



the PbeM Fantasy Strategy Game

## **Rules for Arno's Atlantis 4.1.0**

**Based on Atlantis v4.1.0**

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**Based on Russell Wallace's Draft Rules**

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Note: This document is subject to change, as errors are found and corrected, and rules sometimes change. Be sure you have the latest available copy.

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# Introduction

## Playing Atlantis

Atlantis (as you undoubtedly already know) is a play by email game. When you sign up for Atlantis, you will be sent a turn report (via email). Your report completely details your position in the game. After going over this report, and possibly communicating with other players in the game, you determine your course of action, and create a file of "orders", which you then send back to the Atlantis server. Then, at a regular interval (often one week), Atlantis collects all the orders, runs another turn (covering one month in game time), and sends all the players another report.

### Factions:

A player's position is called a "faction". Each faction has a name and a number (the number is assigned by the computer, and used for entering orders). Each player is allowed to play one and ONLY one faction at any given time. Each faction is composed of a number of "units", each unit being a group of one or more people loyal to the faction. You start the game with a single unit consisting of one character, plus a sum of money. More people can be hired during the course of the game, and formed into more units. (In these rules, the word "character" generally refers either to a unit consisting of only one person, or to a person within a larger unit.)

A faction is considered destroyed, and the player knocked out of the game, if ever all its people are killed or disbanded (i.e. the faction has no units left). The program does not consider your starting character to be special; if your starting character gets killed, you will probably have been thinking of that character as the leader of your faction, so some other character can be regarded as having taken the dead leader's place (assuming of course that you have at least one surviving unit!). As far as the computer is concerned, as long as any unit of the faction survives, the faction is not wiped out. (If your faction is wiped out, you can rejoin the game with a new starting character.)

Each faction has a type; this is decided by the player, and determines what the faction may do. The faction has 4 Faction Points, which may be spent on any of the 3 Faction Areas, War, Trade, and Magic. The faction type may be changed at the beginning of each turn, so a faction can change and adapt to the conditions around it. Faction Points spent on War determine the number of regions in which factions can obtain income by taxing or pillaging. Faction Points spent on Trade determine the number of regions in which a faction may conduct trade activity. Trade activity includes producing goods, building ships and buildings, and buying trade items. Faction Points spent on Magic determines the number of mages and apprentices the faction may have. (More information on all of the faction activities is in further sections of the rules). Here is a chart detailing the limits on factions by Faction Points.

Faction Points	War (max tax regions)	Trade (max trade regions)	Magic (max mages/apprentices)
0	0	0	3/6
1	8	8	3/6
2	20	20	3/6
3	28	28	3/6
4	28	28	3/6

For example, a well rounded faction might spend 1 point on War, 1 point on Trade, and 2 points on Magic. This faction's type would appear as "War 1 Trade 1 Magic 2", and would be able to tax 8 regions, perform trade in 8 regions, and have 3 mages as well as 6 apprentices.

As another example, a specialized faction might spend all 4 points on War. This faction's type would appear as "War 4", and it would be able to tax 28 regions, but could not perform trade in any regions, could only possess 3 mages, and could only possess 6 apprentices.

Note that it is possible to have a faction type with less than 4 points spent. In fact, a starting faction has one point spent on each of War, Trade, and Magic, leaving 1 point unspent.

When a faction starts the game, it is given a one-man unit and 5020 silver in unclaimed money. Unclaimed money is cash that your whole faction has access to, but cannot be taken away in battle (silver in a unit's possessions can be taken in battle). This allows a faction to get started without presenting an enticing target for other factions. Units in your faction may use the [CLAIM](#) order to take this silver, and use it to buy goods or recruit men, or use the [WITHDRAW](#) order to withdraw goods directly.

An example faction is shown below, consisting of a starting character, Merlin the Magician, who has formed two more units, Merlin's Guards and Merlin's Workers. Each unit is assigned a unit number by the computer (completely independent of the faction number); this is used for entering orders. Here, the player has chosen to give his faction the same name ("Merlin the Magician") as his starting character. Alternatively, you can call your faction something like "The Great Northern Mining Company" or whatever.

- \* Merlin the Magician (17), Merlin (27), leader [LEAD]. Skills: none.
- \* Merlin's Guards (33), Merlin (27), 20 vikings [VIKI], 20 swords [SWOR]. Skills: none.
- \* Merlin's Workers (34), Merlin (27), 50 vikings [VIKI]. Skills: none.

## Units:

A unit is a grouping together of people, all loyal to the same faction. The people in a unit share skills and possessions, and execute the same orders each month. The reason for having units of many people, rather than keeping track of individuals, is to simplify the game play. The computer does not keep track of individual names, possessions, or skills for people in the same unit, and all the people in a particular unit must be in the same place at all times. If you want to send people in the same unit to different places, you must split up the unit. Apart from this, there is no difference between having one unit of 50 people, or 50 units of one person each, except that the former is very much easier to handle.

There are different races that make up the population of Atlantis. (See the section on skills for a list of these.) In addition, there are "leaders", who are presumed to be of one of the other races, but are all the same in game terms. Units made up of normal people may only know one skill, and cannot teach other units. Units made up of leaders may know as many skills as desired, and may teach other units to speed the learning process. Leaders and normal people may not be mixed in the same unit. However, leaders are more expensive to recruit and maintain. (More information is in the section on skills.) A unit is treated as the least common denominator of the people within it, so a unit made up of two races with different strengths and weaknesses will have all the weaknesses, and none of the strengths of either race.

## Turns:

Each turn, the Atlantis server takes the orders file that you mailed to it, and assigns the orders to the respective units. All units in your faction are completely loyal to you, and will execute the orders to the best of their ability. If the unit does something unintended, it is generally because of incorrect orders; a unit will not purposefully betray you.

A turn is equal to one game month. A unit can do many actions at the start of the month, that only take a matter of hours, such as buying and selling commodities, or fighting an opposing faction. Each unit can also do exactly one action that takes up the entire month, such as harvesting resources or moving from one region to another. The orders which take an entire month are [ADVANCE](#), [BUILD](#), [ENTERTAIN](#), [MOVE](#), [PRODUCE](#), [SAIL](#), [STUDY](#) and [TEACH](#).

# The World

The Atlantis world is divided for game purposes into hexagonal regions. Each region has a name, and one of the following terrain types: Ocean, Plain, Forest, Mountain, Swamp, Jungle, Desert, or Tundra. (There may be other types of terrain to be discovered as the game progresses.) Regions can contain units belonging to players; they can also contain structures such as buildings and ships. Two units in the same region can normally interact, unless one of them is concealed in some way. Two units in different regions cannot normally interact. NOTE: Combat is an exception to this.

## Regions:

Here is a sample region, as it might appear on your turn report:

```
plain (172,110) in Turia, 500 peasants (nomads), $2500.
```

```
-----  
The weather was clear last month; it will be clear next month.
```

```
Wages: $15 (Max: $833).
```

```
Wanted: none.
```

```
For Sale: 50 nomads [NOMA] at $60, 10 leaders [LEAD] at $120.
```

```
Entertainment available: $125.
```

```
Products: 23 grain [GRAI], 37 horses [HORS].
```

Exits:

```
North : ocean (172,108) in Atlantis Ocean.
```

```
Northeast : ocean (173,109) in Atlantis Ocean.
```

```
Southeast : ocean (173,111) in Atlantis Ocean.
```

```
South : plain (172,112) in Turia.
```

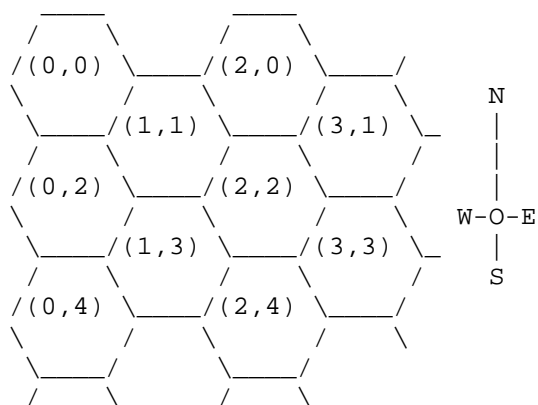
```
Southwest : plain (171,111) in Turia.
```

```
Northwest : plain (171,109) in Turia.
```

```
* Hans Shadowspawn (15), Merry Pranksters (14), leader [LEAD], 500  
silver [SILV]. Skills: none.  
- Vox Populi (13), leader [LEAD].
```

This report gives all of the available information on this region. The region type is plain, the name of the surrounding area is Turia, and the coordinates of this region are (172,110). The population of this region is 500 nomads, and there is \$2500 of taxable income currently in this region. Then, under the dashed line, are various details about items for sale, wages, etc. Finally, there is a list of all visible units. Units that belong to your faction will be so denoted by a '\*', whereas other faction's units are preceded by a '-'.

Since Atlantis is made up of hexagonal regions, the coordinate system is not always exactly intuitive. Here is the layout of Atlantis regions:



Note that there are "holes" in the coordinate system; there is no region (1,2), for instance. This is due to the hexagonal system of regions.

Most regions are similar to the region shown above, but there are certain exceptions. Oceans, not surprisingly, have no population. Some regions will contain villages, towns, and cities. More information on these is available in the section on the economy.

## Structures:

Regions may also contain structures, such as buildings or ships. These will appear directly below the list of units. Here is a sample structure:

```
+ Temple of Agrik [3] : Tower.  
- High Priest Chafin (9), leader [LEAD], sword [SWOR]  
- Rowing Doom (188), 10 nomads [NOMA], 10 swords [SWOR].
```

The structure lists the name, the number, and what type of structure it is. (More information of the types of structures can be found in the section on the economy.) Following this is a list of units inside the structure. Units within a structure are always visible, even if they would otherwise not be seen.

Units inside structures are still considered to be in the region, and other units can interact with them; however, they may gain benefits, such as defensive bonuses in combat from being inside a building. The first unit to enter an object is considered to be the owner; only this unit can do things such as renaming the object, or permitting other units to enter. The owner of an object can be identified on the turn report, as it is the first unit listed under the object. Only units with men in them can be structure owners, so newly created units cannot own a structure until they contain men.

## Atlantis Nexus:

Note: the following section contains some details that you may wish to skip over until you have had a chance to read the rest of the rules, and understand the mechanics of Atlantis. However, be sure to read this section before playing, as it will affect your early plans in Atlantis.

When a faction first starts in Atlantis, it begins with one unit, in a special region called the Atlantis Nexus. This region exists outside of the normal world of Atlantis, and as such has no products or marketplaces; it merely serves as the magical entry into Atlantis.

From the Atlantis Nexus, there are six exits into the starting cities of Atlantis. Units may move through these exits as normal, but once through an exit, there is no return path to the Nexus. It is also possible to use Gate Lore to get out of Nexus (but not to return). The six starting cities offer much to a starting faction; there are materials as well as a very large supply of men (though the prices are often quite high). In addition, the starting cities are guarded by strong guardsmen, keeping any units within the city much safer from attack. See the section on Non-Player Units for more information on city guardsmen. As a drawback, these cities tend to be extremely crowded, and most factions will wish to leave the starting cities when possible.

It is always possible to enter any starting city from the nexus, even if that starting city has been taken over and guarded by another faction. This is due to the transportation from the Nexus to the starting city being magical in nature. Once in the starting city however, no guarantee of safety is given.

There are three methods of departing the starting cities. The first is by land, but keep in mind that the lands immediately surrounding the starting cities will tend to be highly populated, and possibly quite dangerous to travel. The second is by sea; all of the starting cities lie against an ocean, and a faction may easily purchase wood and construct a ship to [SAIL](#) away. Be wary of pirates seeking to prey on new factions, however! And last, rumors of a magical Gate Lore suggest yet another way to travel from the starting cities. The rumors are vague, but factions wishing to travel far from the starting cities, taking only a few men with them, might wish to pursue this method.

