

**GODS** for 2 to 4 gods, 12+ years, game duration: 45 minutes, artwork: Hans-Jörg Brehm.

**MATERIAL**



84 hex cards (32 temples, 32 tribes, 12 deserts, 2 whirlwinds, 3 extra actions, 3 decays),



8 points cards, 4 points chips, 60 god stones, 4 counting boards, 4 counting markers, 1 display, 1 sack and 1 rule.

**IDEA**

After the big flood the gods recreate the earth from scratch. They form the surface according to their will and populate it with tribes of different nations. With temples the gods try to win over the various tribes for themselves, or dispute their ownership with others. The tribes are characterised by extreme fickleness: no sooner has a god built a new temple in their neighbourhood than they all convert to his religion. Whoever is particularly successful will manage to win three of the same tribe and found a nation. Only in this way can one end up the victor in the game.

**PREPARATIONS**

- Each player chooses a god, takes the fitting counting board, temples and god stones.
- Put a counting marker on the „2“ of the counting board.
- Put the points cards and points chips and the display as public stock in the middle.
- Put, depending on the number of players, the following hex cards in the middle. This is the starting constellation and the beginning of the playing field which is not limited in size.



*Note: The colours of the temples in the picture are just as an example. Depending on the colours the players have chosen they have to put the correspondond ones.*

- Put all the other hex cards (except temples and the hex cards from the starting constellation) in the sack.
- Put all material that is not needed with less than 4 players back in the box.
- Choose a starting player. He begins.

**GAMEPLAY**

Play clockwise. The turn of a player is like the following:

- 1) Collect power
- 2) Refill hex cards
- 3) Make two actions

After that the next player has his turn.

**1) Collect power**

The player receives 3 power points. For that he moves his counting marker 3 fields up. It is not possible to have more than 12 points - more points will not be counted and will be lost.

**2) Refill hex cards**

For each empty field on the display the player draws a hex card from the sack. He puts the hex card face up on the display.

Identical hex card: If there are after the refill two identical hex cards on the display then one has to be put aside. Now draw from the sack as long as a non-identical hex card appears. Put this one on the display. Put the put-aside card and the rest of the just drawn cards back in the sack. Now there should be two different hex cards on the display.

*Example: After the refill two green tribes are on the display. One is put aside and an additional hex card is drawn from the sack. It is a blue tribe and is put on the display. Now on the display is a blue and a green tribe. The put-aside hex cad is put back in the sack.*

Early game end: If there are two identical hex cards on the display and in the sack are only identical cards left than the game ends immediately. The game also ends immediately if there are not enough cards left in the sack to refill the display.

**3) Make two actions**

The player must do 2 actions. He is not allowed to renounce an action. The player has (depending on the display) the following possibilities:

- a) Place tribe
- b) Place temple
- c) Play other hex cards
- d) Make extra action
- e) Move desert
- f) Discard hex card

Most of these actions cost power points - then the counting marker has to be moved the number of points back.

If the player has not enough points for a specific action than the player can't do this action. „Pay“ for an action before you start the next action.

**The actions in detail**

**a) Place tribe**

If a player places a tribe from the display into the playing field, the tribe has to be directly adjacent to a hex card. In most cases a god stone has to be put on the tribe.

The colour of the god stone shows the religion to that the tribe belongs. The religion depends on the directly adjacent hex cards - there are 5 cases:

- If there are only **temples of just one religion** directly adjacent to a just placed tribe, then the tribe takes this religion. Put a god stone of the correspondond colour on the just placed tribe.

*Example: The player places a tribe on the right side of the temple. The tribe takes the religion of the red goddess and gets a red god stone.*

- If there are **temples of different religions** directly adjacent to a just placed tribe, then the tribe takes no religion. No god stone is placed on the tribe.

*Example: The player places a tribe directly adjacent to temples of different gods. The tribe gets no god stone.*

- If there are **no temples but tribes of just one religion** directly adjacent to a just placed tribe, then the tribe takes this religion. Put a god stone of the correspondond colour on the just placed tribe.

*Example: The player places a tribe on the left side of another tribe with a red gods stone. Because there is no temple directly adjacent and just tribes of one religion he takes this religion and gets a red god stone.*

- If there are **no temples and tribes of different religions** directly adjacent to a just placed tribe, then the tribe takes no religion. No god stone is placed on the tribe.

*Example: The player places a tribe on the left side of several tribes with different religions. It gets a red god stone.*

- If there are **no temples and no tribes** directly adjacent to a just placed tribe, then the tribe takes no religion. No god stone is placed on the tribe.

*Example: The player places a tribe on the left of a desert. There is no temple or tribe directly adjacent, so it gets no god stone.*

Placing a tribe into the playing field costs 1 power point per directly adjacent hex card.

*Example: In the before last picture placing the tribe costs 2 power points because he is directly adjacent to 2 hex cards.*

**b) Place temple**

If a player places a temple into the playing field the temple has to be directly adjacent to a hex card.

If the player places a temple all directly adjacent tribes change in any case their religion and take the religion of the just placed temple.

The tribes get a god stone in the colour of the just placed temple. god stones of other players have to be removed. The owners get them back to their stock.

