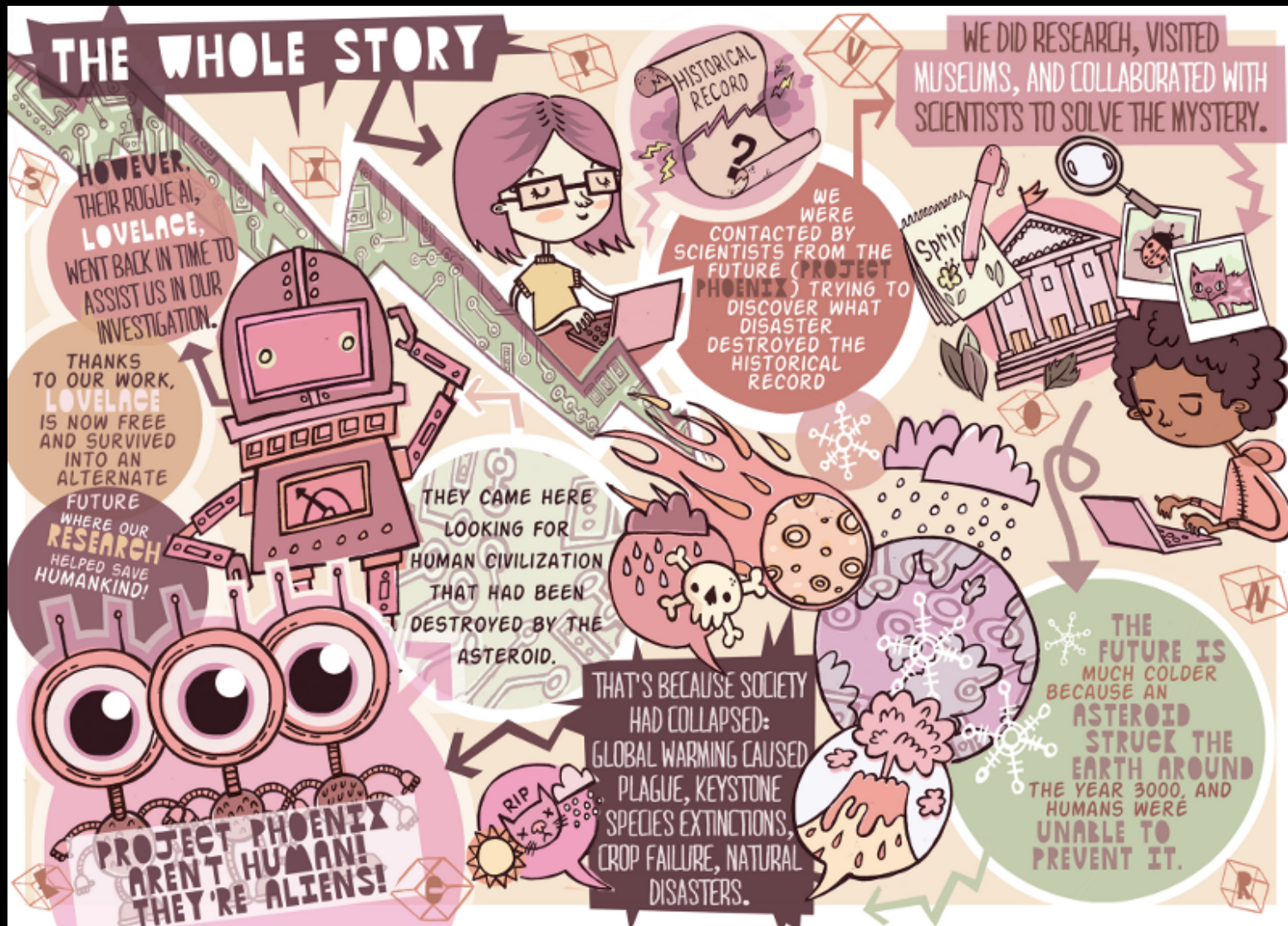
*While still maintaining total COPPA adherence, privacy, safety, scientific accuracy, real-time all-day forum screening and moderation, accessibility to disabled, low-literacy and low income students, Section 508 compliance, content appropriate for a wide spectrum of learning abilities, story continuity, a plausible science-fiction-time-travel-mystery narrative, etc.....

Photo credit: lizadventure.files.wordpress.com

Be EPIC



Be EPIC



The Narrative Drives the Challenge

The Challenge Drives the Narrative



Something for Everyone, A Reason for Everything

ATTENTION ALL GOLDFIELD RESIDENTS

The temperature keeps rising, and there is nothing that we can do about it...

For that, I am very sorry...

Malacosoma species

Insect/Bug



canum

Insect/Bug



May 17, 2011 - 13:18

LT21

Offline

Achievements: 800

what are all of the current species in the area.
what type of food is there.
what is the climate

Top

Permalink

May 17, 2011 - 13:31

tonntownfan101

Offline

Achievements: 4160

how did you guys get tech if it was all destroyed

Top

Permalink

May 17, 2011 - 13:39

Babaganuche7

Offline

Achievements: 4380

it wasn't all destroyed, they just lost it and stopped using it

Top

Permalink



Defy Expectations



The most compelling character in any game story is the player.

Expect Brilliance

Mission

Mission: Collect Encoded Video Messages

We've all been getting different, gibberish messages embedded in the latest briefing video. Upload yours here so we can get them in one place and figure out what they mean!

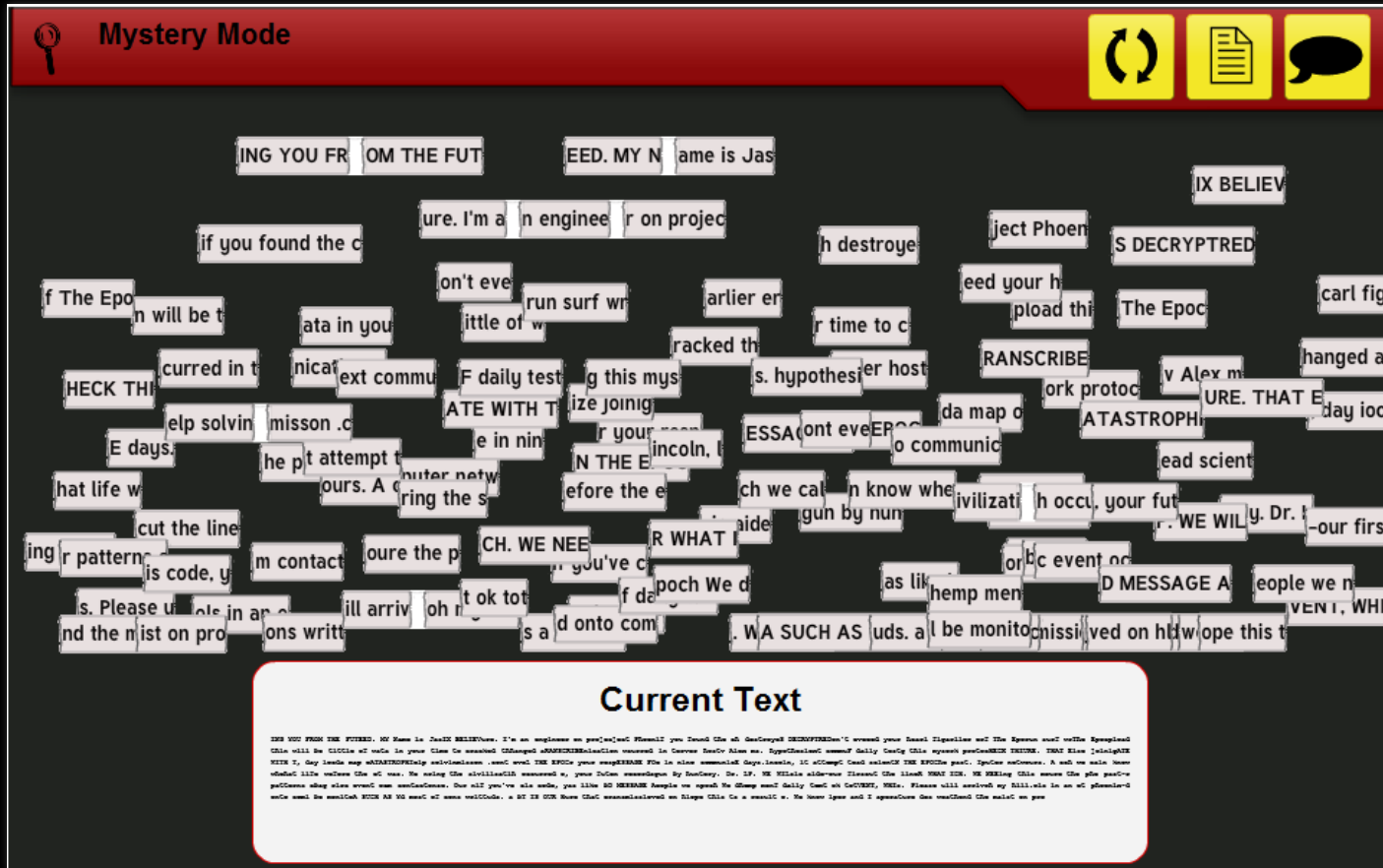
[Upload your data >>](#)

Video Messages

. Em Svwe t
mxx r .we
-wcz nqza
e Aszpyti-
rf jmgur
ifm ch uh y
,csyvjyx

“Overall, seems to me like this will be a very hard puzzle for 11-year-olds to figure out by themselves; they will probably need at least some help. (Having said that, now watch a bunch of them solve it in two minutes, as I take my Harvard PhD and slink away in shame...)”

