

The Government versus the Trees

A game for 3 or more players by Green

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." ~ Chinese Proverb.

What you need to get started:

- At least 3 people
- 1 standard Draughts board (or a piece of paper divided into an 8x8 grid)
- 128 tokens, 64 black, 64 white (you could rob a couple of draughts sets or you could use squares of different coloured paper, or just squares of paper with the letters G and T written on. Whatever works for you!)

The Players

The Government

You can't get in the way of progress. It's like lying down in front of a bulldozer. You get hurt and the bulldozer doesn't care. In this day and age, as in all days, and all ages, the economy matters more than people, and certainly more than a few trees. And anyway, we're in a crisis! (There's always a crisis) and the only answer to the immigration crisis/traffic crisis/housing crisis is more construction! There is no answer to the construction crisis, however.

The person with the most friends plays The Government. You run a small island nation in the middle of the ocean. Name your country, and party. Pick up one set of pieces, they represent Construction. Your goal is to cover the board in Construction tokens.

The Trees

Trees are great, aren't they? They provide homes to birds, shade for everyone, and they're nice to look at. Ok, leaves aren't great if you have to clean them up, and roots can be a nuisance, but otherwise, what's not to love?

One player chooses to play The Trees. You take the other set of pieces. Take half of your pieces and place them on the board wherever you like, they represent Trees. You win the game if you cover the board with trees. You may not speak to or interact with the other players except to call for a Public Outcry.

Everyone else

You play public and private interest, but let's just call you The Public. You can support the trees or the government, as you like. You don't have to decide right now, in fact, you can change your mind every turn. Each player should give themselves a name like "The Roads Consortium," or "Campaign for the Unrestricted Negation of Trees," or "Wildlife Conservation Foundation."

Playing the Game

The Trees player begins the game by placing all of their tokens on the board. On their turn the Government player may remove a tree token and place a construction token anywhere on the board. On the Public turn, each player expresses their support for either the government or the trees. They can say things like, "Forza Partyname," "Viva Partyname," or "I rather like trees, thanks."

If all the Public players voted for the environment the Trees player earns 1 support point. If the vote is split the Government player may immediately place a construction token on the board (without removing a tree token). On the Tree's turn, they do nothing. Once the Tree player has collected 7 support points, they may spend them to give an unused tree token to the Government player, who may place it on an open space on the board, if there are any.

Once per game, the Trees player can call for a Public Outcry. If the public agrees, the game stops for 1 minute, then play resumes as normal.

Winning the Game

The Government wins the game when the whole country is covered in construction tokens. Well done. The Trees cannot win.

