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JIMMY'S GAME REVIEWS

A ROCKET RACE picture ___ ★★

Rocket Race is the latest game from the highly successful SpeedCo games producer. They have produced every racing game imaginable, from racing cars to horses – but this is the first time they have left planet Earth!

As you can probably guess, it's all about racing rockets – and it's great fun! You have full control over the design of your vehicle, which you then construct and race against a team of other pilots. There is a choice of over twenty different race routes that take you round spectacular planets, asteroids and other parts of the universe. The graphics are truly superb.

The only criticism I have of the game is the music. I don't know who decided a rock soundtrack was a good idea, but it's not what I would choose. I think it sounds dreadful!

But overall, it's a really good game – especially for children as it's quite easy – and I'd certainly recommend it to anyone who enjoys racing games and outer space.

B BATTLE FIRE GALAXY picture ___ ★

You might think that the games market doesn't need another fantasy role-playing game, but Middle Earth Games have other ideas. This game sends you to find the magic Ring of Argor. You'll have endless adventures on the way, avoiding traps, picking up friends and weapons, and, of course, battling monsters.

There are ten levels to complete and as you go through them, you become more and more powerful. This is good, because the levels get more and more difficult to finish. It's challenging, but that's what you'd expect from this producer of intelligent games.

I do think that the graphics could be improved, though. They looked a bit old-fashioned to me, which made the game less enjoyable. The accompanying music wasn't so great, either.

This is really a game for fans of fantasy role plays. To an experienced gamer, it doesn't really offer anything new. It's OK as far as it goes, but it doesn't go very far.

C NATION BUILDER picture ___ ★★★

Have you ever wanted to be the ruler of your own country? With *Nation Builder*, the latest release from AceGamesUK, you can. But watch out – it's not as easy as it looks!

You start with nothing – just a field in the middle of nowhere – and build from there. Gathering building materials is your first job, as you have to make a house of some kind before night, when your enemies come out. If you can't protect yourself from them, you have to start again. The longer you survive, the more people come to live with you and cooperate with you in the war against your enemies. Eventually you have your own nation.

I can't think of anything bad to say about this game! It's packed with great features: the graphics are good, the way you build your nation is really clever, and the possibilities are only limited by your own imagination. Not only is it great fun, but you learn a lot about the day-to-day running of a country.

Seriously, I can't recommend this game highly enough. Buy it!

2 **You are going to read a review of the three video games in Exercise 1. Write down two or three words that you might find in each one.**

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

3 **Read the video game reviews and match them to the correct pictures in Exercise 1. Check your answers to Exercise 2.**

4 **Tick (✓) the correct video game A, B or C for each question. Sometimes more than one answer is possible. Underline the parts of the text which tell you the answer.**

Which game …

	A	B	C
1 gets the best review?	___	___	___
2 gets the worst review?	___	___	___
3 does not have good music?	___	___	___
4 has the best graphics?	___	___	___
5 has the worst graphics?	___	___	___
6 is educational?	___	___	___
7 involves fighting?	___	___	___
8 is surprisingly difficult?	___	___	___
9 is the least difficult?	___	___	___
10 has no original ideas?	___	___	___

5 **Match the highlighted words in the texts to the definitions.**

1 the music used in a film, TV programme or video game _____
2 objects used in fighting or war, such as guns, swords, etc. _____
3 when you say that something or someone is bad _____
4 a game, book or musical recording that is made available to buy _____
5 continue to live _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS