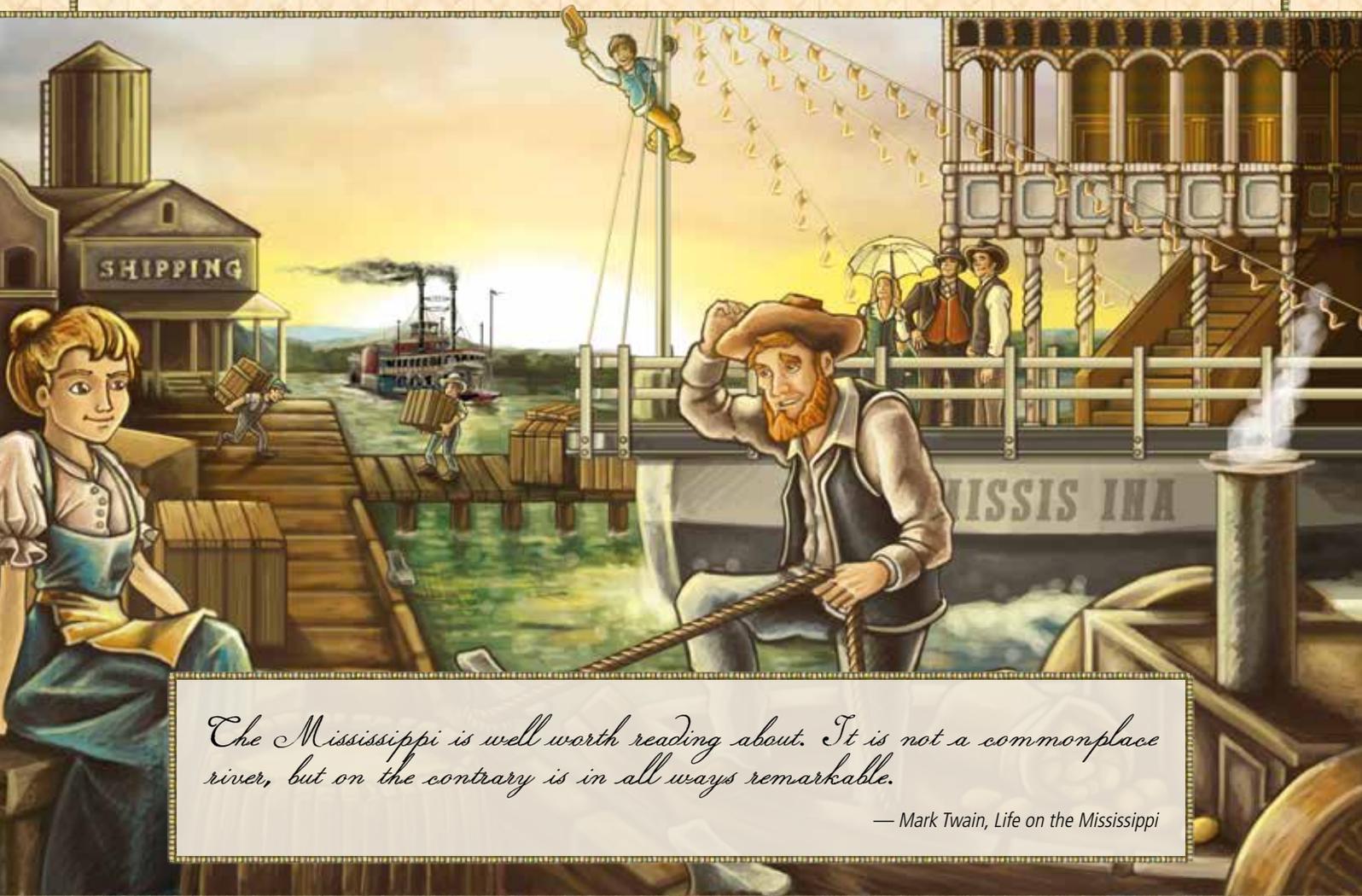


RIVERBOAT

By Michael Kiesling
For 2-4 players, ages 10 and up
Playing time: 90 minutes



The Upper Midwest, early 19th Century: It is a hard life farming along the Upper Mississippi, but it is an era of innovation and expansion, and the technological advances in riverboat technology are expanding the opportunities that you have! Not only are you able to increase the size and variety of your crops, but also able to claim contracts farther and farther down the Mississippi River. You can even hire agents who will work in New Orleans to sell your goods and advise you on business opportunities. Careful use of your workers, gaining the favor of the harbor master, claiming opportunities when they arise, and keeping a close eye on your competitors will help you build an empire along the mighty Mississippi!



The Mississippi is well worth reading about. It is not a commonplace river, but on the contrary is in all ways remarkable.

— Mark Twain, *Life on the Mississippi*

Designer: Michael Kiesling
Editing: Alex Yeager and Grzegorz Kobiela
Illustrations: Klemens Franz | atelier198
Typesetting: Andrea Kattinig | atelier198

If you have any damaged or missing parts,
please contact us at:
custserv@mayfairgames.com
or 1-847-677-6655

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Mayfair Games, Inc.
www.mayfairgames.com
8060 St. Louis Ave.
Skokie IL 60076

Mayfair GmbH
Haagweg 5, 61231
Bad Neuheim, Deutschland



mayfairgames.com

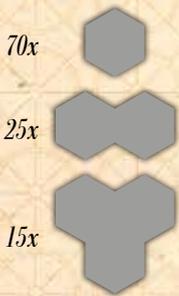
COMPONENTS



2 Game boards



4 Player mats



110 Crop tiles



Turnip



Wheat



Corn



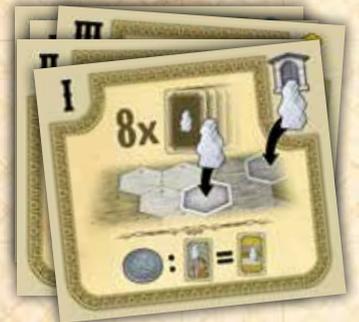
Potato



Pumpkin



45 Riverboats
5 each of 9 different types



5 Phase tiles



8 Barns



8 Wells



25 Coins



8 Score markers
one each of "-/50" and
"100/150" in player colors



1 First Player marker



7 each of 5 different colors

5 wild cards

back



17 Opportunity cards

front

back



3 Crop Distribution cards



56 Workers



28 Surveyors



4 Harbor Masters

SETUP

CENTRAL DISPLAY

Place the two **game boards** in the center of the playing area.

① Sort the **Riverboats** by their capacities (*numbers at the bottom*) and effects (*note that there are two versions of the 2 and 3 tiles*) and set each pile face up alongside the matching boat art above the "New Orleans" board. Move the top tile of each pile onto the game board, placing it on the matching boat art.

② Place one **Worker** on each of the four spaces of the **Round track**.



③ Shuffle the **Cultivation cards** and place them face down near the game boards.

④ Shuffle the **Opportunity cards** and place them face down next to the "New Orleans" board.



⑤ Draw four Opportunity cards from the pile and place them face up on the four designated card spaces on the game board.



⑥ Place the **Barns, Wells, Surveyors,** and **Coins** near the game boards as a general supply.

NOTE: The number of items in the general supply is limited.