# Movement

There are two main methods of movement in Atlantis. The first is done using the [MOVE](#) order (or the [ADVANCE](#) order), and moves units individually from one region to another. The other method is done using the [SAIL](#) order, which can sail a ship, including all of its occupants from one region to another. Certain powerful mages may also teleport themselves, or even other units, but the knowledge of the workings of this magic is carefully guarded.

## Normal Movement:

In one month, a unit can issue a single [MOVE](#) order, using one or more of its movement points. There are three modes of travel: walking, riding and flying. Walking units have two movement points, riding units have four, and flying units have six. A unit will automatically use the fastest mode of travel it has available. The [ADVANCE](#) order is the same as [MOVE](#), except that it implies attacks on units which try to forbid access; see the section on combat for details.

Flying units are not initially available to starting players. A unit can ride provided that the carrying capacity of its horses is at least as great as the weight of its people and all other items. A unit can walk provided that the carrying capacity of its people, horses, and wagons is at least as great as the weight of all its other items, and provided that it has at least as many horses as wagons (otherwise the excess wagons count as weight, not capacity). Otherwise the unit cannot issue a [MOVE](#) order. Most people weigh 10 units and have a capacity of 5 units; data for items is as follows:

	Weight	Capacity
silver	0	
grain	5	
livestock	50	0
iron	5	
wood	5	
stone	50	
fur	1	
fish	1	
herb	0	
horse	50	20
sword	1	
crossbow	1	
longbow	1	
chain armor	1	
plate armor	3	
wagon	50	200 (with horse)
pick	1	
spear	1	
axe	1	
hammer	1	
net	1	
lasso	1	
bag	1	
spinning wheel	1	
leather armor	1	
cloth armor	1	
battle axe	2	
camel	50	20
rough gem	2	
quarterstaff	1	

A unit which can fly, is capable of travelling over water. However, if the unit ends its turn over a water hex that unit will drown.

Since regions are hexagonal, each region has six neighbouring regions to the north, northeast, southeast, south, southwest and northwest. Moving from one region to another normally takes one movement point, except that the following terrain types take two movement points for riding or walking units to enter: Forest, Mountain, Swamp, Jungle, and Tundra. Also, during certain seasons (depending on the latitude of the region), all units (including flying ones) have a harder time and travel will take twice as many movement points as normal, as freezing weather makes travel difficult; in the tropics, seasonal hurricane winds and torrential rains have a similar effect. Units may not move through ocean regions without using the [SAIL](#) order unless they are capable of flight, and even then, flying units must end their movement on land or else drown.

Units may also enter or exit structures while moving. Moving into or out of a structure does not use any movement points at all. Note that a unit can also use the [ENTER](#) and [LEAVE](#) orders to move in and out of structures, without issuing a [MOVE](#) order. The unit can also use the [MOVE](#) order to enter or leave a structure.

Finally, certain structures contain interior passages to other regions. The [MOVE IN](#) order can be used to go through these passages; the movement point cost is equal to the normal cost to enter the destination region.

Example: One man with a horse, sword, and chain mail wants to move north, then northeast. The capacity of the horse is 20 and the weight of the man and other items is 12, so he can ride. The month is April, so he has four movement points. He issues the order MOVE NORth NORthEAST. First he moves north, into a plain region. This uses one movement point. Then he moves northeast, into a forest region. This uses two movement points, so the movement is completed with one to spare.

## Sailing:

Movement by sea is in some ways similar. It does not use the [MOVE](#) order however. Instead, the owner of a ship must issue the [SAIL](#) order, and other units wishing to help sail the ship must also issue the [SAIL](#) order. The ship will then, if possible, make the indicated movement, carrying all units on the ship with it. Units on board the ship, but not aiding in the sailing of the ship, may execute other orders while the ship is sailing. A unit which does not wish to travel with the ship should leave the ship in a coastal region, before the [SAIL](#) order is processed. (A coastal region is defined as a non-ocean region with at least one adjacent ocean region.)

Note that a unit on board a ship while it is sailing may not [MOVE](#) later in the turn, even if he doesn't issue the [SAIL](#) order; sailing is considered to take the whole month. Also, units may not remain on guard while on board a sailing ship; they will have to reissue the [GUARD](#) 1 order to guard a region after sailing.

Ships get four movement points per turn. A ship can move from an ocean region to another ocean region, or from a coastal region to an ocean region, or from an ocean region to a coastal region. Ships can only be constructed in coastal regions. For a ship to enter any region only costs one movement point; the cost of two movement points for entering, say, a forest coastal region, does not apply. Ships do, however, only get half movement points during the winter months (or monsoon months in the tropical latitudes).

A ship can only move if the total weight of everything aboard does not exceed the ship's capacity. (The rules do not prevent an overloaded ship from staying afloat, only from moving.) Also, there must be enough sailors aboard (using the [SAIL](#) order), to sail the ship, or it will not go anywhere. Note that the sailing skill increases the usefulness of a unit proportionally; thus, a 1 man unit with level 5 sailing skill can sail a longboat alone. (See the section on skills for further details on skills.) The capacities (and costs in labor units) of the various basic ship types are as follows:

	Capacity	Cost	Sailors
Longboat	200	25	5
Clipper	800	50	10
Galleon	1800	75	15



## Order of Movement:

This section is probably unimportant to beginning players, but it can be helpful for more experienced players.

Normal movement in Atlantis, meaning [ADVANCE](#) and [MOVE](#) orders, is processed one hex of movement at a time, region by region. So, Atlantis cycles through all of the regions; for each region, it finds any units that wish to move, and moves them (if they can move) one hex (and only one hex). After processing one such region, it initiates any battles that take place due to these movements, and then moves on to the next region. After it has gone through all of the regions, you will note that units have only moved one hex, so it goes back and does the whole process again, except this time moving units their second hex (if they have enough movement points left). This continues until no units can move anymore.

Sailing is handled differently; Atlantis cycles through all of the ships in Atlantis, moving them one at a time. When Atlantis sails a ship, it sails it through its entire course, either to the end, or until the ship enters a hex guarded against some unit on the ship, and then moves onto the next ship.

Note that in either case, the order in which the regions are processed is undefined by the rules. The computer generally does them in the same order every time, but it is up to the wiles of the player to determine (or not) these patterns. The order in which units or ships are moved within a region is the order that they appear on a turn report.

## Skills

The most important thing distinguishing one character from another in Atlantis is skills. The following skills are available: mining, lumberjack, quarrying, hunting, fishing, herb lore, horse training, weaponsmith, armorer, carpenter, building, shipbuilding, entertainment, tactics, combat, riding, crossbow, longbow, stealth, observation, healing, sailing, farming, ranching, camel training, gemcutting, and monster training. When a unit possesses a skill, he also has a skill level to go with it. Generally, the effectiveness of a skill is directly proportional to the skill level involved, so a unit with level 2 in a skill is twice as good as a unit with level 1 in the same skill.

## Limitations:

A unit made up of leaders may know one or more skills; for the rest of this section, the word "leader" will refer to such a unit. Other units, those which contain non-leaders, will be referred to as normal units. A normal unit may only know one skill.

Skills may be learned up to a maximum level depending on the race of the studying unit (remembering that for units containing more than one race, the maximum is determined by the least common denominator). Every race has a normal maximum skill level, and a list of skills that they specialize in, and can learn up to higher level. Leaders, being more powerful, can learn skills to even higher levels. Here is a list of the races (including leaders) and the information on normal skill levels and specialized skills.

Race/Type	Specilized Skills	Max Level	Max Level
leaders	None.	--	5
vikings	shipbuilding, sailing, lumberjack, combat	3	2
barbarians	mining, hunting, weaponsmith, combat	3	2
plainsmen	horse training, farming, carpenter, entertainment	3	2
eskimos	herb lore, fishing, hunting, healing	3	2
nomads	horse training, ranching, crossbow, camel training	3	2
tribesmen	herb lore, healing, farming, lumberjack	3	2
darkmen	quarrying, building, mining, armorer	3	2
wood elves	lumberjack, carpenter, longbow, entertainment	3	2
sea elves	shipbuilding, sailing, fishing, longbow	3	2
high elves	healing, farming, entertainment, horse training	3	2
tribal elves	herb lore, healing, ranching, longbow	3	2
ice dwarves	fishing, building, crossbow, shipbuilding	3	2
hill dwarves	mining, weaponsmith, armorer, combat	3	2
under dwarves	mining, quarrying, crossbow, armorer	3	2
desert dwarves	quarrying, building, armorer, crossbow	3	2
orcs	combat	4	1

If units are merged together, their skills are averaged out. No rounding off is done; rather, the computer keeps track for each unit of how many total months of training that unit has in each skill. When units are split up, these months are divided as evenly as possible among the people in the unit; but no months are ever lost.

## Studying:

For a unit to gain level 1 of a skill, they must gain one month's worth of training in that skill. To raise this skill level to 2, the unit must add an additional two months worth of training. Then, to raise this to skill level 3 requires another three months worth of training, and so forth. A month of training is gained when a unit uses the [STUDY](#) order. Note that study months do not need to be consecutive; for a unit to go from level 1 to level 2, he can study for a month, do something else for a month, and then go back and complete his second month of study. A unit can also increase its level of training by using a skill. This progress is much slower than studying. Only one skill can be improved through practice in any month; if multiple skills are used, only the first will be improved. A skill will only improve with practice if the unit has first studied the rudiments of the skill.

Most skills cost \$10 per person per month to study (in addition to normal maintenance costs). The exceptions are Stealth and Observation (both of which cost \$50), Magic skills (which cost \$100), and Tactics (which costs \$200).

## Teaching:

A unit with a teacher can learn up to twice as fast as normal. The [TEACH](#) order is used to spend the month teaching one or more other units (your own or another factions). The unit doing the teaching must have a skill level greater than the unit doing the studying. (Note: for all skill uses, it is skill level, not number of months of training, that counts. Thus, a unit with 1 month of training is effectively the same as a unit with 2 months of training, since both have a skill level of 1.) The units being taught simply issue the [STUDY](#) order normally (also, his faction must be declared Friendly by the teaching faction). Each person can only teach up to 10 students in a month; additional students dilute the training. Thus, if 1 teacher teaches 20 men, each man being taught will gain 1/2 months of training, not 2 months.

Note that it is quite possible for a single unit to teach two or more other units different skills in the same month, provided that the teacher has a higher skill level than each student in the skill that that student is studying, and that there are no more than 10 students per teacher.

Note: Only leaders may use the [TEACH](#) order.

## Skill Reports:

When a faction learns a new skill level for the first time, it will be given a report on special abilities that a unit with this skill level has. This report can be shown again at any time (once a faction knows the skill), using the **SHOW** order. For example, when a faction learned the skill Shoemaking level 3 for the first time, it might receive the following (obviously farsical) report:

```
Shoemaking [SHOE] 3: A unit with this skill may PRODUCE Sooper Dooper  
Air Max Winged Sandals.
```

# The Economy

The unit of currency in Atlantis is the silver piece. Silver is a normal item, with zero weight, appearing in your unit's reports. Silver is used for such things as buying items, and unit's maintenance.

## Maintenance Costs:

**IMPORTANT:** Each and every character in Atlantis requires a maintenance fee each month. Anyone who ends the month without this maintenance cost has a 33 percent chance of starving to death. It is up to you to make sure that your people have enough money available. Money will be shared automatically between your units in the same region, if one is starving and another has more than enough; but this will not happen between units in different regions (this sharing of money applies only for maintenance costs, and does not occur for other purposes). If you have silver in your unclaimed fund, then that silver will be automatically claimed by units that would otherwise starve. Lastly, if a faction is allied to yours, their units will provide surplus cash to your units for maintenance, as a last resort.