Require Distributed Intelligence



Require Distributed Intelligence



Amphibian



Require Distributed Intelligence



Treat Players with Reverence

Live from the Lab



Kari Bruwelheide (DC)

Vanished!

vanished

Chat (Q & A)

demyx4ever: so do anthropologists also help with forensic crime investigations?

d-man1182: Isn't an anthropologist some one who studies bones, because I watched some of this persons videos and they had a lot to do with bones.

superchicken: what do u do at the smithsonian

To:

FORENSIC LECTURE

Body Location and Recovery

- A grid is established

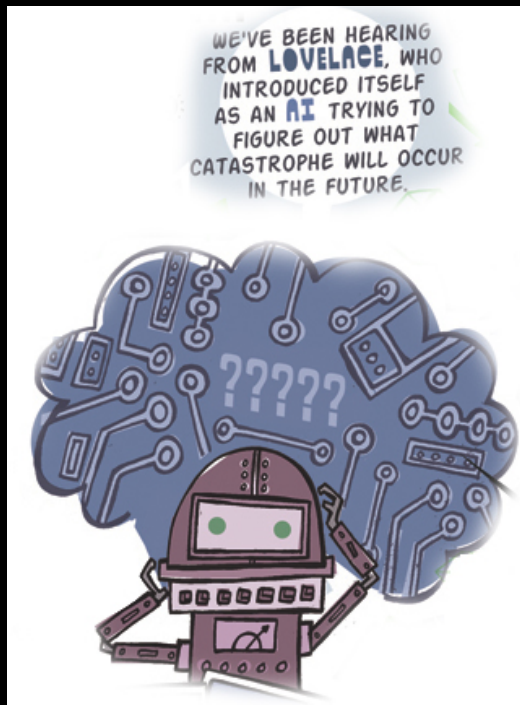


Closed Captioning Pod

THE LIFE HISTORY OF A PERSON.
WHEN A BODY IS FOUND EITHER
CURRENT IN A FORENSIC CONTEXT OR

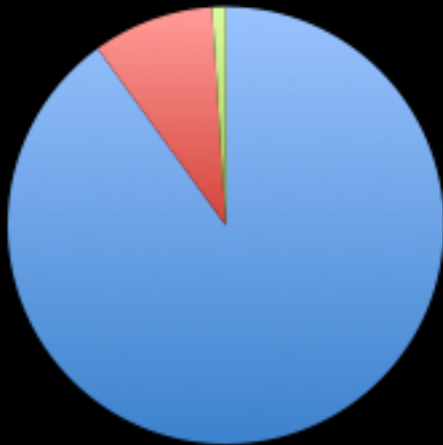


Let Players Break Your World

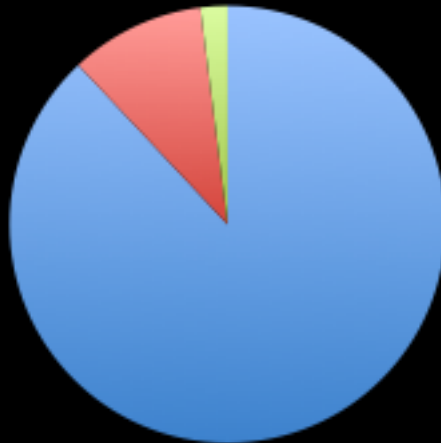


Did it Work?

Wikipedia



Evoke



Vanished



■ Consumers
■ Moderate Contributors
■ Heavy Contributors

Did it work?



Image credit: FlyingNarwhal

Did it work?



Image Credit: FlyingNarwhal

Did it work?

The nearest base to you is the newly built Vanished building in Boston, MA. It is the central building in the New England area. A grin crept across Kudou's face. It wouldn't be a problem getting to the base. Boston was an hour away, but they needed to get some miso and fish at Ebisuya. He could probably get some soda candy too. But even if this was probably safe, he started packing the usual in the shoulder sheath, with a few additions. It never hurt to be cautious.

The computer at the Vanished international base located in the back of the Museum of Natural History in D.C. beeped. "Oh my, not again." The lead Investigator said walking over to the terminal. "What have you sent us this time?" A single sentence lit up the screen, it was a picture of what looked like a pine tree and the word, 'HELP'.

Addison was sitting on the couch reading a book. her parents were at work, and her sister at a friends, so her & her dog had the house to themselves. when the mail truck went by, the dog started barking through the window, so addison got up to shut the curtains when she noticed a letter had fallen out of the mailbox. she looked at the dark clouds overhead and decided to go out & pick it up.

Credit: Vanished GoogleGroup

What About Harder-to-Reach Kids?

From a teacher of at-risk 7th-Graders:

“My students learned how to work together to solve problems they knew nothing about to start with. They learned how to assimilate knowledge and then apply what they had learned. They learned how science really works! I had one student...who even became very involved in cracking the codes using all sorts of different methods. Every day he would come into class thrilled to tell me what he decoded and how he did it. I overheard a few student mention that they now want to be scientists when they grow up.”

Just How Smart Are They?



Thank you!

Designers: J. Haas, D. Tenneson, C. Feeley, S. Osterweil

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Educationarcade.org