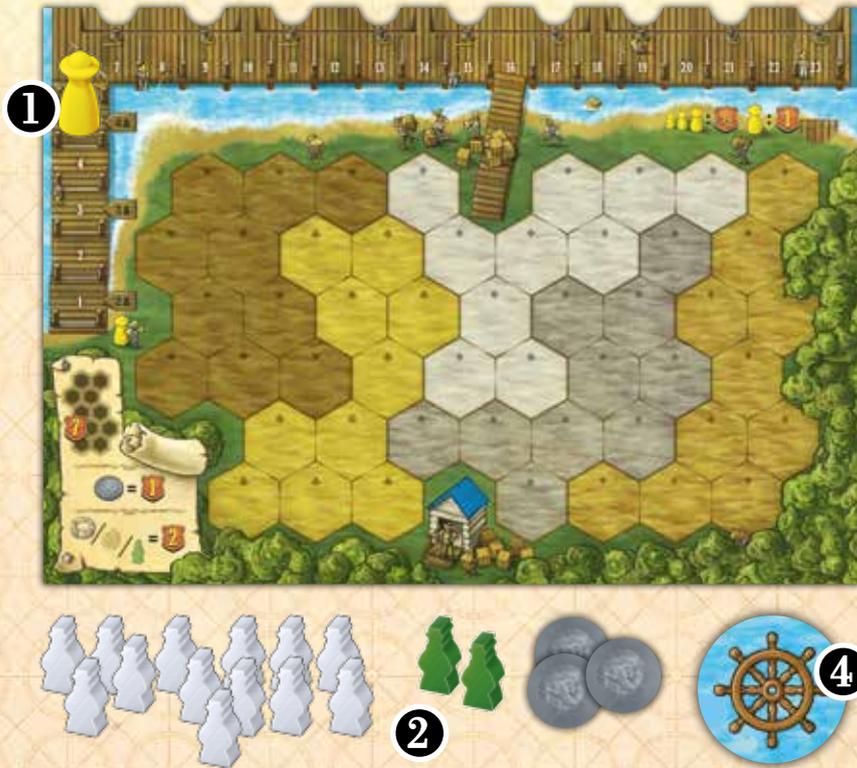


⑧ Place the five **Phase tiles** near the game boards, in reach of all players.

⑦ Shuffle the 1-hex, 2-hex, and 3-hex **Crop tiles** into separate, face-down piles. Fill the designated spaces of the "Scoring and Crop Supply" board with face-up Crop tiles drawn from the appropriate piles.

PERSONAL DISPLAY

Take a random **player mat** and place it in front of you. The four player mats differ in the Field layout (*colored hexes*) and the player color shown **on the shed at the bottom** of a mat. Leave some space at the top and beside your mat for other components to be placed.



1 Take a **Harbor Master** token and place it on the appropriate space (*for the number of players*) on your mat's **Harbor track**.

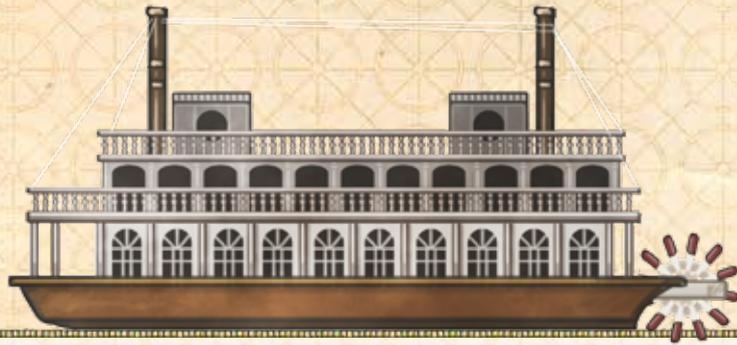
2 Take the following items and place them in a personal supply near your mat:

- 13 Workers
- 2 Surveyors
- 3 Coins

3 Take the two **Score markers** in your player color (*showing "-150" and "100/150"*) and place the "-150" one with the blank side facing up on the "0" of the **Score track** (*on the appropriate game board*).



4 Randomly determine a player to go first and hand them the **First Player marker**.



The necessary preparation for the trip down river was made at Prescott (Wisconsin). Stores of pork, beans, flour, molasses, and whiskey were laid in. The hundreds of rough men who handled the great steering oars on these rafts spent their money in the saloons which lined the river front and adjacent streets, filling themselves with noxious liquors, and often ending their "sprees" with a free fight between rival crews. A hundred men would join in the fray, the city marshal sitting on a "snubbing post", revolver in hand, watching the affair with the enlightened eye of an expert and the enjoyment of a connoisseur.

— George Byron Merrick, *Old Times on the Upper Mississippi*

COURSE OF PLAY

The game lasts **four Rounds**. Each Round, you will start by choosing one or more Phase tiles to give you a small advantage as the Round progresses. Then, each of the five Phases is resolved in the following order:

1. Cultivation
2. Planting
3. Harvesting and Shipping
4. Opportunity
5. Scoring

At the end of four Rounds, **Victory Points (VP)** will be awarded for remaining Coins, completed Fields, for the distance downstream that your Harbor Master allowed you to conduct business, and for having more Agents in New Orleans than your opponents (see “Final Scoring” on page 12).

START OF A ROUND

Set up the game board for the upcoming Round:

- Place face-up Crop tiles on the empty spaces of the “Scoring and Crop Supply” board, of the appropriate size (1, 2, or 3 hexes). (See also ❶ on page 3.)
- Make sure there is a Riverboat tile of each type on the “New Orleans” board (if tiles remain). (See also ❷ on page 3.)
- Place a face-up Opportunity card on each of the four card spaces on the “New Orleans” board. (See also ❸ on page 3.)