This fee is generally 10 silver for a normal character, and 20 silver for a leader. Units may substitute one unit of grain, livestock, or fish for each 10 silver of maintenance owed. A unit may use the [CONSUME](#) order to specify that it wishes to use food items in preference to silver. Note that these items are worth more when sold in towns, so selling them and using the money is more economical than using them for maintenance.

## Recruiting:

People may be recruited in a region. The total amount of recruits available per month in a region, and the amount that must be paid per person recruited, are shown in the region description. The [BUY](#) order is used to recruit new people. New recruits will not have any skills or items. Note that the process of recruiting a new unit is somewhat counterintuitive; it is necessary to [FORM](#) an empty unit, [GIVE](#) the empty unit some money, and have it [BUY](#) people; see the description of the [FORM](#) order for further details.

## Items:

A unit may have a number of possessions, referred to as "items". Some details were given above in the section on Movement, but many things were left out. Here is a table giving some information about common items in Atlantis:

	Skill (min level)	Material	Production	Weight	Extra Information
silver				0	
grain	farming (1)		1 month	5	
livestock	ranching (1)		1 month	50 (0)	
iron	mining (1)		1 month	5	
wood	lumberjack (1)		1 month	5	
stone	quarrying (1)		1 month	50	
fur	hunting (1)		1 month	1	
fish	fishing (1)		1 month	1	
herb	herb lore (1)		1 month	0	
horse	horse training (1)		1 month	50 (20)	Gives a riding bonus with the riding skill.
sword	weaponsmith (1)	1 iron	1 month	1	Weapon which gives +2 on attack and +2 on defense.
crossbow	weaponsmith (1)	1 wood	1 month	1	Ranged weapon which gives +0 on attack and +0 on
longbow	weaponsmith (1)	1 wood	1 month	1	Ranged weapon which gives -2 on attack and +0 on
chain armor	armorer (1)	1 iron	1 month	1	Gives a 100 in 300 chance to survive a normal hit.
plate armor	armorer (3)	3 iron	3 months	3	Gives a 200 in 300 chance to survive a normal hit.
wagon	carpenter (1)	1 wood	1 month	50	
pick	weaponsmith (1)	1 iron	1 month	1	Weapon which gives +1 on attack and +1 on defense.
spear	weaponsmith (1)	1 wood	1 month	1	Weapon which gives +1 on attack and +1 on defense.
axe	weaponsmith (1)	1 wood	1 month	1	Weapon which gives +1 on attack and +1 on defense.
hammer	weaponsmith (1)	1 iron	1 month	1	Weapon which gives +1 on attack and +1 on defense.
net	fishing (1)	1 herb	1 month	1	+2 bonus when producing fish.
lasso	herb lore (1)	1 herb	1 month	1	+1 bonus when producing livestock.
bag	herb lore (1)	1 herb	1 month	1	+2 bonus when producing grain.
spinning wheel	carpenter (1)	1 wood	1 month	1	+2 bonus when producing nets.
leather armor	armorer (1)	1 fur	1 month	1	Gives a 25 in 100 chance to survive a normal hit.
cloth armor	armorer (1)	1 herb	1 month	1	Gives a 1 in 6 chance to survive a normal hit.
battle axe	weaponsmith (2)	1 iron,	2 months	2	Weapon which gives +4 on attack and +4 on defense.
camel	camel training (1)		1 month	50 (20)	Gives a riding bonus with the riding skill.
rough gem	mining (2)		1 month	2	
quarterstaff	weaponsmith (1)	1 wood	1 month	1	Weapon which gives +1 on attack and +3 on defense.

All items except silver and trade goods are produced with the [PRODUCE](#) order. Example: PRODUCE SWORDS will produce as many swords as possible during the month, provided that the unit has adequate supplies of iron and has the weaponsmith skill. Required skills and raw materials are in the table above.

If an item requires raw materials, then the specified amount of each material is consumed for each item produced. Thus to produce 5 longbows (a supply of arrows is assumed to be included with the bow), 5 units of wood are required. The higher ones skill, the more productive each man-month of work; thus, 5 longbows could be produced by a 5-man unit of skill 1, or a 1-man unit of skill 5. (Plate armor is an exception; a unit must have skill 3 to be able to produce it at all, and each man can only produce 1 plate armor per month. Plate armor also takes 3 units of iron to produce.) Only Trade factions can issue [PRODUCE](#) orders however, regardless of skill levels.

Items which increase production may increase production of advanced items in addition to the basic items listed. Some of them also increase production of other tools. Read the skill descriptions for details on which tools aid which production when not noted above.

If an item does not list a raw material it may be produced directly from the land. Each region generally has at least one item that can be produced there. Shown on the description of a region is a list of the items that can be produced, and the amount of each

that can be produced per month. This amount depends on the region type. It also varies from region to region of the same type. If the units in a region attempt to produce more of a commodity than can be produced that month, then the amount available is distributed among the producers

## Villages, Towns, and Cities:

Some regions in Atlantis contain villages, towns, and cities. Villages add to the wages, population, and tax income of the region they are in. Also, villages will have an additional market for grain, livestock, and fish. As the village's demand for these goods is met, the population will increase. When the population reaches a certain threshold, the village will turn into a town. A town will have some additional products that it demands, in addition to what it previously wanted. Also a town will sell some new items as well. A town whose demands are being met will grow, and above another threshold it will become a full-blown city. A city will have additional markets for common items, and will also have markets for less common, more expensive trade items.

Trade items are bought and sold only by cities, and have no other practical uses. However, the profit margins on these items are usually quite high. Buying of trade items in a region counts against a Trade faction's quota of regions in which it may undertake trade activity (note that buying and selling normal items does not, nor does selling of Trade items).

## Buildings and Trade Structures:

Construction of buildings and ships goes as follows: each unit of work on a building requires a unit of the required resource and a man-month of work by a character with the appropriate skill and level; higher skill levels allow work proceed faster still using one unit of the required resource per unit of work done). Again, only Trade factions can issue [BUILD](#) orders. Here is a table of the various building types:

	Size	Cost	Material	Skill (min level)
Tower	10	10	stone	building (1)
Fort	50	40	stone	building (2)
Castle	250	160	stone	building (3)
Citadel	1250	640	stone	building (3)
Stockade	50	60	wood	building (1)

Size is the number of people that the building can shelter. Cost is both the number of man-months of labor and the number of units of material required to complete the building. There are possibly other buildings which can be built that require more advanced resources, or odd skills to construct. The description of a skill will include any buildings which it allows to be built.

There are other structures that increase the maximum production of certain items in regions; for example, a Mine will increase the amount of iron that is available to be mined in a region. To construct these structures requires a high skill level in the production skill related to the item that the structure will help produce. (Inns are an exception to this rule, requiring the Building skill, not the Entertainment skill.) This bonus in production is available to any unit in the region; there is no need to be inside the structure.

The first structure built in a region will increase the maximum production of the related product by 25%; the amount added by each additional structure will be half of the the effect of the previous one. (Note that if you build enough of the same type of structure in a region, the new structures may not add any to the production level).

	Cost	Material	Skill (level)	Production Aided
Mine	10	wood or stone	mining (3)	iron
Farm	10	wood or stone	farming (3)	grain
Ranch	10	wood or stone	ranching (3)	livestock
Timber Yard	10	wood or stone	lumberjack (3)	wood
Inn	10	wood or stone	building (3)	entertainment
Quarry	10	wood or stone	quarrying (3)	stone
Temple	10	stone	building (3)	herbs
Trapping Hut	10	wood or stone	hunting (3)	furs
Stables	10	wood or stone	horse training (3)	horses
Oasis	10	wood or stone	camel training (3)	camels
Gem Appraiser	10	wood or stone	mining (3)	rough gems

Note that these structures will not increase the availability of an item in a region which does not already have that item available. Also, Trade structures do not offer defensive bonuses (which is why they do not have a size associated with them). As with regular buildings, the Cost is the number of man-months of labor and also the number of units of raw material required to complete the structure. You can use two different materials (wood or stone) to construct most trade structures. It is possible that there are structures not listed above which require either advanced resources to build or which increase the production of advanced resources. The skill description for a skill will always note if new structures may be built based on knowing that skill.

## Roads:

There is another type of structure called roads. They do not protect units, nor aid in the production of resources, but do aid movement, and can improve the economy of a hex.

Roads are directional and are only considered to reach from one hexside to the center of the hex. To gain a movement bonus, there must be two connecting roads, one in each adjacent hex. Only one road may be built in each direction. If a road in the given direction is connected, units move along that road at half cost to a minimum of 1 movement point.

For example: If a unit is moving northwest, then hex it is in must have a northwest road, and the hex it is moving into must have a southeast road.

To gain an economy bonus, a hex must have roads that connect to roads in at least two adjoining hexes. The economy bonus for the connected roads raises the wages in the region by 1 point.

	Cost	Material	Skill (min level)
Road N	30	stone	building (3)
Road NW	30	stone	building (3)
Road NE	30	stone	building (3)
Road SW	30	stone	building (3)
Road SE	30	stone	building (3)
Road S	30	stone	building (3)

## Ships:

Ships are constructed similarly to buildings, except they tend to be constructed out of wood, not stone, and their construction tends to depend on the Shipbuilding skill, not the Building skill. Only faction with at least one faction point spent on trade can issue [BUILD](#) orders. Here is a table on the various ship types:

	Capacity	Cost	Material	Sailors
Longboat	200	25	wood	5
Clipper	800	50	wood	10
Galleon	1800	75	wood	15

The capacity of a ship is the maximum weight that the ship may have aboard and still move. The cost is both the man-months of labor and the number of units of material required to complete the ship. The sailors are the number of skill levels of the Sailing skill that must be aboard the ship (and issuing the [SAIL](#) order in order for the ship to sail).

## Advanced Items:

There are also certain advanced items that highly skilled units can produce. These are not available to starting players, but can be discovered through study. When a unit is skilled enough to produce one of these items, he will receive a skill report describing the production of this item. Production of advanced items is generally done in a manner similar to the normal items.

## Income:

## Entertainment:

Units with the Entertainment skill can use it to earn money. A unit with Entertainment level 1 will earn 20 silver per man by issuing the [ENTERTAIN](#) order. The total amount of money that can be earned this way is shown in the region descriptions. Higher levels of Entertainment skill can earn more, so a character with Entertainment skill 2 can earn twice as much money as one with skill 1 (and uses twice as much of the demand for entertainment in the region). Note that entertainment income is much less, per region, than the income available through taxing. All factions may have entertainers, regardless of faction type.

## Taxing/Pillaging:

War factions may collect taxes in a region. This is done using the [TAX](#) order (which is not a full month order). The amount of tax money that can be collected each month in a region is shown in the region description. A unit may [TAX](#) if it has Combat skill of at least level 1 or has Combat skill of at least level 1 and a weapon which does not require any skill, Riding skill of at least level 1 and a weapon which requires riding skill or a Bow (Longbow or Crossbow) skill and a weapon which requires that skill. Each taxing character can collect \$35, though if the number of taxers would tax more than the available tax income, the tax income is split evenly among all taxers. In addition taxers can increase their tax income by certain conditions.

War factions may also pillage a region. To do this requires the faction to have enough combat ready men in the region to tax half of the available money in the region. The total amount of money that can be pillaged will then be shared out between every combat ready unit that issues the [PILLAGE](#) order. The amount of money collected is equal to twice the available tax money. However, the economy of the region will be seriously damaged by pillaging, and will only slowly recover over time. Note that [PILLAGE](#) comes before [TAX](#), so a unit performing [TAX](#) will collect no money in that region that month.

It is possible to safeguard one's tax income in regions one controls. Units which have the Guard flag set (using the [GUARD](#) order) will block [TAX](#) orders issued by other factions in the same region, unless you have declared the faction in question Friendly. Units on guard will also block [PILLAGE](#) orders issued by other factions in the same region, regardless of your attitude towards the faction in question, and they will attempt to prevent Unfriendly units from entering the region. Only units which are able to tax may be on guard. Units on guard are always visible regardless of Stealth skill, and will be marked as being "on guard" in the region description.

