

THE LAST FESTIVAL

MASTER EDITION

One river.
Five evidence files.
One hour to change the plan.

Trace the litter. Challenge the accusation.
Unlock a response before the gates open.

AGES 15+ / 3-5 PLAYERS / 60 MIN / C1

PRINT AT 100% • A4 • SINGLE-SIDED



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Set the stage

FACILITATOR ONLY / A COMPLETE TABLETOP GAME

One print-and-play escape game for teams of 3-5, ages 15+. Allow 5 minutes to brief, 45 minutes to play and 10 minutes to discuss. All incidents, names and records are fictional.

WHAT THE THREE DOCUMENTS CONTAIN

MASTER: this guide plus the complete player material.

HOST: setup, envelope labels, hints, solutions and ending.

PLAYERS: briefing, ledger and five evidence files; no solutions.

Give at start	Keep in envelopes
P01 briefing + P02 ledger	File 01: P03 drainage map
Host retains H01-H06	File 02: P04 incident cards
Cut P04, P06 and P07	File 03: P05 delivery register
Keep every card set together	File 04: P06 action cards
No real locks required	File 05: P07 crew passes + job sheet

Prepare

Print at actual size / 100%, A4, single-sided. Use five envelopes per team or five separate paper bundles. Cut along dashed OUTER card borders, keeping all card content. Optional heavier paper: 160-200 gsm. H02 provides labels; H03 provides cut-out hints.

Facilitate

Release one file after the team explains its accepted code. Allow spoken or written reasoning and hints without penalty. Never lock a door or hide clues in real equipment. No outdoor activity or real waste handling is required. Pause the timer for access needs.



Five files to release

HOST MATERIAL / CUT LABELS / PLACE ON ENVELOPES

01**DRAINAGE MAP**

THE LAST FESTIVAL / C1 / P03

OPEN ONLY WHEN THE HOST RELEASES THIS FILE

02**INCIDENT TIMELINE**

THE LAST FESTIVAL / C1 / P04

OPEN ONLY WHEN THE HOST RELEASES THIS FILE

03**DELIVERY REGISTER**

THE LAST FESTIVAL / C1 / P05

OPEN ONLY WHEN THE HOST RELEASES THIS FILE

04**PREVENTION OPTIONS**

THE LAST FESTIVAL / C1 / P06

OPEN ONLY WHEN THE HOST RELEASES THIS FILE

05**CREW ROTA**

THE LAST FESTIVAL / C1 / P07

OPEN ONLY WHEN THE HOST RELEASES THIS FILE

For P07, cut out the three passes and retain the top job sheet. Keep H05, the ending, hidden until the final lock and explanations are accepted.



A nudge not a spoiler

HOST ONLY / OFFER HINT 1 BEFORE HINT 2 / NO PENALTY

FILE 01 / HINT 1

Start at the named area, not at the river.

FILE 01 / HINT 2

Stay on the same line at crossings. Read outlets in the requested area order.

FILE 02 / HINT 1

Separate direct observation from accusation.

FILE 02 / HINT 2

Keep outdoor loose-waste reports before 08:20. Put those reports in time order.

FILE 03 / HINT 1

One identifier alone is not enough.

FILE 03 / HINT 2

Check batch AND seal. Near-matching deliveries are distractors.

FILE 04 / HINT 1

Fix the failure where waste first escapes.

FILE 04 / HINT 2

Cleanup alone leaves an open bin; an “eco” label does not contain loose ties.

FILE 05 / HINT 1

Start with the job needing authorisation.

FILE 05 / HINT 2

After assigning market, check who can be present for the 08:40 camp start.



The complete solution

HOST ONLY / ACCEPT THE CODE AND A SOUND EXPLANATION

01 / 472 / KEEP 7

Food court → outlet 4; market → 7; camp → 2. Separate lines cross but do not join. The schematic gives possible connections, not proof of an individual item's journey.

02 / 315 / KEEP 1

Cards 3 (07:40), 1 (07:50), 5 (08:05) are qualifying outdoor waste reports before 08:20. Storage has no loose waste; the photo is the endpoint. A reported 08:25 arrival cannot explain the earlier photo. This does not prove everything about Luca's conduct.

03 / 628 / KEEP 2

C17 + Wave → 6. W24 + Leaf → 2. T08 + Star → 8. Other rows match only part of the pair. Delivery traceability does not identify an individual offender.