NOTE: For Round 1, you already completed these steps during setup.

The player with the First Player marker chooses one of the five **Phase tiles**. Choosing a tile means that you will go first during that Phase and that you will receive a bonus at the start of that Phase. Then the player to the left chooses one of the remaining Phase tiles. Continue selecting Phase tiles in clockwise order **until all Phase tiles have been selected**. One or two players will have multiple Phase tiles.

TIP: If you like, let the First Player take all Phase tiles into their hand, choose and keep one, and pass the rest to the player to their left, and so on.

FIVE PHASES OF A ROUND

After selecting, resolve each of the five Phases of the Round one by one. At the start of each Phase, the player who selected the corresponding Phase tile receives their bonus (shown on the tile). During each Phase, play proceeds clockwise around the table, beginning with the player who selected the Phase tile. The Phases will be explained in detail on the following pages.



Coins

Coins are very valuable! They are worth 1 Victory Point each at the end of the game, and they also let you break the rules during a Phase in different ways. There is no limit to the number of Coins that you may spend during a Round (although you will only spend one Coin at a time to modify an action). If Coins run out in the general supply, you cannot get any more until someone spends some.

END OF A ROUND

The Round ends after the five Phases are complete.

- At the end of Rounds 1, 2, and 3, return your Phase tiles, pass the First Player marker to the player to the left of the current holder, and proceed with the next Round (see “Start of a Round” above).

NOTE: In a three-player game, at the end of Round 3, pass the First Player marker to the player who is farthest behind on the Victory Point track. In case of a tie, the owner of the Score marker on top of the pile of tied markers becomes the First Player.



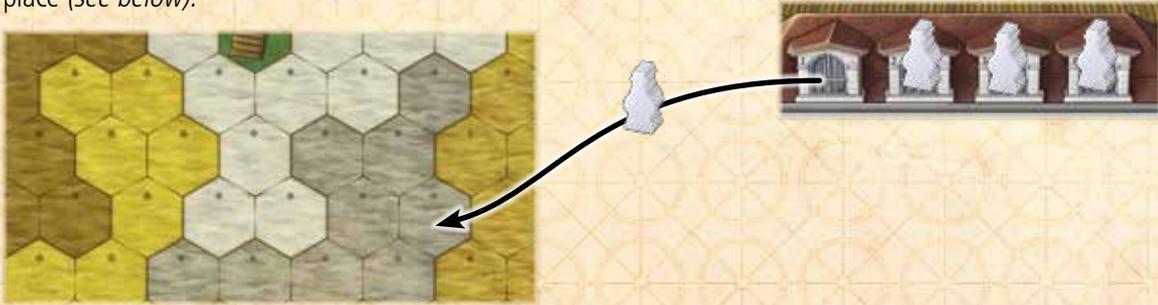
- The game ends at the end of Round 4. Proceed with the Final Scoring (see page 12), but keep your Phase tiles (they may serve as a tie-breaker).

1. Cultivation Phase

	Phase Tile Bonus:	Take 1 Worker from the Round track and place it on your mat.
	Phase Action:	Place up to 8 Workers.
	Coin Ability:	Ignore 1 revealed Cultivation card when placing Workers.

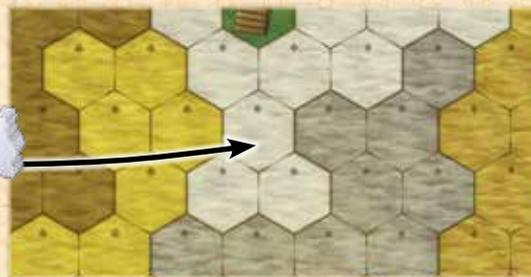
During this Phase, you will prepare your Fields for planting by placing Workers based on the Cultivation cards revealed.

If you have the Cultivation Phase tile, **as the bonus**, take the leftmost Worker from the Round track (*thus counting down a Round*) and immediately place it on your player mat, in an empty Field of your choice. This Worker does not count towards the (*up to*) 8 Workers you are about to place (*see below*).