## Combat

Combat occurs when one unit attacks another. The computer then gathers together all the units on the attacking side, and all the units on the defending side, and the two sides fight until an outcome is reached.

## Attitudes:

Which side a faction's units will fight on depends on declared attitudes. A faction can have one of the following attitudes towards another faction: Ally, Friendly, Neutral, Unfriendly or Hostile. Each faction has a general attitude, called the "Default Attitude", that it normally takes towards other factions; this is initially Neutral, but can be changed. It is also possible to [DECLARE](#) attitudes to specific factions, e.g. [DECLARE](#) 27 ALLY will declare the Ally attitude to faction 27. (Note that this does not necessarily mean that faction 27 has decided to treat you as an ally.)

Ally means that you will fight to defend units of that faction whenever they come under attack, if you have non-avoiding units in the region where the attack occurs. You will also attempt to prevent any theft or assassination attempts against units of the faction, if you are capable of seeing the unit which is attempting the crime. It also has the implications of the Friendly attitude.

Friendly means that you will accept gifts from units of that faction. This includes the giving of items, units of people, and the teaching of skills. You will also admit units of that faction into buildings or ships owned by one of your units, and you will permit units of that faction to collect taxes (but not pillage) in regions where you have units on guard.

Unfriendly means that you will not admit units of that faction into any region where you have units on guard. You will not, however, automatically attack unfriendly units which are already present.

Hostile means that any of your units which do not have the Avoid Combat flag set (using the [AVOID](#) order) will attack any units of that faction wherever they find them.

If a unit can see another unit, but does not have high enough Observation skill to determine its faction, it will treat the unit using the faction's default attitude, even if the unit belongs to an Unfriendly or Hostile faction, because it does not know the unit's identity. However, if your faction has declared an attitude of Friendly or Ally towards that unit's faction, the unit will be treated with the better attitude; it is assumed that the unit will produce proof of identity when relevant. (See the section on stealth for more information on when units can see each other.)

If a faction declares Unfriendly or Hostile as default attitude (the latter is a good way to die fast), it will block or attack all unidentified units, unless they belong to factions for which a Friendly or Ally attitude has been specifically declared. Units which cannot be seen at all cannot be directly blocked or attacked, of course.

## **Attacking:**

A unit can attack another by issuing an [ATTACK](#) order. A unit that does not have Avoid Combat set will automatically attack any Hostile units it identifies as such. When a unit issues the [ATTACK](#) order, or otherwise decides to attack another unit, it must first be able to attack the unit. There are two conditions for this; the first is that the attacking unit must be able to see the unit that it wishes to attack. More information is available on this in the stealth section of the rules.

Secondly, the attacking unit must be able to catch the unit it wishes to attack. A unit may only catch a unit if its effective Riding skill is greater than or equal to the target unit's effective Riding skill; otherwise, the target unit just rides away from the attacking unit. Effective Riding is the unit's Riding skill, but with a potential maximum; if the unit can not ride, the effective Riding skill is 0; if the unit can ride, the maximum effective Riding is 3; if the unit can fly, the maximum effective Riding is 5. Note that the effective Riding also depends on whether the unit is attempting to attack or defend; for attack purposes, only one man in the unit needs to be able to ride or fly (generally, this means one of the men must possess a horse, or other form of transportation), whereas for defense purposes the entire unit needs to be able to ride or fly (usually meaning that every man in the unit must possess a horse or other form of speedier transportation). Also, note that for a unit to be able to use its defensive Riding ability to avoid attack, the unit cannot be in a building, ship, or structure of any type.

A unit which is on guard, and is Unfriendly towards a unit, will deny access to units using the [MOVE](#) order to enter its region. Note that to deny access to a unit, at least one unit from the same faction as the unit guarding the hex must satisfy the above requirements. A unit using [ADVANCE](#) instead of [MOVE](#) to enter a region, will attack any units that attempt to deny it access. If the advancing unit loses the battle, it will be forced to retreat to the previous region it moved through. If the unit wins the battle and its army doesn't lose any men, it is allowed to continue to move, provided that it has enough movement points.

Note that these restrictions do not apply for sea combat, as units within a ship are always visible, and Riding does not play a part in combat on board ships.

## **The Muster:**

Once the attack has been made, the sides are gathered. Although the [ATTACK](#) order takes a unit rather than a faction as its parameter (mainly so that unidentified units can be attacked), an attack is basically considered to be by an entire faction, against an entire faction and its allies.

On the attacking side are all units of the attacking faction in the region where the fight is taking place, except those with Avoid Combat set. A unit which has explicitly (or implicitly via [ADVANCE](#)) issued an [ATTACK](#) order will join the fight anyway, regardless of whether Avoid Combat is set.

Also on the attacking side are all units of other factions that attacked the target faction (implicitly or explicitly) in the region where the fight is taking place. In other words, if several factions attack one, then all their armies join together to attack at the same time (even if they are enemies and will later fight each other).

On the defending side are all identifiable units belonging to the defending faction. If a unit has Avoid Combat set and it belongs to the target faction, it will be uninvolved only if its faction cannot be identified by the attacking faction. A unit which was explicitly attacked will be involved anyway, regardless of Avoid Combat. (This means that Avoid Combat is mostly useful for high stealth scouts.) Also, all non-avoiding units located in the target region belonging to factions allied with the defending unit will join in on the defending side.

Units in adjacent regions can also become involved. This is the exception to the general rule that you cannot interact with units in a different region.



If a faction has at least one unit involved in the initial region, then any units in adjacent regions will join the fight, if they could reach the region and do not have Avoid Combat set. There are a few flags that units may set to affect this; a unit with the Hold flag (set using the [HOLD](#) order) will not join battles in adjacent regions. This flag applies to both attacking and defending factions. A unit with the Noaid flag (set using the [NOAID](#) order) will receive no aid from adjacent hexes when attacked, or when it issues an attack.

Example: A fight starts in region A, in the initial combat phase (before any movement has occurred). The defender has a unit of soldiers in adjacent region B. They have 2 movement points at this stage. They will buy horses later in the turn, so that when they execute their [MOVE](#) order they will have 4 movement points, but right now they have 2. Region A is forest, but fortunately it is summer, so the soldiers can join the fight.

It is important to note that the units in nearby regions do not actually move to the region where the fighting happens; the computer only checks that they could move there. (In game world terms, presumably they did move there to join the fight, and then moved back where they started.) The computer checks for weight allowances and terrain types when determining whether a unit could reach the scene of the battle. Note that the use of ships is not allowed in this virtual movement.

If you order an attack on an ally (either with the [ATTACK](#) order, or if your ally has declared you Unfriendly, by attempting to [ADVANCE](#) into a region which he is guarding), then your commander will decide that a mistake has occurred somewhere, and withdraw your troops from the fighting altogether. Thus, your units will not attack that faction in that region. Note that you will always defend an ally against attack, even if it means that you fight against other factions that you are allied with.

## The Battle:

The troops having lined up, the fight begins. The computer selects the best tactician from each side; that unit is regarded as the leader of its side. If two or more units on one side have the same Tactics skill, then the one with the lower unit number is regarded as the leader of that side. If one side's leader has a better Tactics skill than the other side's, then that side gets a free round of attacks.

In each combat round, the combatants each get to attack once, in a random order. (In a free round of attacks, only one side's forces get to attack.) Each combatant will attempt to hit a randomly selected enemy. If he hits, and the target has no armor, then the target is automatically killed. Armor may provide extra defense against otherwise successful attacks.

The basic skill used in battle is the Combat skill; this is used for hand to hand fighting. If one soldier tries to hit another using most weapons, there is a 50% chance that the attacker will get an opportunity for a lethal blow. If the attacker does get that opportunity, then there is a contest between his combat skill (modified by weapon attack bonus) and the defender's combat skill (modified by weapon defense bonus). Some weapons may not allow combat skill to affect defense (e.g. bows), and others may allow different skills to be used on defense (or offense).

If the skills are equal, then there is a 1:1 (i.e. 50%) chance that the attack will succeed. If the attacker's skill is 1 higher then there is a 2:1 (i.e. 66%) chance, if the attacker's skill is 2 higher then there is a 4:1 (i.e. 80%) chance, 3 higher means an 8:1 (i.e. 88%) chance, and so on. Similarly if the defender's skill is 1 higher, then there is only a 1:2 (i.e. 33%) chance, etc.

Possession of a sword confers a +2 bonus to Combat skill for attack and a +2 bonus for defense. Troops which are fighting hand-to-hand without specific weapons are assumed to be irregularly armed with makeshift weapons such as clubs, pitchforks, torches, etc. Possession of a horse, and Riding skill, also confers a bonus to effective Combat skill equal to the Riding skill level (up to a maximum of 3) provided that the terrain allows horses to be used in combat. Winged horse are better yet, but require more basic Riding skill to gain any advantage. Certain weapons may provide different attack and defense bonuses, or have additional attack bonuses against mounted opponents or other special characteristics. These bonuses will be listed in the item descriptions in the turn reports.

Some melee weapons may be defined as Long or Short (this is relative to a normal weapon, e.g. the sword). A soldier wielding a longer weapon than his opponent gets a +1 bonus to his attack skill.

Ranged weapons are slightly different from melee weapons. The target will generally not get any sort of combat bonus to defense against a ranged attack. The skill check to hit with a long bow is made against an effective defense of 2; i.e., a longbowman with a skill 1, having made the 50% chance of getting an effective attack, has a 1:2 chance of hitting a target. A crossbow is an easier weapon to use, so the chance to hit is calculated against a defense of 0; on the other hand, a crossbow can only fire once every 2 rounds, including the free round of attacks if ones side has one.

Weapons may have one of several different attack types: Slashing, Piercing, Crushing, Cleaving and Armor Piercing. Different types of armor may give different survival chances against a successful attack of different types.

A soldier attacking with a ranged weapon will generally be treated as if they have a Combat skill of 0, even if they have an actual Combat skill. This is the trade off for being able to hit from the back line of fighting.

Being inside a building confers a +2 bonus to defense. This bonus is effective against ranged as well as melee weapons. The number of men that a building can protect is equal to its size. The size of the various common buildings was listed in the [Table of Buildings](#) earlier.

If there are too many units in a building to all gain protection from it, then those units who have been in the building longest will gain protection. (Note that these units appear first on the turn report.) If a unit of 200 men is inside a Fort (capacity 50), then the first 50 men in the unit will gain the full +2 bonus, and the other 150 will gain no protection.

Units which have the Behind flag set are at the rear and cannot be attacked by any means until all non-Behind units have been wiped out. On the other hand, neither can they attack with melee weapons, but only with ranged weapons or magic. Once all front-line units have been wiped out, then the Behind flag no longer has any effect.

## Victory!

Combat rounds continue until one side has accrued 50% losses (or more). The victorious side is then awarded one free round of attacks, after which the battle is over. If both sides have more than 50% losses, the battle is a draw, and neither side gets a free round.

Units with the Healing skill have a chance of being able to heal casualties of the winning side, so that they recover rather than dying. Each character with this skill can attempt to heal 5 casualties per skill level. Each attempt however requires one unit of Herbs, which is thereby used up. Each attempt has a 50% chance of healing one casualty; only one attempt at Healing may be made per casualty. Healing occurs automatically, after the battle is over, by any living healers on the winning side.

Any items owned by dead combatants on the losing side have a 50% chance of being found and collected by the winning side. Each item which is recovered is picked up by one of the survivors able to carry it (see the [SPOILS](#) command) at random, so the winners generally collect loot in proportion to their number of surviving men.

