

THE LORD OF THE RINGS DUEL FOR MIDDLE-EARTH™



Watch
the rules video!

*Will you play as the Fellowship of the Ring to defend the free races and destroy the One Ring?
Or will you play as Sauron and pursue Frodo and Sam while deploying your hordes
to the gates of the enemy cities? The destiny of Middle-earth is in your hands!*

OVERVIEW AND GOAL

A game plays over 3 successive chapters that unfold similarly.

On your turn, strengthen your Skills, hoard your treasure, stretch your presence across Middle-earth, rally Races to your cause, or advance the Quest of the Ring.

Immediately win the game by fulfilling one of the 3 victory conditions:

- ★ complete the Quest of the Ring,
- ★ rally the support of 6 different Races,
- ★ conquer Middle-earth.

CONTENTS

Chapter cards



×69

Landmark tiles



×7

Central board



×1

Quest
of the Ring track



in 4 pieces

Coins



×30

Alliance tokens



×18 (3 per Race)

Units and Fortresses
for the Fellowship



×15

×7

Units and Fortresses
for Sauron



×15

×7

Player Aid



×1

Rulebook



×1



Colorblind symbols

To accommodate every type of colorblindness, each card color in the game has a corresponding symbol:

◆ Grey ● Yellow ■ Blue ▲ Green ✕ Red ★ Purple



SETUP

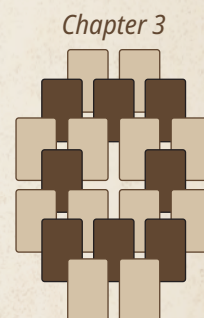
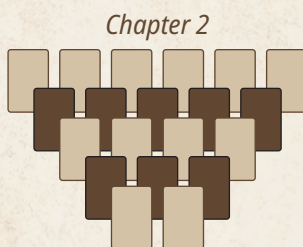
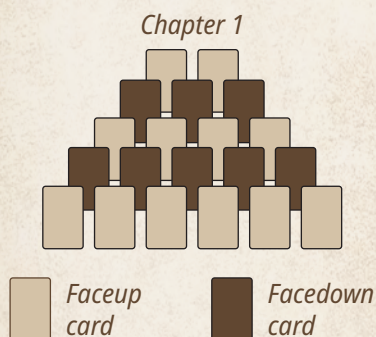


- 1 Choose, or randomly determine, who will play as the Fellowship and who will play as Sauron. Place your respective **Unit and Fortress pawns** in front of you.
- 2 Place the **central board** between you and your opponent, next to the central play area.
- 3 On the central board, place **2 Fellowship Units** on Arnor and **2 Sauron Units** on Mordor.
- 4 Assemble the **Quest of the Ring track** as shown in the diagram to the right, and place it below the central board.
 
- 5 The Fellowship player takes **3 Coins** while the Sauron player takes **2 Coins**. Then make a **reserve** with the remaining Coins.
- 6 Sort the **Alliance tokens** according to their backs, to make one stack per Race. Shuffle each stack separately and place them, facedown, above the central board, in the dedicated notches.
- 7 Shuffle the **Landmark tiles** and place 3, faceup, on the table. Make a stack, facedown, with the remaining tiles.
- 8 Sort the **Chapter cards** into 3 decks according to the runes on their backs **P** (1), **R** (2) and **A** (3), then shuffle each deck separately.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Preparing a chapter

At the start of each chapter (1, 2, then 3), place cards from the corresponding chapter **in the central play area**, following the diagram below (*reminder on the sides of the box*). Be careful, since certain cards are placed faceup and others facedown. Place the 3 remaining cards, facedown, in the discard.

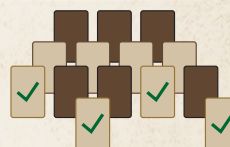


Turn overview

The Sauron player begins the game, then both players **take turns**, until the end of the game. On your turn, you may either **take a Chapter card** or **take a Landmark tile**.

A. Take a Chapter card

From the central play area, choose an **available** card, meaning one that is not partially covered by any other cards. Then, play it in front of you **or** discard it.



Available card

PLAY THE CARD IN FRONT OF YOU

Pay the card cost, if any (*see page 4*), and place it in your play area. You may immediately benefit from its effect (*see page 5*).

Note: Stack cards in front of you by color, making sure you can still see their effects.

or

DISCARD THE CARD

Place the card, facedown, in the discard and take as many Coins from the reserve as the current chapter:

- ★ Chapter 1: 1 Coin
- ★ Chapter 2: 2 Coins
- ★ Chapter 3: 3 Coins

Finally, end your turn by revealing any cards that are now available.