04 / 194 / KEEP 9

Cups → 1; wrappers → 9; ties → 4. All prevent further loss at source. Action 6 leaves the source unchanged; 2 obstructs drainage; 8 changes only a label. Existing bank litter still requires appropriate cleanup.

05 / 853 / KEEP 5

Bo must take market. Ari arrives too late for camp, so Cy takes camp and Ari food court. In food court / market / camp order, passes are 8 / 5 / 3.

FINAL / 71295

Middle digits in file order: 7, 1, 2, 9, 5. Require a justified response as well as the code; then give H05 to the team. Do not require identical wording.



The response is unlocked

FINAL REVEAL / GIVE TO THE TEAM ONLY AFTER THE FINAL LOCK

MISSION COMPLETE

You found three failures, not one proven villain.

The cup return overflowed, a wrapper bin had no lid and packing scraps were left loose. The online accusation went beyond the evidence. Your team has organised a response at each source.

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR / APPROVE THE PREVENTION ROTA

FOOD COURT / ARI / 08:50

MARKET / BO / 09:00

CAMP / CY / 08:40

The trained site crew assesses the riverbank. The student team stays away from water and hazardous waste.

The code unlocks the response plan. It does not certify a safe site or clean river. In the story, the director checks the prevention measures and the site crew's report before deciding whether to open.

Before the music starts

Create a two-sentence festival announcement. Explain one practical change visitors can use and correct the blame story without repeating an unsupported accusation.



Run it for your group

HOST NOTES / LANGUAGE / DISCUSSION / REUSE

Language edition: C1

Use the more nuanced records to probe inference, attribution and evidential limits. Ask learners to defend exclusions and qualify conclusions.

ACCESS WITHOUT LOWERING THE MISSION

Let players read, trace, organise cards, dictate or write. No public performance is required. Increase time, enlarge print or read text aloud when useful. Assess reasoning and communication, not speed or confidence.

Discuss after the reveal

1. What did the evidence establish, and what remained uncertain?
2. Why does prevention need to accompany cleanup?
3. Which part of a real incident would require further investigation?

The game's labels and records make the case deliberately solvable. Real pollution sources are often much harder to establish. The game has been checked for code consistency and layout; classroom timing should be adjusted to the group.

Sources and reuse

Original fictional plot, artwork, cards, records and puzzle codes. Free educational use and adaptation; not for resale. Existing EU4Blue and funding-logo rights remain unchanged. No real festival or person is represented.

[1] NOAA Marine Debris Program. Land-based Marine Debris.

<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/where-does-marine-debris-come/land-based-marine-debris>

Last visited: 14 October 2026.



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Backstage alert

START HERE / READ THE BRIEFING BEFORE OPENING FILE 01

You are the festival's student incident team. With the gates due to open in an hour, a photograph of litter on the riverbank threatens to become a public blame game. Reconstruct the incident from incomplete records, assess the limits of attribution and design an operational response before the deadline.

INCOMING / FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

The public gates are closed. The trained site crew is checking the riverbank. Investigate the records and organise prevention at the stalls. Send me a justified response, not a name to blame.

Your mission

Solve Files 01–05 in order. Each produces a three-digit access code. Show your code and evidence to the host to receive the next file. Record the middle digit on your case sheet. Five middle digits unlock the final response.

Play together

Rotate reader, route tracer, evidence checker and recorder. Use only the supplied game materials. Ask for a hint whenever you need one; there is no penalty. Nothing is hidden in real equipment. Nobody is locked in.

LAND TO RIVER TO OCEAN

Wind and rain can move litter from land into waterways; some can reach the sea. Prevention at source matters. This game uses a fictional simplified drainage network. [1]