If you are expecting to fight an enemy who is carrying so much equipment that you would not be able to move after picking it up, and you want to move to another region later that month, it may be worth issuing some orders to drop items (with the [GIVE 0](#) order) or to prevent yourself picking up certain types of spoils (with the [SPOILS](#) order) in case you win the battle! Also, note that if the winning side took any losses in the battle, any units on this side will not be allowed to move, or attack again for the rest of the turn.

## Stealth and Observation

The Stealth skill is used to hide units, while the Observation skill is used to see units that would otherwise be hidden. A unit can be seen only if you have at least one unit in the same region, with an Observation skill at least as high as that unit's Stealth skill. If your Observation skill is equal to the unit's Stealth skill, you will see the unit, but not the name of the owning faction. If your Observation skill is higher than the unit's Stealth skill, you will also see the name of the faction that owns the unit.

Regardless of Stealth skill, units are always visible when participating in combat; when guarding a region with the Guard flag; or when in a building or aboard a ship. However, in order to see the faction that owns the unit, you will still need a higher Observation skill than the unit's Stealth skill.

## Stealing:

The [STEAL](#) order is a way to steal items from other factions without a battle. The order can only be issued by a one-man unit. The order specifies a target unit; the thief will then attempt to steal the specified item from the target unit.

If the thief has higher Stealth than any of the target faction's units have Observation (i.e. the thief cannot be seen by the target faction), the theft will succeed. The target faction will be told what was stolen, but not by whom. If the specified item is silver, then \$200 or half the total available, whichever is less, will be stolen. If it is any other item, then only one will be stolen (if available).

Any unit with high enough Observation to see the thief will see the attempt to steal, whether the attempt is successful or not. Allies of the target unit will prevent the theft, if they have high enough Observation to see the unit trying to steal.

## Assassination:

The [ASSASSINATE](#) order is a way to kill another person without attacking and going through an entire battle. This order can only be issued by a one-man unit, and specifies a target unit. If the target unit contains more than one person, then one will be singled out at random.

Success for assassination is determined as for theft, i.e. the assassin will fail if any of the target faction's units can see him. In this case, the assassin will flee, and the target faction will be informed which unit made the attempt. As with theft, allies of the target unit will prevent the assassination from succeeding, if their Observation level is high enough.

If the assassin has higher stealth than any of the target faction's units have Observation, then a one-on-one fight will take place between the assassin and the target character. The assassin automatically gets a free round of attacks, except he is limited to 1 total during the free round; after that, the battle is handled like a normal fight, with the exception that neither assassin nor victim can use any armor except cloth armor. Most armor is forbidden for the assassin because it would make it too hard to sneak around, and for the victim because he was caught by surprise with his armor off. If the assassin wins, the target faction is told merely that the victim was assassinated, but not by whom. If the victim wins, then the target faction learns which unit made the attempt. (Of course, this does not necessarily mean that the assassin's faction is known.) The winner of the fight gets 50% of the loser's property as usual.

[STEAL](#) and [ASSASSINATE](#) are not full month orders, and do not interfere with other activities, but a unit can only issue one [STEAL](#) order or one [ASSASSINATE](#) order in a month.

## Magic

A character enters the world of magic in Atlantis by beginning study on one of the Foundation magic skills. Only one man units, with the man being a leader, are permitted to study these skills. The number of these units (known as "magicians" or "mages") that a faction may own is determined by the faction's type. Any attempt to gain more, either through study, or by transfer from another faction, will fail. In addition, mages may not [GIVE](#) men at all; once a unit becomes a mage (by studying one of the Foundations), the unit number is fixed. (The mage may be given to another faction using the [GIVEUNIT](#) order.)

### Magic Skills:

Magic skills are the same as normal skills, with a few differences. The basic magic skills, called Foundations, are force, pattern, and spirit. To become a mage, a unit undertakes study in one of these Foundations. As a unit studies the Foundations, he will be able to study deeper into the magical arts; the additional skills that he may study will be indicated on your turn report.

There are two major differences between Magic skills and most normal skills. The first is that the ability to study Magic skills sometimes depends on lower level Magic skills. The Magic skills that a mage may study are listed on his turn report, so he knows which areas he may pursue. Studying higher in the Foundation skills, and certain other Magic skills, will make other skills available to the mage. Also, study into a magic skill above level 2 requires that the mage be located in some sort of building which can offer specific protection to mages. Certain types of buildings can offer shelter and support and a proper environment, some more so than others. If the mage is not in such a structure, his study rate is cut in half, as he does not have the proper environment and equipment for research.

	Mages
Tower	10
Fort	20
Castle	50
Citadel	100
Stockade	5

### Foundations:

The 21 Foundation skills are called force, pattern, and spirit. Force indicates the quantity of magical energy that a mage is able to channel (a Force rating of 0 does not mean that the mage can channel no magical energy at all, but only a minimal amount). Pattern indicates ability to handle complex patterns, and is important for things like healing and nature spells. Spirit deals with meta-effects that lie outside the scope of the physical world.

### Further Magic Study:

Once a mage has begun study of one or more Foundations, more skills that he may study will begin to show up on his report. These skills are the skills that give a mage his power. As with normal skills, when a mage achieves a new level of a magic skill, he will be given a skill report, describing the new powers (if any) that the new skill confers. The [SHOW](#) order may be used to show this information on future reports.

## Using Magic:

A mage may use his magical power in three different ways, depending on the type of spell he wants to use. Some spells, once learned, take effect automatically and are considered always to be in use; these spells do not require any order to take effect.

Secondly, some spells are for use in combat. A mage may specify that he wishes to use a spell in combat by issuing the [COMBAT](#) order. A combat spell specified in this way will only be used if the mage finds himself taking part in a battle.

The third type of spell use is for spells that take an entire month to cast. These spells are cast by the mage issuing the [CAST](#) order. Because [CAST](#) takes an entire month, a mage may use only one of this type of spell each turn. Note, however, that a [CAST](#) order is not a full month order; a mage may still [MOVE](#), [STUDY](#), or use any other month long order. The justification for this (as well as being for game balance) is that a spell drains a mage of his magic power for the month, but does not actually take the entire month to cast.

The description that a mage receives when he first learns a spell specifies the manner in which the spell is used (automatic, in combat, or by casting).

## Magic in Combat:

NOTE: This section is rather vague, and quite advanced. You may want to wait until you have figured out other parts of Atlantis before trying to understand exactly all of the rules in this section.

Although the magic skills and spells are unspecified in these rules, left for the players to discover, the rules for combat spells' interaction are spelled out here. There are five major types of attacks, and defenses: Combat, Ranged, Energy, Weather, and Spirit. Every attack and defense has a type, and only the appropriate defense is effective against an attack.

Defensive spells are cast at the beginning of each round of combat, and will have a type of attack they deflect, and skill level (Defensive spells are generally called Shields). Every time an attack is launched against an army, it must first attack the highest level Shield of the same type as the attack, before it may attack a soldier directly. Note that an attack only has to attack the highest Shield, any other Shields of the same type are ignored for that attack.

An attack spell (and any other type of attack) also has an attack type, and attack level, and a number of blows it deals. When the attack spell is cast, it is matched up against the most powerful defensive spell of the appropriate type that the other army has cast. If the other army has not cast any applicable defensive spells, the attack goes through unmolested. Unlike normal combat however, men are at a disadvantage to defending against spells. Men which are in the open (not protected by a building) have an effective skill of -2 unless they have a shield or some other defensive magic. Some monsters have bonuses to resisting some attacks but are more susceptible to others. The skill level of the attack spell and the effective skill for defense are matched against each other. The formula for determining the victor between a defensive and offensive spell is the same as for a contest of soldiers; if the levels are equal, there is a 1:1 chance of success, and so on. If the offensive spell is victorious, the offensive spell deals its blows to the defending army, and the Shield in question is destroyed (thus, it can be useful to have more than one of the same type of Shield in effect, as the other Shield will take the place of the destroyed one). Otherwise, the attack spell disperses, and the defending spell remains in place.

Some spells do not actually kill enemies, but rather have some negative effect on them. These spells are treated the same as normal spells; if there is a Shield of the same type as them, they must attack the Shield before attacking the army. Physical attacks that go through a defensive spell also must match their skill level against that of the defensive spell in question. However, they do not destroy the defensive spell when they are successful.

## Non-Player Units

There are a number of units that are not controlled by players that may be encountered in Atlantis. Most information about these units must be discovered in the course of the game, but a few basics are below.

### City and Town Guardsmen:

All cities and towns begin with guardsmen in them. These units will defend any units that are attacked in the city or town, and will also prevent theft and assassination attempts, if their Observation level is high enough. They are on guard, and will prevent other units from taxing or pillaging. The guards may be killed by players, although they will form again if the city is left unguarded.

Note that the city guardsmen in the starting cities of Atlantis possess plate armor in addition to being more numerous and are therefore harder to kill. Additionally, in the starting cities, Mage Guards will be found. These mages are adept at the fire spell making any attempt to control a starting city a much harder proposition.

## Wandering Monsters:

There are a number of monsters who wander free throughout Atlantis. They will occasionally attack player units, so be careful when wandering through the wilderness.

## Controlled Monsters:

Through various magical methods, you may gain control of certain types of monsters. These monsters are just another item in a unit's inventory, with a few special rules. Monsters will be able to carry things at their speed of movement; use the `SHOW ITEM` order to determine the carrying capacity and movement speed of a monster. Monsters will also fight for the controlling unit in combat; their strength can only be determined in battle. Also, note that a monster will always fight from the front rank, even if the controlling unit has the behind flag set. Whether or not you are allowed to give a monster to other units depends on the type of monster; some may be given freely, while others must remain with the controlling unit. All monsters may be released completely by using the `GIVE` order targetting unit 0. When this is done, the monster will become a wandering monster.

## Orders

To enter orders for Atlantis, you should send a mail message to the Atlantis server, containing the following:

```
#ATLANTIS faction-no
```

```
UNIT unit-no  
...orders...
```

```
UNIT unit-no  
...orders...
```

```
#END
```

For example, if your faction number (shown at the top of your report) is 27, your password is "foobar", and you have two units numbered 5 and 17:

```
#ATLANTIS 27 "foobar"
```

```
UNIT 5  
...orders...
```

```
UNIT 17  
...orders...
```

```
#END
```

Thus, orders for each unit are given separately, and indicated with the `UNIT` keyword. (In the case of an order, such as the command to rename your faction, that is not really for any particular unit, it does not matter which unit issues the command; but some particular unit must still issue it.)

**IMPORTANT:** You **MUST** use the correct `#ATLANTIS` line or else your orders will be ignored.

If you have a password set, you must specify it on your `#atlantis` line, or the game will reject your orders. See the [PASSWORD](#) order for more details.

Each type of order is designated by giving a keyword as the first non-blank item on a line. Parameters are given after this, separated by spaces or tabs. Blank lines are permitted, as are comments; anything after a semicolon is treated as a comment (provided the semicolon is not in the middle of a word).

The parser is not case sensitive, so all commands may be given in upper case, lower case or a mixture of the two. However, when supplying names containing spaces, the name must be surrounded by double quotes, or else underscore characters must be used in place of spaces in the name. (These things apply to the #ATLANTIS and #END lines as well as to order lines.)

You may precede orders with the at sign (@), in which case they will appear in the Template at the bottom of your report. This is useful for orders which your units repeat for several months in a row.

Abbreviations:

All common items and skills have abbreviations that can be used when giving orders, for brevity. Any time you see the item on your report, it will be followed by the abbreviation. Please be careful using these, as they can easily be confused.

## Order Summary

To specify a [unit], use the unit number. If specifying a unit that will be created this turn, use the form "NEW #" if the unit belongs to your faction, or "FACTION # NEW #" if the unit belongs to a different faction. See the [FORM](#) order for a more complete description. [faction] means that a faction number is required; [object] means that an object number (generally the number of a building or ship) is required. [item] means an item (like wood or longbow) that a unit can have in its possession. [flag] is an argument taken by several orders, that sets or unsets a flag for a unit. A [flag] value must be either 1 (set the flag) or 0 (unset the flag). Other parameters are generally numbers or names.