B. Take a Landmark tile

Choose one of the faceup tiles. Pay its cost (*see page 4*) and place it in your play area. Immediately place a Fortress pawn on the corresponding region of the central board and benefit from its other effects (*see the Player Aid*). Finally, end your turn without revealing a new tile.

End of a chapter

A chapter ends **once the final card of this chapter has been taken**.

Set up the cards for the next chapter according to the corresponding diagram and reveal new Landmark tiles until there are, if possible, 3 faceup.

Then continue the game as normal.

Note: Since you alternate taking turns, the player who ends a chapter does not begin the next one, unless they are using a "Take another turn" effect (see the Player Aid).

CARD AND TILE COSTS

Coins

In order to play them, certain cards have a Coin cost that you must pay to the reserve.



Skills

In order to play them, tiles and the majority of cards require you to have one or more Skills (see page 5) in your play area.

If you do not have the required Skills, you may pay **1 Coin** to the reserve **per missing Skill symbol**.



Notes:

- There is no limit to the number of Skills you may pay for, to the reserve, on your turn.
- If a card does not require a Skill or a Coin, it has no cost, so you may play it for free.



Landmark tiles have an additional Coin cost equal to the number of **your Fortress pawns** already on the central board. Therefore, the additional cost of your first tile is 0 Coins.



Chaining

Starting in chapter 2, certain cards may be played for free through their **chaining symbol**.

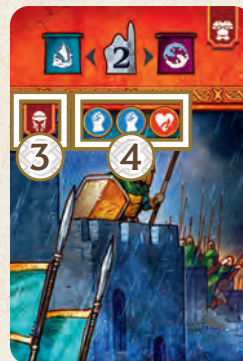
If you have, in your play area, a card with a matching symbol in its top-right corner, you may play the card for free, without having the required Skills.

Note: If you do not have the matching chaining symbol for a card, you may still play it normally by paying its Skill and/or Coin cost.

Example:



In chapter 1, you play this card for free ①. In addition to its effect (see page 5), it has a chaining symbol ②.



In chapter 2, you may play this card for free since you have the matching chaining symbol ③ on one of your played cards. Otherwise, you would need to have the required Skills (or pay 1 Coin per missing Skill symbol) ④.

CARD AND TILE EFFECTS

Grey cards ♦ provide Skills that let you play other cards and tiles in your play area. You gain **1 Skill per symbol** shown. Each symbol may only be used **once per turn**, on each of your turns.



Ruse



Strength



Courage



Knowledge



Leadership



When multiple Skills are separated by a /, you may only use **one of them** per turn (you choose).

Yellow cards ● immediately provide Coins that you will be able to spend to play other cards and tiles in your play area.



Take, from the reserve, the number of Coins shown in the symbol.

Blue cards □ immediately let you advance on the Quest of the Ring track.



Move your character along the Quest of the Ring track, one space per Ring symbol.

Green cards ▲ represent the Races of Middle-earth with whom you may ally.



Elves



Ents



Hobbits



Humans



Dwarves



Wizards

Red cards ✕ immediately let you place Units in the regions of Middle-earth (see page 7). Choose **one of the two regions** shown by the banners and place **all Units** in the chosen region.



Number of Units to place

Choice of regions where you may place Units

Purple cards ★ (only available in chapter 3) immediately let you complete various maneuvers.



Move 1 of your Units to an adjacent region.



Your opponent loses 1 Coin.



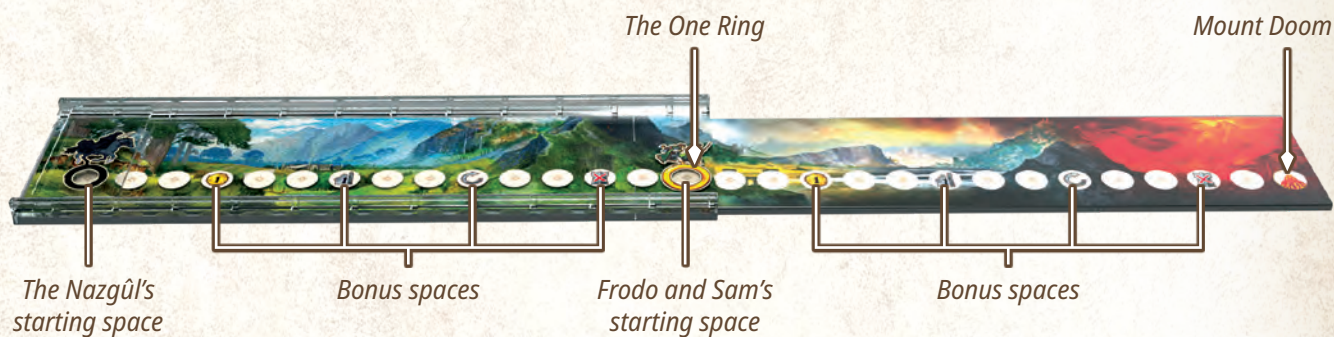
Remove 1 enemy Unit from any region.