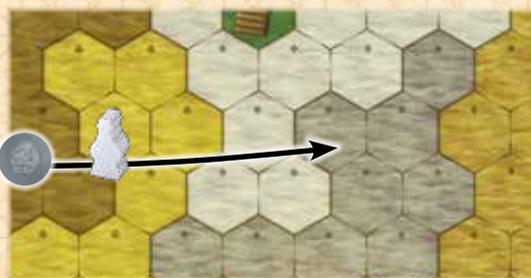


Then draw **8 Cultivation cards** from the pile and place them **face down** in front of you. Reveal the top card from those drawn and read its color aloud. This card's color will match one of the five colors of Fields on your player mat, or will be a "wild" card. (*The little symbols on the cards and Fields correspond to the colors.*)

Each player who has a Worker remaining in their personal supply **must** now place a Worker into an empty Field of matching color on their player mat (*that does not contain a Worker yet*). If a wild card is revealed, you may place the Worker on a color of your choice. You **cannot** choose to skip a placement—if you have a Worker, you **must** place one.



If you spend a Coin, you may ignore the revealed card and instead place a Worker into an empty Field of your choice.



Once Workers are placed, reveal the next Cultivation card from those drawn and resolve it the same way as above. Continue until all eight Cultivation cards have been revealed.

NOTE: If you have **no empty Fields in the revealed color** left, place a Worker on any empty Field on your mat. If you **are out of Workers**, you do not participate in the rest of this Phase.

TIP: Consider grouping your Workers together! Where you place Workers this Phase will determine where you may place Crop tiles next Phase. If your Workers are all separated, you will only be able to place 1-hex Crop tiles in the next Phase.

TIP: You will receive bonus points at the end of the game for completely covering all Fields of a color on your player mat. Use wild cards and Coins to help fill in those last spaces!

2. Planting Phase



Phase Tile Bonus:	Receive 1 Coin from the general supply.
Phase Action:	Place Crop tiles under your Workers.
Coin Ability:	Choose a 1-hex or 2-hex Crop tile from the draw pile.

During this Phase, you will plant Crops in the Fields that you prepared during the Cultivation Phase.

If you have the Planting Phase tile, **as the bonus**, take 1 Coin from the general supply (*if any remain*) and place it in your personal supply. Then take **one of the Crop tiles** on the "Scoring and Crop Supply" board and place it on your player mat. Crop tiles are made up of 1, 2, or 3 hexes showing one or two of the five different Crops. The tile shape you select must fit under one, two, or three of the Workers currently standing in empty Fields (*without a Crop tile currently under them*). Place the tile underneath the Workers, so that the Workers are now standing on the chosen tile.



 **If you spend a Coin**, you may instead select either a 1-hex or 2-hex (**not 3-hex!**) Crop tile from the respective face-down draw pile. Shuffle the remaining tiles once selected. If you choose to spend a Coin, you must take a tile from the draw pile instead of the game board, even if you do not like what you see in the pile.



TIP: For each Crop type, there is exactly one 2-hex tile showing two of the same Crop. (See also the *Crop Distribution cards* for reference.)

Details on Placing a Crop Tile:

- Your chosen tile must be fully covered by Workers.
- The color of Field(s) that you play onto does not matter, and your tile may be part of multiple Field colors.
- Once a Crop tile is placed, it may not be moved again.
- You do not have to match the type of Crops shown to other Crop tiles you have played (*but there are several reasons to try and group similar Crops together, if you can—see "Estate Features" on page 9*).
- If you place a 2- or 3-hex Crop tile, you **immediately** score 1 and 2 Victory Points, respectively, as printed on the Crop tile.

The spaces on the game board are **not refilled** during this Phase, with one exception: at the start of your turn, if you have remaining Workers in empty Fields and the existing face-up tiles are unable to fill them, immediately refill the **entire** game board with Crop tiles and then take a tile.

Example: It is Annabelle's turn. She has one Worker in an empty Field remaining on her mat, but there are only 2-hex tiles remaining on the game board. Annabelle refills all of the empty 1-, 2-, and 3-hex spaces on the board, and then selects a 1-hex tile.

The next player clockwise now chooses one Crop tile and places it on their mat. Continue selecting Crop tiles until **all Workers** placed during the previous Phase have a Crop tile underneath them (*no Workers should remain in empty Fields at the end of the Planting Phase*). Players with no Workers remaining in empty Fields are skipped. It is possible (*and usual*) that some players participate in this Phase longer than others.

NOTE: In the rather unlikely case that all of the 1-hex Crop tiles in the game have been taken while you have individual Workers remaining in empty Fields, return these Workers to your personal supply and skip the rest of this Phase, once you cannot place any more Crop tiles.

3. Harvesting and Shipping Phase

	Phase Tile Bonus:	Your Harbor Master takes 1 step on the Harbor track.
	Phase Action:	Claim up to 2 Riverboats (Round 4: 3 Riverboats).
	Coin Ability:	Take 1 Riverboat from a draw pile.

During this Phase, you will harvest Crops and claim Riverboats for shipping your Crops.

If you have the Harvesting and Shipping Phase tile, **as the bonus**, advance your Harbor Master one step on the Harbor track (see "Harbor Track" on page 9).



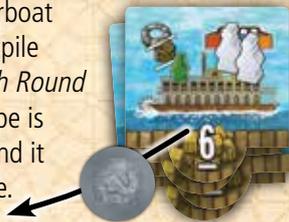
Then **claim one of the Riverboat tiles** from the "New Orleans" board. To claim a Riverboat, you must fill it by removing the exact number of Workers from anywhere on your mat corresponding to the **capacity** shown on the tile (see box), and **all from a single Crop type**. The removed Workers go back to your personal supply, to once again be placed into Fields next Round or used as Agents later (see "Agents" on page 9).

<i>Benefits</i>		Riverboats
<i>Capacity</i>	3	Riverboat tiles have two features: a capacity (also the number of Victory Points that the boat will potentially score at the end of the game) and an immediate benefit of Coins, Victory Points, Harbor Master movement, Estate Features, or the ability to place Agents in New Orleans (see below).

Place the Riverboat tile in the **leftmost** indentation available at the top of your player mat. You may pass and not take a Riverboat tile. If you do, you will not get any more Riverboat tiles this Round.



If you spend a Coin, you may take a Riverboat tile of your choice from the respective draw pile (only one of each Riverboat is available each Round without the use of a Coin). If a Riverboat type is exhausted, you may not choose that type, and it will not be available for the rest of the game.



Once a Riverboat is placed, you may claim the benefits shown on the tile. Note that there are two different types of 2- and 3-capacity Riverboats, each with different benefits (see below). Occasionally, you may score a **Harvesting Bonus** (see next page).

The next player clockwise may now take one Riverboat tile. Continue until each player has had **2 actions** to take Riverboats, or has passed.

NOTE: During Round 4, you may take up to 3 Riverboat tiles.

Riverboats and Benefits

	Take 1 Coin from the general supply (if any remain) and move your Harbor Master 3 steps on the Harbor track.		Receive 3 VP and move your Harbor Master 1 step on the Harbor track.		You get 1 Surveyor and you may send 1 Worker to New Orleans (see next page).
	Receive 1 VP and move your Harbor Master 2 steps on the Harbor track.		Receive 3 VP and take 1 Coin from the general supply (if any remain).		You get 1 Estate Feature and you may send up to 2 Workers to New Orleans.
	Receive 2 VP and move your Harbor Master 1 step on the Harbor track.		You get 1 Barn (see "Estate Features" on the next page).		You get 1 Estate Feature and you may send up to 3 Workers to New Orleans.

Harbor Track

The Harbor track on your player mat is where your Harbor Master will take steps, always traveling in the direction of New Orleans (*the right side of the track*). There are indentations for your Riverboat tiles to be placed when you take them, filling from left to right along the top of your player mat. Only the Riverboats that your Harbor Master arrives at or passes will score Victory Points at the end of the game. However: unless your Harbor Master has traveled farthest down the track, you will only receive half value for your Riverboat tiles!



The harbor master...had the authority to decide which vessels could dock, where they could tie their lines, how long they could stay, and what fees they were to pay the city.

— D. Clayton James, *Antebellum Natchez*

Estate Features

This is the collective term for **Barns**, **Wells**, and **Surveyors**. If you receive a Barn or Well, you must immediately place it onto your mat. Surveyors are only placed during the Scoring Phase. If a particular Estate Feature is exhausted in the general supply, you may take a different Estate Feature of your choice from the remaining Features. If all are exhausted, which is highly unlikely, you get nothing.



Barns: Place a Barn on an empty Field space on your player mat. Barns score for the most Crop hexes of a single type surrounding it (see "Scoring Phase", page 11). You may place Barns next to each other, although this is not recommended.



Wells: Place a Well onto a Crop hex (*with or without a Worker on it*) of a type on which you have not placed a Well yet. Wells score for the contiguous group of the same Crop including the Crop hex with the Well (see "Scoring Phase", page 11). You may have at most one Well per Crop type.