**IMPORTANT:** Remember that names containing spaces (e.g., "Plate Armor"), must be surrounded by double quotes, or the spaces must be replaced with underscores "\_" (e.g., Plate\_Armor).

Also remember that anything used in an example is just that, an example and makes no guarantee that such an item, structure, or skill actually exists within the game.

### **ADDRESS [new address]**

Change the email address to which your reports are sent.

Example:

Change your faction's email address to atlantis@rahul.net.

ADDRESS atlantis@rahul.net

### **ADVANCE [dir] ...**

This is the same as the [MOVE](#) order, except that it implies attacks on units which attempt to forbid access. See the [MOVE](#) order for details.

Examples:

Move north, then northwest, attacking any units that forbid access to the regions.

ADVANCE N NW

In order, move north, then enter structure number 1, move through an inner route, and finally move southeast. Will attack any units that forbid access to any of these locations.

ADVANCE N 1 IN SE

## **ARMOR [item1] [item2] [item3] [item4]**

### **ARMOR**

This command allows you to set a list of preferred armor for a unit. After searching for armor on the preferred list, the standard armor precedence takes effect if an armor hasn't been set. The second form clears the preferred armor list.

Examples

Set the unit to select chain armor before plate armor.

```
ARMOR CARM PARM
```

Clear the preferred armor list.

```
ARMOR
```

## **ASSASSINATE [unit]**

Attempt to assassinate the specified unit, or one of the unit's people if the unit contains more than one person. The order may only be issued by a one-man unit.

A unit may only attempt to assassinate a unit which is able to be seen.

Example:

Assassinate unit number 177.

```
ASSASSINATE 177
```

## **ATTACK [unit] ...**

Attack a target unit. If multiple ATTACK orders are given, all of the targets will be attacked.

Example:

To attack units 17, 431, and 985:

```
ATTACK 17
```

```
ATTACK 431 985
```

or:

```
ATTACK 17 431 985
```

## **AUTOTAX [flag]**

AUTOTAX 1 causes the unit to attempt to tax every turn (without requiring the TAX order) until the flag is unset. AUTOTAX 0 unsets the flag.

Example:

To cause the unit to attempt to tax every turn.

AUTOTAX 1

## **AVOID [flag]**

AVOID 1 instructs the unit to avoid combat wherever possible. The unit will not enter combat unless it issues an ATTACK order, or the unit's faction is attacked in the unit's hex. AVOID 0 cancels this.

The Guard and Avoid Combat flags are mutually exclusive; setting one automatically cancels the other.

Example:

Set the unit to avoid combat when possible.

AVOID 1

## **BEHIND [flag]**

BEHIND 1 sets the unit to be behind other units in combat. BEHIND 0 cancels this.

Example:

Set the unit to be in front in combat.

BEHIND 0



## **BUILD**

### **BUILD [object type]**

### **BUILD HELP [unit]**

BUILD given with no parameters causes the unit to perform work on the object that it is currently inside. BUILD given with an [object type] (such as "Tower" or "Galleon") instructs the unit to begin work on a new object of the type given. The final form instructs the unit to enter the same building as [unit] and to assist in building that structure, even if it is a structure which was begun that same turn. This help will be rejected if the unit you are helping does not consider you to be friendly.

Examples:

To build a new tower.

```
BUILD Tower
```

To help unit 5789 build a structure.

```
BUILD HELP 5789
```

### **BUY [quantity] [item]**

### **BUY ALL [item]**

Attempt to buy a number of the given item from a city or town marketplace, or to buy new people in any region where people are available for recruiting. If the unit can't afford as many as [quantity], it will attempt to buy as many as it can. If the demand for the item (from all units in the region) is greater than the number available, the available items will be split among the buyers in proportion to the amount each buyer attempted to buy. When buying people, specify the race of the people as the [item]. If the second form is specified, the unit will attempt to buy as many as it can afford.

Examples:

Buy one plate armor from the city market.

```
BUY 1 "Plate Armor"
```

Recruit 5 barbarians into the current unit. (This will dilute the skills that the unit has.)

```
BUY 5 barbarians
```

## **CAST [skill] [arguments]**

Cast the given spell. Note that most spell names contain spaces; be sure to enclose the name in quotes! [arguments] depends on which spell you are casting; when you are able to cast a spell, the skill description will tell you the syntax.

Examples:

Cast the spell called "Super Spell".

```
CAST "Super Spell"
```

Cast the fourth-level spell in the "Super Magic" skill.

```
CAST Super_Magic 4
```

## **CLAIM [amount]**

Claim an amount of the faction's unclaimed silver, and give it to the unit issuing the order. The claiming unit may then spend the silver or give it to another unit.

Example:

Claim 100 silver.

```
CLAIM 100
```

## **COMBAT [spell]**

Set the given spell as the spell that the unit will cast in combat. This order may only be given if the unit can cast the spell in question.

Example:

Instruct the unit to use the spell "Super Spell", when the unit is involved in a battle.

```
COMBAT "Super Spell"
```

## **CONSUME UNIT**

## **CONSUME FACTION**

## **CONSUME**

The CONSUME order instructs the unit to use food items in preference to silver for maintenance costs. CONSUME UNIT tells the unit to use food items that are in that unit's possession before using silver. CONSUME FACTION tells the unit to use any food items that the faction owns (in the same region as the unit) before using silver. CONSUME tells the unit to use silver before food items (this is the default).

Example:

Tell a unit to use food items in the unit's possession for maintenance costs.

```
CONSUME UNIT
```

## **DECLARE [faction] [attitude]**

## **DECLARE [faction]**

## **DECLARE DEFAULT [attitude]**

The first form of the DECLARE order sets the attitude of your faction towards the given faction. The second form cancels any attitude towards the given faction (so your faction's attitude towards that faction will be its default attitude). The third form sets your faction's default attitude.

Examples:

Declare your faction to be hostile to faction 15.

```
DECLARE 15 hostile
```

Set your faction's attitude to faction 15 to its default attitude.

```
DECLARE 15
```

Set your faction's default attitude to friendly.

```
DECLARE DEFAULT friendly
```

**DESCRIBE UNIT [new description]**

**DESCRIBE SHIP [new description]**

**DESCRIBE BUILDING [new description]**

**DESCRIBE OBJECT [new description]**

**DESCRIBE STRUCTURE [new description]**

Change the description of the unit, or of the object the unit is in (of which the unit must be the owner). Descriptions can be of any length, up to the line length your mailer can handle. If no description is given, the description will be cleared out. The last four are completely identical and serve to modify the description of the object you are currently in.

Example:

Set the unit,s description to read "Merlin's helper".

```
DESCRIBE UNIT "Merlin's helper"
```

**DESTROY**

Destroy the object you are in (of which you must be the owner). The order cannot be used at sea.

Example:

Destroy the current object

```
DESTROY
```

**ENTER [object]**

Attempt to enter the specified object. If issued from inside another object, the unit will first leave the object it is currently in. The order will only work if the target object is unoccupied, or is owned by a unit in your faction, or is owned by a unit which has declared you Friendly.

Example:

Enter ship number 114.

```
ENTER 114
```

**ENTERTAIN**

Spend the month entertaining the populace to earn money.

Example:

Entertain for money.

```
ENTERTAIN
```

## **EVICT [unit] ...**

Evict the specified unit from the object of which you are currently the owner. If multiple EVICT orders are given, all of the units will be evicted.

Example:

Evict units 415 and 698 from an object that this unit owns.

```
EVICT 415 698
```

or

```
EVICT 415  
EVICT 698
```

## **EXCHANGE [unit] [quantity given] [item given] [quantity expected] [item expected]**

This order allows any two units that can see each other, to trade items regardless of faction stances. The orders given by the two units must be complementary. If either unit involved does not have the items it is offering, or if the exchange orders given are not complementary, the exchange is aborted. Men may not be exchanged.

Example:

Exchange 10 LBOW for 10 SWOR with unit 1310

```
EXCHANGE 1310 10 LBOW 10 SWOR
```

Unit 1310 would issue (assuming the other unit is 3453)

```
EXCHANGE 3453 10 SWOR 10 LBOW
```

## **FACTION [type] [points] ...**

Attempt to change your faction's type. In the order, you can specify up to three faction types (WAR, TRADE, and MAGIC) and the number of faction points to assign to each type; if you are assigning points to only one or two types, you may omit the types that will not have any points.

Changing the number of faction points assigned to MAGIC may be tricky. Increasing the MAGIC points will always succeed, but if you decrease the number of points assigned to MAGIC, you must make sure that you have only the number of magic-skilled leaders allowed by the new number of MAGIC points BEFORE you change your point distribution. For example, if you have 3 mages (3 points assigned to MAGIC), but want to use one of those points for WAR or TRADE (change to MAGIC 2), you must first get rid of one of your mages by either giving it to another faction or ordering it to [FORGET](#) all its magic skills. If you have too many mages for the number of points you try to assign to MAGIC, the FACTION order will fail.

Examples:

Assign 2 faction points to WAR and 2 to TRADE.

```
FACTION WAR 2 TRADE 2
```

Become a pure magic faction (assign all points to magic).

```
FACTION MAGIC 4
```

## **FIND [faction]**

### **FIND ALL**

Find the email address of the specified faction or of all factions.

Example:

Find the email address of faction 4.

```
FIND 4
```

## **FORGET [skill]**

Forget the given skill. This order is useful for normal units who wish to learn a new skill, but already know a different skill.

Example:

Forget knowledge of Mining.

```
FORGET Mining
```

## FORM [alias]

Form a new unit. The newly created unit will be in your faction, in the same region as the unit which formed it, and in the same structure if any. It will start off, however, with no people or items; you should, in the same month, issue orders to transfer people into the new unit, or have it recruit members. The new unit will inherit its flags from the unit that forms it, such as avoiding, behind, and autotax.

The FORM order is followed by a list of orders for the newly created unit. This list is terminated by the END keyword, after which orders for the original unit resume.

The purpose of the "alias" parameter is so that you can refer to the new unit. You will not know the new unit's number until you receive the next turn report. To refer to the new unit in this set of orders, pick an alias number (the only restriction on this is that it must be at least 1, and you should not create two units in the same region in the same month, with the same alias numbers). The new unit can then be referred to as NEW in place of the regular unit number.

You can refer to newly created units belonging to other factions, if you know what alias number they are, e.g. FACTION 15 NEW 2 will refer to faction 15's newly created unit with alias 2.

Note: If a unit moves out of the region in which it was formed (by the [MOVE](#) order, or otherwise), the alias will no longer work. This is to prevent conflicts with other units that may have the same alias in other regions.

If the demand for recruits in that region that month is much higher than the supply, it may happen that the new unit does not gain all the recruits you ordered it to buy, or it may not gain any recruits at all. If the new unit gains at least one recruit, the unit will form possessing any unused silver and all the other items it was given. If no recruits are gained at all, the empty unit will be dissolved, and the silver and any other items it was given will revert to the first unit you have in that region.

Example:

This set of orders for unit 17 would create two new units with alias numbers 1 and 2, name them Merlin's Guards and Merlin's Workers, set the description for Merlin's Workers, have both units recruit men, and have Merlin's Guards study combat. The unit that created these two then pays them enough money (using the NEW keyword to refer to them by alias numbers) to cover the costs of recruitment and the month's maintenance.

```
UNIT 17
FORM 1
    NAME UNIT "Merlin's Guards"
    BUY 5 Plainsmen
    STUDY COMBAT
END
FORM 2
    NAME UNIT "Merlin's Workers"
    DESCRIBE UNIT "wearing dirty overalls"
    BUY 15 Plainsmen
END
CLAIM 2500
GIVE NEW 1 1000 silver
GIVE NEW 2 2000 silver
```

**GIVE [unit] [quantity] [item]**

**GIVE [unit] ALL [item]**

**GIVE [unit] ALL [item] EXCEPT [quantity]**

**GIVE [unit] ALL [item class]**

**GIVE [unit] UNIT**

The first form of the GIVE order gives a quantity of an item to another unit. The second form of the GIVE order will give all of a given item to another unit. The third form will give all of an item except for a specific quantity to another unit. The fourth form will give all items of a specific type to another unit. The final form of the GIVE order gives the entire unit to the specified unit's faction.