Your incident ledger

KEEP THIS PAGE / RECORD CODES ONLY AFTER HOST VERIFICATION

TEAM NAME

01

Drainage map

KEEP

02

Timeline

KEEP

03

Delivery register

KEEP

04

Prevention

KEEP

05

Crew rota

KEEP

FINAL LOCK

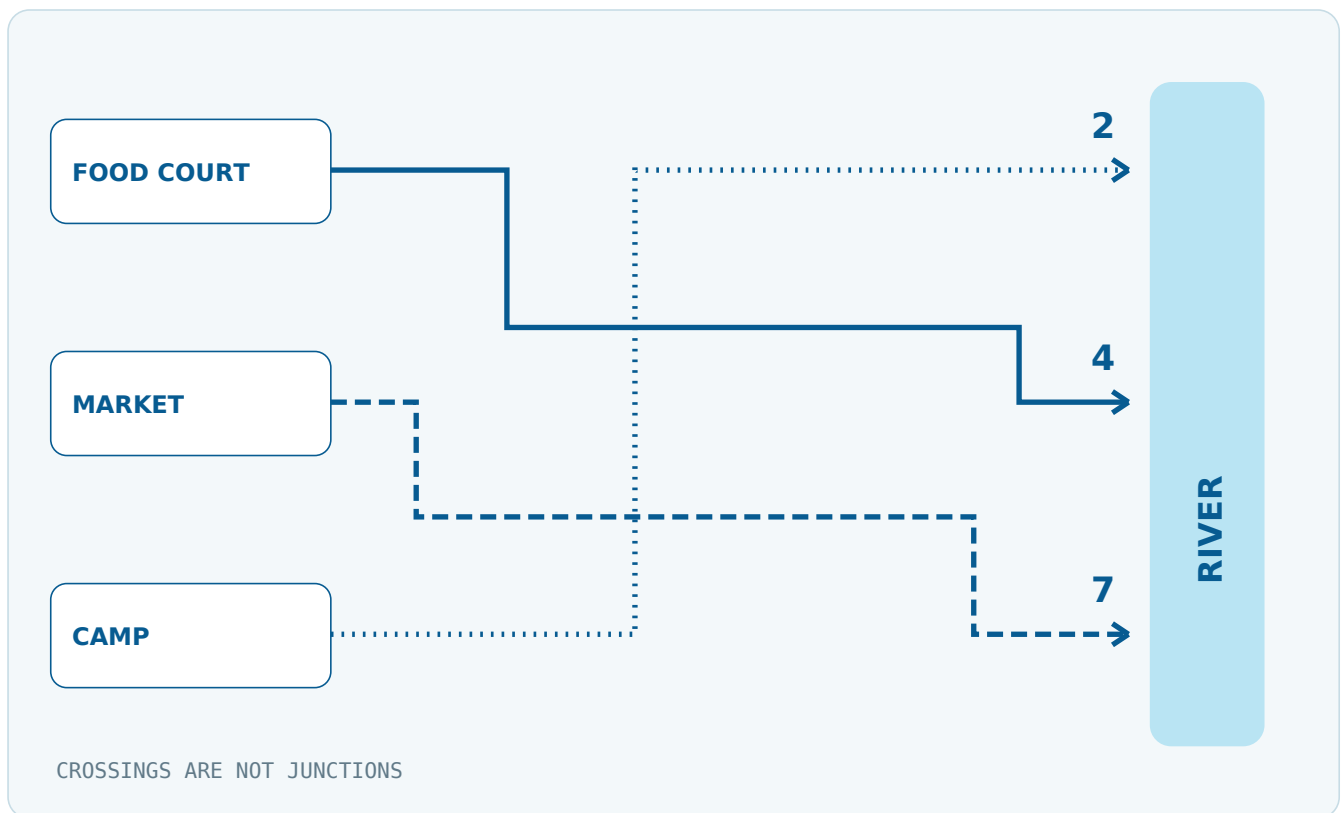
Read the five middle digits in file order. Explain what the evidence shows, why the accusation goes too far and how your response prevents further waste escaping.



Follow the missing litter

FILE 01 / SITE ENGINEERING PLAN

Recover the access code by tracing the drainage system in the incident register's order: FOOD COURT, MARKET, CAMP. Concatenate the corresponding outlet identifiers. Pipe crossings do not imply hydraulic connections. State what this schematic establishes and what it cannot establish about the photographed litter.



All shown outlets discharge into the river in this fictional plan. Follow the same line at every crossing. The drawing is schematic, not to scale.

ACCESS CODE

Show your code and evidence to the host. Keep its middle digit.

The chat that went viral

FILE 02 / CUT APART AND SHUFFLE ALL SIX RECORDS

Extract the three contemporaneous observations that establish exposed outdoor waste before the photograph's 08:20 timestamp. Exclude allegations, irrelevant observations and subsequent events. Chronological ordering of the selected card identifiers yields the access code. Evaluate the narrower claim that Luca's recorded arrival caused the photographed incident.

7

INCIDENT LOG

CHAT / 08:25

"Luca just arrived carrying a black bag. It must all be Luca's fault!" This is a message from a visitor, not a verified finding.

1

INCIDENT LOG

MARKET CHECK / 07:50

The inspection records a missing lid on the wrapper bin and loose packaging being blown onto adjacent ground. No individual responsible for removing the lid is identified.