Landmark tiles immediately let you place Fortresses in regions of Middle-earth (see page 7) and benefit from unique effects (see the Player Aid).



Region where you may place a Fortress

QUEST OF THE RING



When you advance on the Quest of the Ring track, slide your character (*Frodo and Sam* for the Fellowship or *the Nazgûl* for Sauron) from space to space.

When you **reach or pass** a Bonus space, you may immediately benefit from its effect (see the *Player Aid*).

Note: The piece that represents the Nazgûl is placed on top of the piece that represents Frodo and Sam. Therefore, when Frodo and Sam move, the Nazgûl automatically moves as well. In other words, the distance between the characters will only decrease, never increase.



Example: As the Fellowship player, you play a Blue card with 2 Rings ① that lets you move Frodo and Sam 2 spaces ②. They pass a Bonus space ③, which lets you benefit from its effect (in this case, take 1 Coin from the reserve).

RACE ALLIANCES

During the game, you may form alliances with the Races of Middle-earth. To do this, in your play area, play **Green cards** with matching or different Race symbols, according to the following conditions:

2 MATCHING RACE SYMBOLS

As soon as you have 2 matching Race symbols, take the top 2 Alliance tokens of this Race and **reveal them**.

Choose 1 to place in front of you; you may now benefit from its effect (see the *Player Aid*).

Put the other token, facedown, on **top** of its stack.

or

3 DIFFERENT RACE SYMBOLS

Once per game, when you have 3 different Race symbols, take the top Alliance token of each of these 3 Races and **reveal them**.

Choose 1 to place in front of you; you may now benefit from its effect (see the *Player Aid*).

Put the other 2 tokens, facedown, on **top** of their respective stacks.

Notes:

- A single Race symbol may be used for both conditions (2 matching symbols and 3 different symbols).
- Reveal tokens to **both** players. There is no hidden information.

CONQUERING MIDDLE-EARTH



When you place or move one or more Units, two situations are possible:

- ★ **If no enemy Unit is present:** nothing happens.
- ★ **If one or more enemy Units are present:** trigger a **conflict**. Each player removes one of their Units and places it back in front of them. Repeat this until at least one player has no more Units in the region.

Note: An enemy Fortress does not trigger conflicts and does not prevent you from placing your Units in its region. Therefore, it is possible for both players to be present in the same region.

When you complete multiple movements, you may move the same Unit multiple times, or split your movement between multiple Units. For each movement, move a Unit to an adjacent region (one with a connection). You must complete each movement independently, resolving any conflict triggered, one at a time.



Example: You play a Purple card that provides 3 movements ①. The first lets you move a Unit from Eredwaith to Rohan ②. Since there is an enemy Unit present, you trigger a conflict and each player removes their Unit. You then use your second and third movements to send another Unit from Eredwaith to Mordor, passing through Rohan ③.



END OF THE GAME



There are three immediate victory conditions:

Quest of the Ring

For the Fellowship: If Frodo and Sam **reach Mount Doom**, they destroy the One Ring and you immediately win the game.

For Sauron: If the Nazgûl **catch Frodo and Sam**, they seize the One Ring and you immediately win the game.

Support of the Races

If you gather **6 different Race symbols** on your **Green cards**, you rally the support of the Races of Middle-earth and immediately win the game.

Note: The Eagle symbol, present on one Alliance token, is an additional Race symbol that counts as 1 of the 6 required symbols for the Support of the Races victory.

Conquering Middle-earth

If you are **present in all 7 regions** (with a Fortress and/or at least 1 Unit), you dominate Middle-earth and immediately win the game.

If none of these three victory conditions are achieved by the end of chapter 3, the player who is **present in the most regions** of Middle-earth (with a Fortress and/or at least 1 Unit) wins the game. In case of tie, share the victory.



CREDITS



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Credits and special thanks: www.rprod.com/en/duel-for-middle-earth/credits

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