Surveyors: Place a Surveyor in your personal supply. You may use them during the Scoring Phase to score Barns, Wells, and Opportunity cards (see "Scoring Phase", page 11).

Agents

Workers placed in New Orleans become **Agents**, working to find business for you. Only Workers in your personal supply may become Agents. Make sure to place your Workers into your part of the mansion (*indicated by the stairs in player colors*)! Once placed, Agents remain in New Orleans for the rest of the game, reducing your available Workers for your Fields. You will receive 1 Victory Point during the Scoring Phase of each Round for every Agent you have in New Orleans, and more points at the end of the game if you have more Agents than other players.



Harvesting Bonus

As soon as you have harvested a total of at least **9 Crops of one type** during the game (*from anywhere on your mat and not necessarily all during the same Round*), you may take an **Estate Feature of your choice** (*placing a Barn or Well immediately*). You may not score this bonus for the same Crop twice, but you may score it for different Crops.



4. Opportunity Phase



Phase Tile Bonus: Receive 1 Victory Point.
Phase Action: Claim 1 face-up Opportunity card and receive a bonus.
Coin Ability: Choose 1 Opportunity card from the draw pile (no bonus).

During this Phase, you will get the chance to take an Opportunity card from the game board. Each card space has an additional benefit associated with it.

You say you are going to revisit your river, by-and-bye, when you find opportunity.

— Mark Twain, *Life on the Mississippi*

If you have the Opportunity Phase tile, **as the bonus**, you immediately get 1 Victory Point.

Then **select one face-up Opportunity card** from a card space on the “New Orleans” board and place it face up next to your player mat. Also, you immediately get the bonus printed above that card space (*receive 1 Surveyor, send 1 Worker to New Orleans, or take 2 steps with your Harbor Master, receive 1 Coin*).



NOTE: You do not score these cards immediately! You will have the opportunity to score them during the Scoring Phase.



If you spend a Coin, you may instead choose an Opportunity card from the face-down draw pile instead of the face-up ones on the game board. You do not get any bonus, and you must choose a card from the draw pile if you spend a Coin. Place the chosen card face up next to your player mat.



The next player clockwise may now take one of the remaining Opportunity cards or pay a Coin to select one from the draw pile. Continue until each player has taken one card. Finally, move the remaining Opportunity cards on the game board (*if any*) face down to the bottom of the draw pile in any order.

The following briefly explains what each Opportunity card scores Victory Points for:



You get 1 VP for each Corn that you harvested (max. 15 VP).



You get 3 VP for each Crop type that you harvested (max. 15 VP).



You get 1 VP for each Potato that you harvested (max. 15 VP).



You get 2 VP for each Agent you have in New Orleans (max. 14 VP).



You get 1 VP for each Pumpkin that you harvested (max. 15 VP).



You get 5 VP and you may send up to 2 Workers to New Orleans.



You get 1 VP for each Turnip that you harvested (max. 15 VP).



You get 5 VP and your Harbor Master takes 2 steps.



You get 1 VP for each Wheat that you harvested (max. 15 VP).



You get 7 VP and your Harbor Master takes 1 step.

5. Scoring Phase



Phase Tile Bonus:

Choose one: receive 1 Coin, or take 1 step with your Harbor Master, or send 1 Worker to New Orleans.

Phase Action:

Place up to 2 Surveyors (**Round 4: 3 Surveyors**)

Coin Ability:

—

During this Phase, you will use Surveyors to score Barns, Wells, and Opportunity cards, and you will receive Victory Points for your active Surveyors and Agents in New Orleans.

If you have the Scoring Phase tile, **as the bonus**, you may either take 1 Coin from the general supply (*if any remain*), **or** send 1 Worker from your personal supply to New Orleans, **or** advance your Harbor Master 1 step on your Harbor track.

Then use up to **two Surveyors** from your personal supply to score your Barns, Wells, and Opportunity cards. To score a Barn, Well, or Opportunity card, place a Surveyor with it. You may not place a second Surveyor at a location (*no Barn, Well, or Opportunity card will score twice*). You may also pass and not place any Surveyors this Round. Once placed, a Surveyor remains at his location until the end of the game.



If you place a Surveyor with a **Barn**, immediately score 2 Victory Points for adjacent Crops of a single type (*up to 12 Victory Points if all six surrounding hexes were of the same Crop type*). If you add Crops of the scored type later, you will not get any additional points.



