

# The Great American Melting Pot

Educational game for discovering racial diversity among our founders

## Game Components

Mapboard of Patriots  
Instructions  
Biography Key  
6x20 Biography Cards  
6x40 Question Cards

### The Mapboard

The mapboard portrays the 20 heroes of different backgrounds that will be highlighted in the game. There are 4 representatives from each of the 5 different groups in the game. The groups are: Women, African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans.

### Starting the Game

At the start of the game, divide up the class into small groups. Groups of 4-5 are ideal, but larger groups are fine when accommodating more students. Have one member from each team come and help sort the cards into the 6 different sets. Each set is easily distinguished by a primary color. These are: Red, Blue, Orange, Green, Yellow, and Purple. Once each team member has a complete set of cards, they return to the rest of their respective groups. They should then divide the cards into Biography Cards and Question Cards. The two types have different card backs and should be easily separated.

### Introduction/Purpose

TGAMP is designed to work with minimal electronic support. It is possible to play as a class, without teams, with the board projected on the wall. We encourage card play, as it incorporates tactile learning, as well as group work.

Prior to the start of the game, it is recommended that the Instructor of the class brief the students on the purpose of the game.

Purpose: The purpose of this game is to attempt to bridge the racial and gender divide we have in this country. It is important for ALL Americans to know that we as a nation would not exist as we do without the critical contributions we have received from members of different genders and races.

### Game Play

This game is played in two phases: The Biography phase and the Question phase. Play should begin with the Biography phase as it will provide a more in depth introduction to the characters and will allow for students to more easily participate in the second phase.

With the Biography cards face down on the table/desk, The first student will draw one of the cards and read it aloud to the group. A brief (1-2 minute) discussion will take place and the group will place the card on the board over the photo of their best guess at who it matches up to. With play continuing a clockwise manner, the next student will draw a new Biography card. After another discussion, that card will be placed on the picture of that matching person. This will continue, with students taking turns drawing the cards and leading the discussions, until all the Biography cards are placed. If, during the game, the group changes their mind, they are free to move currently placed cards to other pictures to make room for a better match.

Once all the Biography cards are placed the teacher will lead the class in the revealing of the correct matches. This ends phase 1. Note: In the interest of time, phase one can be eliminated with the teacher skipping the discussion portion and immediately revealing which Biography goes with each picture. This will free up more time to focus on phase 2.

Phase 2 begins with the students having already seen the biographies of each of the people on the game board. Once this has been introduced, the Question Cards may be used to reinforce the knowledge.

Using the same method as in Phase 1, students will take turns picking a question card and read the question to the group. These questions are formatted similar to Jeopardy questions. They are designed to be answered with, "Who is \_\_\_\_\_?" On the top of the card is a hint the reader can use if the discussion of the card is bogging down. This hint is in the form of a category. The question categories correspond to the groups of people on the board: Women (W), African Americans (B), Asian Americans (A), Hispanic Americans (H), and Native Americans (N). The answer for each question is also provided at the bottom of the card. This is to enable students to have a discussion, but still more or less on a timeline.

### Winning (optional)

In either phase, the first group to finish will be declared the winner.