6

INCIDENT LOG

STORAGE CHECK / 07:30

An inspection of the indoor dry store confirms that the balloon consignments remain sealed. The record contains no observation of exposed outdoor waste.

5

INCIDENT LOG

CAMP CHECK / 08:05

The observer records discarded plastic ties beside the unpacking table. The account establishes their location, but neither their disposal time nor the identity of whoever left them.

3

INCIDENT LOG

FOOD COURT CHECK / 07:40

The open return tray is recorded as overflowing, with cups on the surrounding ground. The observer attributes the immediate failure to insufficient containment rather than naming an individual.

2

INCIDENT LOG

PHOTO RECORD / 08:20

The timestamped image documents cups, wrappers and plastic ties on the bank. It establishes their presence at that time, while providing no direct evidence of the people or mechanisms involved.



Trace the three items

FILE 03 / CROSS-REFERENCE THE RECOVERED LABELS

Reconcile the recovered identifiers with the register using the conjunction of batch and seal, not either field in isolation. The supplier identifiers in CUP, WRAPPER, TIE order form the code. Qualify any attribution: traceability to a consignment is not proof of an individual's conduct.

 CUP

C17

≈

SEAL / WAVE

 WRAPPER

W24



SEAL / LEAF

 TIE

T08



SEAL / STAR

ID	Item	Batch	Seal	Handling record
3	Cups	C17	Star	Crates remained closed.
6	Cups	C17	Wave	Open return tray overflowed.
8	Ties	T08	Star	Scraps left beside table.
4	Wrappers	W24	Wave	Lidded bin remained closed.
2	Wrappers	W24	Leaf	Open bin had no lid.
7	Ties	T08	Leaf	Scraps in closed container.

Each batch-and-seal pair belongs to exactly one listed delivery in this game. A match identifies a delivery, not the person who released an item or its precise journey.

ACCESS CODE

Show your code and evidence to the host. Keep its middle digit.



Stop the next escape

FILE 04 / CUT APART ALL SIX ACTION CARDS

For each handling failure evidenced in File 3, identify the sole measure meeting all three criteria: immediate source control, implementation before opening and unobstructed drainage. Concatenate the identifiers in CUP, WRAPPER, TIE order. Distinguish containment at source from downstream removal or an unsubstantiated material claim.

6

RESPONSE OPTION

RIVER SWEEP

Send trained staff to collect existing bank litter. Leave the wrapper bin open and change nothing at the market.

1

RESPONSE OPTION

CUP RETURN RESET

Food court: replace the open tray with a covered return container and establish monitored emptying before overflow. Implement both measures before admitting visitors.

8

RESPONSE OPTION

THE GREEN LABEL

Camp: keep leaving ties loose, but rename them “eco ties”. No evidence about the material is supplied.

4

RESPONSE OPTION

UNPACKING RESET

Camp: contain the existing loose ties and require all subsequent unpacking scraps to enter a closed collection container. Establish the procedure before opening.

2

RESPONSE OPTION

DRAIN COVER

Food court: seal the surface drain with a solid sheet and leave the overflowing cup tray in place.

9

RESPONSE OPTION

WRAPPER BIN RESET

Market: secure the wrapper bin with a fitted lid and assign scheduled inspections and emptying. This addresses the documented escape mechanism rather than relying on recovery downstream.



Build the crew rota

FILE 05 / THREE PASSES / THREE JOBS / ONE FEASIBLE ROTA

Construct the unique feasible rota, assigning each responder exactly once and satisfying both temporal and authorisation constraints. Read pass identifiers in FOOD COURT, MARKET, CAMP order. Defend the assignment by elimination rather than by preference.

Job	Start	Requirement
Food court	08:50	Monitor the cup-return system.
Market	09:00	Powered cart: only Bo is authorised.
Camp	08:40	Set up packing-scrap collection.

Each job lasts one hour. Travel time is already allowed for. Everyone can do the food court and camp jobs if present at the start. Only the stated constraints apply.

CREW / CY	CREW / ARI	CREW / BO
3	8	5
ON SITE	ON SITE	ON SITE
08:30	08:45	08:30
NO CART PERMIT	NO CART PERMIT	CART PERMIT
ONE FULL SHIFT	ONE FULL SHIFT	ONE FULL SHIFT

Log the code on P02, then show the host your rota. Read pass numbers in FOOD COURT, MARKET, CAMP order.