If you place a Surveyor with a **Well**, score 1 Victory Point for the contiguous group of Crop hexes matching and including the Crop hex that the Well sits on. If you expand an area with an already-scored Well later, you will not get any additional points.



If you place a Surveyor with an **Opportunity card**, score the card based on the requirements shown on it (*see page 10 for a list of all Opportunity cards*).

NOTE: You start the game with only two Surveyors and there are only three ways to get new ones: from Riverboats (*capacities 5, 6, and 7*), from scoring the Harvesting Bonus (*see page 9*), and from taking an Opportunity card from the card space with the Surveyor.

After scoring or passing, the next player clockwise may place up to two Surveyors, and so on until each player has placed up to two Surveyors or passed.

NOTE: During Round 4, you may place up to 3 Surveyors.

After placing Surveyors, you now score **1 Victory Point for each active Surveyor** (*those that have triggered a Scoring on a Barn, Well, or Opportunity card in this or a previous Round*), and **1 Victory Point for each Agent you have in New Orleans**.

Opportunity cards continued:



You get 2 VP for each Coin in your supply (max. 14 VP). Keep the Coins.



You get 2 VP for each 3-hex Crop tile on your player mat (max. 14 VP).



You get 5 VP for each Barn on your player mat (max. 15 VP).



You get 1 VP for each occupied Field on the outskirts of your player mat (max. 15 VP).



You get 5 VP for each Well on your player mat (max. 15 VP).



Select two of your Riverboats. Score VP equal to their combined capacities (max. 14 VP).



You get 3 VP for each Barn and each Well on your player mat (max. 15 VP).

Score Track

Whenever you get Victory Points, advance your Score marker on the Score track accordingly. If there are Score markers of other players on the space, place your Score marker on top. Turn your Score marker to the other side or replace it with the "100/150 Victory Points" marker as soon as you achieve that many Victory Points.



Example: This player currently has 64 points.

FINAL SCORING

After completing Round 4, the game is over. Award additional Victory Points for the following items:

- 1 Victory Point for each remaining Coin
- 7 Victory Points for each color of Field spaces on a player mat completely covered with Crop hexes and/or Barns
- 2 Victory Points for each unscored Estate Feature (*Barn, Well, or Surveyor*)
- **Harbor Scoring**
- **Agents Bonus Scoring**

Harbor Scoring

Determine the player whose Harbor Master has traveled the farthest on their Harbor track. If tied, the tied player with the earlier Phase tile (*from Round 4*) is considered to be farthest (*e.g., the Cultivation Phase tile would beat the Opportunity Phase tile*). That player receives **full value** for each Riverboat tile that their Harbor Master has passed or arrived at. The number of Victory Points a Riverboat is worth is equal to its capacity. All other players receive **half value** for the total of Riverboat tiles that their Harbor Masters have passed or arrived at (*rounded up*). All tiles in front of the Harbor Master's position score nothing.



Example: Annabelle would score $4+2+7+1+5=19$ VP if her Harbor Master was farthest on the track; otherwise, she would score $19/2=10$ VP (rounded up).

The illustration at the top right of your player mat reminds you of how the Harbor Scoring works.

Agents Bonus Scoring

Count the number of Agents that you have in New Orleans.

- 1st place receives 20 Victory Points;
- 2nd place receives 10 Victory Points;
- 3rd place receives 5 Victory Points;
- 4th place does not receive any Victory Points.



This is true for any number of players. Again, the tied player with the earlier Phase tile (*from Round 4*) breaks ties. You must have at least 1 Agent in New Orleans to earn Victory Points from this scoring.

WINNER

The winner is the player with the most Victory Points. In case of a tie, the tied players are equally masterful!

A Note about the Setting

Games, like history, sometimes will adjust focus to better fit a specific narrative. We offer this game as a celebration of the positive elements of life and business along the Mississippi River, while freely acknowledging that we have taken care to use our location and crops in such a way to avoid addressing the very real and abhorrent existence of slavery as part of early-to-mid 1800s agricultural commerce in the United States. Our use of Twain for romantic color does not discount other writings from Frederick Douglass or Sojourner Truth about the narrative of actual history, and the inquisitive player is encouraged to investigate the original source material from the period, far more thoroughly and accurately than we could here.