*Example: After placing the red temple all directly adjacent tribes change their religion. The yellow god stones are removed and red ones added. Placing this temple costs 6 power points because wo hex cards are directly adjacent.*

Placing a temple into the playing field costs 3 power points per directly adjacent hex card.

**c) Play other hex cards**

**Desert:** If the player places a desert from the display into the playing field the desert has to be directly adjacent to a hex card.

Placing a desert from the display into the playing field costs no power points. nstead the player gets 1 power point.

**Decay:** If the player places a hex card „decay“ from the display into the playing field, the hex card „decay“ has to be directly adjacent to a hex card. The player can take a power point from an owner of a directly adjacent temple if this one has a minimum of one point.

Placing a hex card „decay“ from the display into the playing field costs no power points.

**Whirlwind:** This hex card should not to be played into the playing field. It gets back into the game box after playing. Then the player can move a desert of his choice to another place in the playing field directly adjacent to another hex card.

Placing a whirlwind costs no power points.

**Extra action:** This hex card should not to be played into the playing field. He puts it face up in front of him. In a later turn he can make an extra action with it.

Taking a hex card „extra action“ costs no power points.

**d) Make extra action**

If the player owns a hex card „extra action“ he can play it, to make an extra action. The hex card gets back into the box. Playing an extra action itself is not defined as an action.

Playing a hex card „extra action“ costs no power point. The extra action itself costs as usual.

**e) Move desert**

Like the hex card „whirlwind“ the player can move a desert of his choice in the playing field to another place in the playing field directly adjacent to another hex card.

Moving a hex card „desert“ within the playing field costs 2 power points.

**f) Discard hex card**

The player puts a hex card from the display back in the sack.

Putting a hexcard from the display back into the sack costs no power points.

The player can do his actions in the order he likes.

The player can only do the actions „place tribe“ and „make extra action“ more than one time in his turn. All other actions he only can do once in his turn.

**Unite a nation**

If a player has achieved that 3 tribes of the same tribe colour have his religion than he has united a nation. For that he gets from the public stock a points card in the tribe colour that he puts face up in front of him. And he gets a points chip in the tribe colour that he also puts face up in front of him. But if this points chip already is in front of another player he don't gets the chip.



*Example: In the playing field are 3 green tribes. Two of them have blue god stones and one a yellow god stone. Player blue has his turn and places a temple at the tribe with the yellow god stone. The tribe changes the religion and gets a blue god stone. Now 3 green tribes have the blue religion. Player blue gets the green points card and the green points chip. He puts both face up in front of him.*

In each tribe colour exist 8 tribes. Therefore it is possible to unite in each tribe colour 2 nations. This can be achieved even by the same player: when 6 tibes of the same tribe colour have the same religion.

Important: To unite a nation it is not neccessary that the tribes have to be near each other. They can be spread all over the playing field.

**A nation fall to pieces**

If tribes change their religion and a player hasn't anymore 3 of a kind, he must give the points card back to the public stock.

Important: Never give the points chip back.

The numbers on the points cards and the points chips are victory points.

**GAME END**

The game ends **immediately** ...

... if a player has points cards and points chips worth 9 victory points.

With 2 players the game ends with 10 victory points

... or if the display can't be refilled with different hex cards

... or if there are not enough hex cards left in the sack for the refill of the display.

„The game end immediately“ means that further possible actions of the player who has his turn get lost unused.

If no player has achieved 9 or 10 victory points at the game end, then the player with the most victory points wins.

In case of a tie the player with the most power points wins.

**OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS**

- Don't put hex cards on top of other hex cards.
- If a player runs out of god stones the tribe stays without a god stone.
- If a player runs out of temples he can't place temples anymore.

**TACTICAL COMMENTS**

- „Discard hex card“ is a good option if a player wants to save some power points for a later and expensive action. If there is „desert“ or „decay“ on the display there is also the possibility to make even extra points for that.
- With „desert“ it is not only possible to block an opponents temple.
- It is also possible to save cheaply a bit „own“ tribes from the opponents temples. Then it costs the opponent more points to place a temple there.
- But „desert“ can be moved, so don't feel too safe.
- If you have no desert on the display you also can have the same effect by placing other tribes. An effective layout is the row (following example).
- That's the fastest way to rise the costs for the others if they want your tribe.



*Example: Red places a violet tribe at the right side of his temple and then a desert a the right side of the tribe. If now another player wants to change the religion of the violet tribe and therefore places a temple on one of the possible 4 light green places. The this player has to pay 6 power points.*

**THE BACKGROUND STORY**

„Gods“ was first released 2001 as a „do-it-yourself“ game in the series „Spiele aus Timbuktu“ and was limited to 1000 copies. Because of that special format there had to be some compromises with material and rules. There was no other possibility at the time. But now „Gods“ is published in the form it should have from the authors side.

Forther informations and rules updates at [www.spiele-aus-timbuktu.de](http://www.spiele-aus-timbuktu.de)

Send comments and questions to [post-timbuktu@web.de](mailto:post-timbuktu@web.de)

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**TRANSLATION HELP**

This translation is not as good as it should be. The reason is simple: i made it. So, it would be very kind if anyone likes to improve it. Please contact me first.