The classes of items which are acceptable for the fourth form of this order are, NORMAL, ADVANCED, TRADE, MAN or MEN, MONSTER or MONSTERS, MAGIC, WEAPON OR WEAPONS, ARMOR, MOUNT or MOUNTS, BATTLE, SPECIAL, TOOL or TOOLS, FOOD, and ITEM or ITEMS (which is the combination of all of the previous categories).

A unit may only give items, including silver, to a unit which it is able to see, unless the faction of the target unit has declared you Friendly or better. If the target unit is not a member of your faction, then its faction must have declared you Friendly, with a couple of exceptions. First, silver may be given to any unit, regardless of factional affiliation. Secondly, men may not be given to units in other factions (you must give the entire unit); the reason for this is to prevent highly skilled units from being sabotaged with a [GIVE](#) order.

There are also a few restrictions on orders given by units who been given to another faction. If the receiving faction is not allied to the giving faction, the unit may not issue the [ADVANCE](#) order, or issue any more [GIVE](#) orders. Both of these rules are to prevent unfair sabotage tactics.

If 0 is specified as the unit number, then the items are discarded.

Examples:

Give 10 swords to unit 4573.

```
GIVE 4573 10 swords
```

Give 5 chain armor to the new unit, alias 2, belonging to faction 14.

```
GIVE FACTION 14 NEW 2 5 "Chain armor"
```

Give control of this unit to the faction owning unit 75.

```
GIVE 75 UNIT
```



## **GUARD [flag]**

GUARD 1 sets the unit issuing the order to prevent non-Friendly units from collecting taxes in the region, and to prevent any units not your own from pillaging the region. Guarding units will also attempt to prevent Unfriendly units from entering the region. GUARD 0 cancels Guard status.

The Guard and Avoid Combat flags are mutually exclusive; setting one automatically cancels the other.

Example:

Instruct the current unit to be on guard.

GUARD 1

## **HOLD [flag]**

HOLD 1 instructs the issuing unit to never join a battle in regions the unit is not in. This can be useful if the unit is in a building, and doesn't want to leave the building to join combat. HOLD 0 cancels holding status.

Example:

Instruct the unit to avoid combat in other regions.

HOLD 1

## **LEAVE**

Leave the object you are currently in. If a unit is capable of swimming or flying then this order is usable to leave a boat while at sea.

Example:

Leave the current object

LEAVE

## **MOVE [dir] ...**

Attempt to move in the direction(s) specified. If more than one direction is given, the unit will move multiple times, in the order specified by the MOVE order, until no more directions are given, or until one of the moves fails. A move can fail because the units runs out of movement points, because the unit attempts to move into the ocean, or because the units attempts to enter a structure, and is rejected.

Valid directions are:

1) The compass directions North, Northwest, Southwest, South, Southeast, and Northeast. These can be abbreviated N, NW, SW, S, SE, NE.

2) A structure number.

3) OUT, which will leave the structure that the unit is in.

4) IN, which will move through an inner passage in the structure that the unit is currently in.

Multiple MOVE orders given by one unit will chain together.

Note that MOVE orders can lead to combat, due to hostile units meeting, or due to an advancing unit being forbidden access to a region. In this case, combat occurs each time all movement out of a single region occurs.

Example 1: Units 1 and 2 are in Region A, and unit 3 is in Region B. Units 1 and 2 are hostile to unit 3. Both unit 1 and 2 move into region B, and attack unit 3. Since both units moved out of the same region, they attack unit 3 at the same time, and the battle is between units 1 and 2, and unit 3.

Example 2: Same as example 1, except unit 2 is in Region C, instead of region A. Both units move into Region B, and attack unit 3. Since unit 1 and unit 2 moved out of different regions, their battles occur at different times. Thus, unit 1 attacks unit 3 first, and then unit 2 attacks unit 3 (assuming unit 3 survives the first attack). Note that the order of battles could have happened either way.

Examples:

Move N, NE and In

```
MOVE N  
MOVE NE IN
```

or:

```
MOVE N NE IN
```

## **NAME UNIT [new name]**

## **NAME FACTION [new name]**

## **NAME OBJECT [new name]**

## **NAME CITY [new name]**

Change the name of the unit, or of your faction, or of the object the unit is in (of which the unit must be the owner). Names can be of any length, up to the line length your mailer can handle. Names may not contain parentheses (square brackets can be used instead if necessary), or any control characters.

In order to rename a settlement (city, town or village), the unit attempting to rename it must be the owner of a large enough structure located in the city. It requires a tower or better to rename a village, a fort or better to rename a town and a castle or mystic fortress to rename a city.

Example:

Name your faction "The Merry Pranksters".

```
NAME FACTION "The Merry Pranksters"
```

## **NOAID [flag]**

NOAID 1 indicates that if the unit attacks, or is attacked, it is not to be aided by units in other hexes. NOAID status is very useful for scouts or probing units, who do not wish to drag their nearby armies into battle if they are caught. NOAID 0 cancels this.

If multiple units are on one side in a battle, they must all have the NOAID flag on, or they will receive aid from other hexes.

Example:

Set a unit to receive no aid in battle.

```
NOAID 1
```

## **NOCROSS [flag]**

NOCROSS 1 indicates that if a unit attempts to cross a body of water then that unit should instead not cross it, regardless of whether the unit otherwise could do so. Units inside of a ship are not affected by this flag (IE, they are able to sail within the ship). This flag is useful to prevent scouts from accidentally drowning when exploring in games where movement over water is allowed. NOCROSS 0 cancels this.

Example:

Set a unit to not permit itself to cross water.

```
NOCROSS 1
```

## **OPTION TIMES**

## **OPTION NOTIMES**

## **OPTION TEMPLATE OFF**

## **OPTION TEMPLATE SHORT**

## **OPTION TEMPLATE LONG**

## **OPTION TEMPLATE MAP**

The **OPTION** order is used to toggle various settings that affect your reports, and other email details. **OPTION TIMES** sets it so that your faction receives the times each week (this is the default); **OPTION NOTIMES** sets it so that your faction is not sent the times.

The **OPTION TEMPLATE** order toggles the length of the Orders Template that appears at the bottom of a turn report. The **OFF** setting eliminates the Template altogether, and the **SHORT**, **LONG** and **MAP** settings control how much detail the Template contains. The **MAP** setting will produce an ascii map of the region and surrounding regions in addition other details.

For the **MAP** template, the region identifiers are (there might be additional symbols for unusual/special terrain):

####      BLOCKED HEX (Underworld)  
~~~~      OCEAN HEX  
            PLAINS/TUNNELS HEX  
^^^      FOREST/UNDERFOREST HEX  
^ ^      MOUNTAIN HEX  
vvvv      SWAMP HEX  
@@@@      JUNGLE HEX  
....      DESERT/CAVERN HEX  
,,,      TUNDRA HEX  
!!!!      thE NEXUS

Example:

Set your faction to recieve the map format order template

```
OPTION TEMPLATE MAP
```

## **PASSWORD [password]**

### **PASSWORD**

The PASSWORD order is used to set your faction's password. If you have a password set, you must specify it on your #ATLANTIS line for the game to accept your orders. This protects your orders from being overwritten, either by accident or intentionally by other players. PASSWORD with no password given clears out your faction's password.

**IMPORTANT:** The PASSWORD order does not take effect until the turn is actually run. So if you set your password, and then want to re-submit orders, you should use the old password until the turn has been run.

Example:

Set the password to "xyzy".

```
PASSWORD xyzy
```

### **PILLAGE**

Use force to extort as much money as possible from the region. Note that the [TAX](#) order and the PILLAGE order are mutually exclusive; a unit may only attempt to do one in a turn.

Example:

Pillage the current hex.

```
PILLAGE
```

### **PRODUCE [item]**

Spend the month producing as much as possible of the specified item.

Example:

Produce as many crossbows as possible.

```
PRODUCE crossbows
```

### **PROMOTE [unit]**

Promote the specified unit to owner of the object of which you are currently the owner. The target unit must have declared you Friendly.

Example:

Promote unit 415 to be the owner of the object that this unit owns.

```
PROMOTE 415
```

## **QUIT [password]**

Quit the game. On issuing this order, your faction will be completely and permanently destroyed. Note that you must give your password for the quit order to work; this is to provide some safety against accidentally issuing this order.

Example:

Quit the game if your password is foobar.

```
QUIT "foobar"
```

## **RESTART [password]**

Similar to the [QUIT](#) order, this order will completely and permanently destroy your faction. However, it will begin a brand new faction for you (you will get a separate turn report for the new faction). Note that you must give your password for this order to work, to provide some protection against accidentally issuing this order.

Example:

Restart as a new faction if your password is foobar.

```
RESTART "foobar"
```

## **REVEAL**

### **REVEAL UNIT**

### **REVEAL FACTION**

Cause the unit to either show itself (REVEAL UNIT), or show itself and its faction affiliation (REVEAL FACTION), in the turn report, to all other factions in the region. Used to reveal high stealth scouts, should there be some reason to. REVEAL is used to cancel this.

Examples:

Show the unit to all factions.

```
REVEAL UNIT
```

Show the unit and it's affiliation to all factions.

```
REVEAL FACTION
```

Cancels revealing.

```
REVEAL
```

## **SAIL [dir] ...**

### **SAIL**

The first form will sail the ship, which the unit must be the owner of, in the directions given. The second form will cause the unit to aid in the sailing of the ship, using the Sailing skill. See the section on movement for more information on the mechanics of sailing.

Example:

Sail north, then northwest.

```
SAIL N NW
```

or:

```
SAIL N  
SAIL NW
```

## **SELL [quantity] [item]**

### **SELL ALL [item]**

Attempt to sell the amount given of the item given. If the unit does not have as many of the item as it is trying to sell, it will attempt to sell all that it has. The second form will attempt to sell all of that item, regardless of how many it has. If more of the item are on sale (by all the units in the region) than are wanted by the region, the number sold per unit will be split up in proportion to the number each unit tried to sell.

Example:

Sell 10 furs to the market.

```
SELL 10 furs
```

**SHOW SKILL [skill] [level]**

**SHOW ITEM [item]**

**SHOW OBJECT [object]**

The first form of the order shows the skill description for a skill that your faction already possesses. The second form returns some information about an item that is not otherwise apparent on a report, such as the weight. The last form returns some information about an object (such as a ship or a building).

Examples:

Show the skill report for Mining 3 again.

```
SHOW SKILL Mining 3
```

Show the item information for swords again.

```
SHOW ITEM sword
```

Show the information for towers again.

```
SHOW OBJECT tower
```

**SPOILS [type]**

**SPOILS**

The SPOILS order determines which types of spoils the unit should take after a battle. The valid values for type are 'NONE', 'WALK', 'RIDE', 'FLY', or 'ALL'. The second form is equivalent to 'SPOILS ALL'.

When this command is issued, only spoils with 0 weight (at level NONE) or spoils which weigh less than or equal to their capacity in the specified movement mode (at any level other than ALL) will be picked up. SPOILS ALL will allow a unit to collect any spoils which are dropped regardless of weight or capacity.

Example:

Set a unit to only pick up items which have flying capacity

```
SPOILS FLY
```



## **STEAL [unit] [item]**

Attempt to steal as much as possible of the specified item from the specified unit. The order may only be issued by a one-man unit.

A unit may only attempt to steal from a unit which is able to be seen.

Examples:

Steal silver from unit 123.

```
STEAL 123 SILVER
```

Steal wood from unit 321.

```
STEAL 321 wood
```

## **STUDY [skill]**

Spend the month studying the specified skill.

Example:

Study horse training.

```
STUDY "Horse Training"
```

## **TAX**

Attempt to collect taxes from the region. Only War factions may collect taxes, and then only if there are no non-Friendly units on guard. Only combat-ready units may issue this order. Note that the TAX order and the [PILLAGE](#) order are mutually exclusive; a unit may only attempt to do one in a turn.

Example:

Attempt to collect taxes.

```
TAX
```

## TEACH [unit] ...

Attempt to teach the specified units whatever skill they are studying that month. A list of several units may be specified. All units to be taught must have declared you Friendly. Subsequent TEACH orders can be used to add units to be taught.

Example:

Teach new unit 2 and unit 510 whatever they are studying.

```
TEACH NEW 2 510
```

or:

```
TEACH NEW 2  
TEACH 510
```

## TURN

The TURN order may be used to delay orders by one (or more) turns. By making the TURN order repeating (via '@'), orders inside the TURN/ENDTURN construct will repeat. Multiple TURN orders in a row will execute on successive turns, and if they all repeat, they will form a loop of orders. Each TURN section must be ended by an ENDTURN line.

Examples:

Study combat this month, move north next month, and then in two months, pillaging and advance north.

```
STUDY COMB  
TURN  
    MOVE N  
ENDTURN  
TURN  
    PILLAGE  
    ADVANCE N  
ENDTURN
```

After the turn, the orders for that unit would look as follows in the orders template:

```
MOVE N  
TURN  
    PILLAGE  
    ADVANCE N  
ENDTURN
```

Set up a simple cash caravan (It's assumed here that someone is funnelling cash into this unit.

```
MOVE N  
@TURN  
    GIVE 13523 1000 SILV  
    MOVE S S S  
ENDTURN  
@TURN  
    MOVE N N N  
ENDTURN
```

After the turn, the orders for that unit would look as follows in the orders template:

```
GIVE 13523 1000 SILV
MOVE S S S
@TURN
    MOVE N N N
ENDTURN
@TURN
    GIVE 13523 1000 SILV
    MOVE S S S
ENDTURN
```

If the unit does not have enough movement points to cover the full distance, the MOVE commands will automatically be completed over multiple turns before executing the next TURN block.

### **WEAPON [item] ...**

#### **WEAPON**

This command allows you to set a list of preferred weapons for a unit. After searching for weapons on the preferred list, the standard weapon precedence takes effect if a weapon hasn't been set. The second form clears the preferred weapon list.

#### Examples

Set the unit to select double bows, then longbows then crossbows

```
WEAPON DBOW LBOW XBOW
```

Clear the preferred weapon list.

```
WEAPON
```

### **WITHDRAW [item]**

#### **WITHDRAW [quantity] [item]**

Use unclaimed funds to acquire basic items that you need. If you do not have sufficient unclaimed, or if you try withdraw any other than a basic item, an error will be given. Withdraw can NOT be used in the Nexus (to prevent building towers and such there). The first form is the same as WITHDRAW 1 [item] in the second form.

#### Examples:

Withdraw 5 stone.

```
WITHDRAW 5 stone
```

Withdraw 1 iron.

```
WITHDRAW iron
```

# Sequence of Events

Each turn, the following sequence of events occurs:

1. Instant orders.
  - [TURN](#) orders are processed.
  - [FORM](#) orders are processed.
  - [ADDRESS](#), [ARMOR](#), [AUTOTAX](#), [AVOID](#), [BEHIND](#), [CLAIM](#), [COMBAT](#), [CONSUME](#), [DECLARE](#), [DESCRIBE](#), [FACTION](#), [GUARD 0](#), [HOLD](#), [NAME](#), [NOAID](#), [NOCROSS](#), [OPTION](#), [PASSWORD](#), [REVEAL](#), [SHOW](#), [SPOILS](#), and [WEAPON](#) orders are processed.
  - [FIND](#) orders are processed.
  - [LEAVE](#) orders are processed.
  - [ENTER](#) orders are processed.
  - [PROMOTE](#) orders are processed.
2. Combat is processed.
  - [ATTACK](#) orders are processed.
3. Steal orders.
  - [STEAL](#) and [ASSASSINATE](#) orders are processed.
4. Give orders.
  - [DESTROY](#) and [GIVE](#) orders are processed.
  - [EXCHANGE](#) orders are processed.
5. Tax orders.
  - [PILLAGE](#) orders are processed.
  - [TAX](#) orders are processed.
6. Instant Magic
  - Old spells are cancelled.
  - Spells are [CAST](#) (except for Teleportation spells).
7. Market orders.
  - [GUARD](#) orders are processed.
  - [SELL](#) orders are processed.
  - [BUY](#) orders are processed.
  - [QUIT](#) and [RESTART](#) orders are processed.
  - [FORGET](#) orders are processed.
8. Withdraw orders.
  - [WITHDRAW](#) orders are processed.
9. Movement orders.
  - [SAIL](#) orders are processed.
  - [ADVANCE](#) and [MOVE](#) orders are processed (including any combat resulting from these orders).
10. Month long orders.
  - [BUILD](#), [ENTERTAIN](#), [PRODUCE](#), [STUDY](#) and [TEACH](#) orders are processed.
  - Costs associated with these orders (such as study fees) are collected.
11. Teleportation spells are [CAST](#).
12. Maintenance costs are assessed.

Where there is no other basis for deciding in which order units will be processed within a phase, units that appear higher on the report get precedence.

## Report Format

The most important sections of the turn report are the "Events During Turn" section which lists what happened last month, and the "Current Status" section which gives the description of each region in which you have units.

Your units in the Current Status section are flagged with a "\*" character. Units belonging to other factions are flagged with a "-" character. You may be informed which faction they belong to, if you have high enough Observation skill or they are revealing that information.

Objects are flagged with a "+" character. The units listed under an object (if any) are inside the object. The first unit listed under an object is its owner.

If you can see a unit, you can see any large items it is carrying. This means all items other than silver, herbs, and other small items (which are of zero size units, and are small enough to be easily concealed). Items carried by your own units of course will always be listed.

At the bottom of your turn report is an Orders Template. This template gives you a formatted orders form, with all of your units listed. You may use this to fill in your orders, or write them on your own. The [OPTION](#) order gives you the option of giving more or less information in this template, or turning it off altogether. You can precede orders with an '@' sign in your orders, in which case they will appear in your template on the next turn's report.

## Hints for New Players

Make sure to use the correct #ATLANTIS and UNIT lines in your orders.

Always have a month's supply of spare cash in every region in which you have units, so that even if they are deprived of income for a month (due to a mistake in your orders, for example), they will not starve to death. It is very frustrating to have half your faction wiped out because you neglected to provide enough money for them to live on.

Be conservative with your money. Leaders especially are very hard to maintain. Even once you have recruited men, notice that it is expensive for them to [STUDY](#) (and become productive units), so be sure to save money to that end.

Don't leave it until the last minute to send orders. If there is a delay in the mailer, your orders will not arrive on time, and turns will NOT be rerun, nor will it be possible to change the data file for the benefit of players whose orders weren't there by the deadline. If you are going to send your orders at the last minute, send a preliminary set earlier in the week so that at worst your faction will not be left with no orders at all.

---

## Special Commands

These special commands have been added via the scripts processing the email to help you interact with the game and submit times and rumors. Please read over these new commands and their uses. Also note that all commands sent to the server are logged, including orders submissions, so if you have a problem, or if you attempt to abuse the system, it will get noticed and it will be tracked down.

---

### **#newplayer**

**Factionname:** [factionname]

**Password:** [password]

**Email:** [emailaddress]

This will create a new faction with the desired name, password and emailaddress.

Example:

Join the game as the faction named "Mighty Ducks" with the password of "quack"

```
#newplayer
Factionname: Mighty Ducks
Password: quack
Email: MightyD@duckpond.com
```

---

### **#resend [faction] "password"**

The faction number and your current password (if you have one) are required. The most recent turn report will be sent to the address of record.

Example:

You are faction 999 with password "quack" and need another copy of the last turn (because your harddrive crashed)

```
#resend 999 "quack"
```

---

**#AtlTimes [faction] "password"**

[body of article]

**#EndTimes**

Everything between the #AtlTimes and #EndTimes lines is included in your article. Your article will be marked as being sent by your faction, so you need not include that attribution in the article. You will receive \$50 for submitting the article.

Example:

Faction 999 wants to declare war on everyone

```
#AtlTimes 999 "quack"  
The Mighty Ducks declare war on the world!!  
Quack!  
#EndTimes
```

And it would appear something like:

-----  
Mighty Ducks (999) writes:

```
The Mighty Ducks declare war on the world!!  
Quack!
```

-----

---

**#AtlRumors [faction] "password"**

[body of rumor]

**#EndRumors**

Submit a rumor for publication in the next news. These articles are not attributed (unlike times articles) and will appear in the rumor section of the next news in a random order.

Example:

Start a malicious rumor

```
#AtlRumors 999 "quack"  
Oleg is a running-dog lackey of Azthar Spleenmonger.  
#EndRumors
```

---

**#Atlp2pMail [faction] "password" [receiving faction]**

[text of email]

## **#Endmail**

This command allows you to send an email to another player who's address is yet unknown to you. When you use this command, the recipient will receive your message and your factionname, but nothing else. If you want the recipient to have your email address, you have to state it in your message.

Example:

Send an email to the owner of faction 888

```
#Atlp2pMail 999 "quack" 888
Greetings. You've entered the Kingdom of Foo.
Please contact us.
```

```
Lord Foo
foo@some.email
#Endmail
```

Faction 888 would receive:

```
From:st.atlantis@gmx.de
Subject:p2pMail from The Mighty Ducks
```

```
The Mighty Ducks writes:
Greetings. You've entered the Kingdom of Foo.
Please contact us.
```

```
Lord Foo
foo@some.email
```

---



## **#AtlUnitMail [faction] "password" [receiving unit]**

[text of email]

## **#Endmail**

This command allows you to send an email to the owner of a unit even when you cannot see that unit's faction affiliation. You will not be told who the unit belongs to, but will simply send your message to them. When you use this command, they will receive YOUR message and can contact you if they choose. It is provided simply as a courtesy to players to help with diplomacy in first contact situations.

Example:

Send an email to the owner of unit 9999

```
#AtlUnitMail 999 "quack" 9999
Greetings. You've entered the Kingdom of Foo.
Please contact us.
```

```
Lord Foo
foo@some.email
#Endmail
```

Faction X, the owner of 9999 would receive:

```
From:st.atlantis@gmx.de
Subject:UnitMail from The Mighty Ducks
```

```
The Mighty Ducks writes:
Greetings. You've entered the Kingdom of Foo.
Please contact us.
```

```
Lord Foo
foo@some.email
```

## **Credits**

Atlantis was originally created and programmed by Russell Wallace. Russell Wallace created Atlantis 1.0, and partially designed Atlantis 2.0 and Atlantis 3.0.

Geoff Dunbar designed and programmed Atlantis 2.0, 3.0, and 4.0 up through version 4.0.4 and created the Atlantis Project to freely release and maintain the Atlantis source code.

Larry Stanbery created the Atlantis 4.0.4+ derivative.

[JT Traub](#) took over the source code and merged the then forking versions of 4.0.4c and 4.0.4+ back into 4.0.5 along with modifications of his own and has been maintaining the code.

Development of the code is open and there is a egroup devoted to it located at [The YahooGroups AtlantisDev egroup](#). Please join this egroup if you work on the code and share your changes back into the codebase as a whole

Please see the CREDITS file in the source distribution for a complete (hopefully) list of all contributors.