

THE LEGEND OF MR LISTER

At Big Potato we like to research games from the past in order to give us inspiration for the future. Last year we came across this story about a mysterious man called Mr Lister, who, in the 1870s, ran a bar called The Holy Moses in Dodge City, Kansas – a town slap-bang in the middle of the lawless frontier lands of America.

Cheesed off with having his bar trashed every weekend by drunken gunslingers, who often settled their disputes by shooting each other, he invented a game to defuse the hotheads, with the loser buying the winner a drink.

The game was simple. Mr Lister would ask both parties a random question, which had lots of answers. For example: 'What are the ingredients of Luger's Old-Fashioned Steak Sauce?' The first group would offer an answer. If they got it right, it was the rival groups turn. The first group to get an answer wrong would buy the drinks. The game became so popular that the good folk of Dodge City started coming to his bar just to play Mr Lister's Quizzer Shootout.

By all reports the game worked a treat and The Holy Moses avoided many of the mass brawls that beleaguered saloon bars at the time. As for Mr Lister himself, after The Holy Moses was destroyed by a tornado in 1879, he disappeared into history.

So in honour of Mr Lister wherever you are, here is our interpretation of your game.

Hope you like it.

Team Potato



MR LISTER'S QUIZ SHOOTOUT™

READING RULES

is drier than a bone in a dust storm. Search YouTube for my "How to play Mr Lister" video instead!



He asks the questions.

Don't run out of answers

THE RULES

READY

Gather two or more friends in your saloon. One person plays as Mr Lister. They grab the moustache, pencil, scorecard and read the questions. They're in charge. (You can alternate who plays Mr Lister after each card, if you like, so that everyone gets a chance to play.) Now each team grabs a pencil and pad and it's time to play. Yeeha!

AIM

To win cards and collect the drink bottles on the reverse. The first team to collect five different drinks wins.

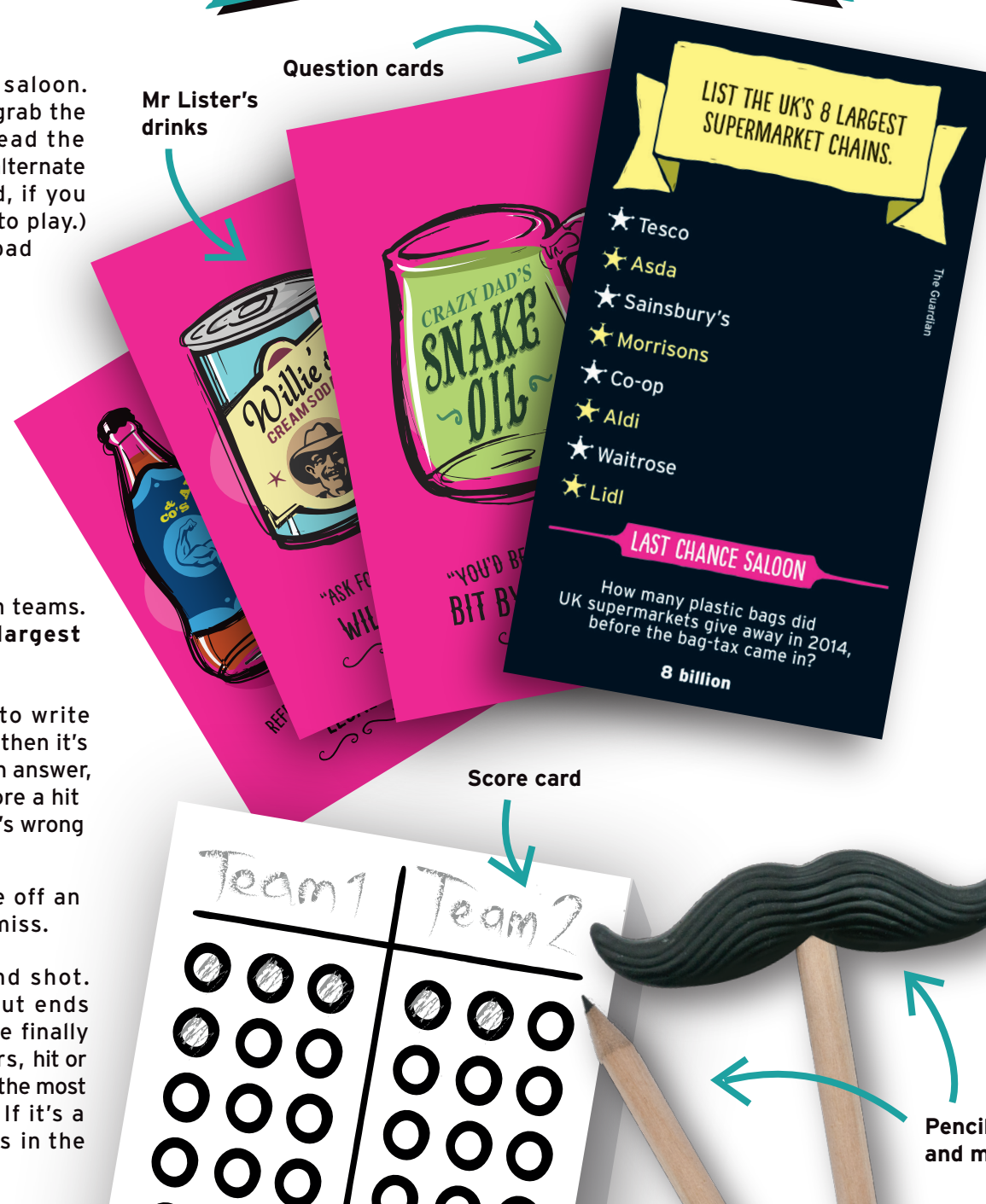
FIRE

Mr Lister reads out a question to both teams. For example: "List the UK's eight largest supermarket chains."

Both teams now get a few seconds to write down as many answers as they can... then it's shootout time. The first team fires off an answer, e.g. "Tesco!". If it's on the card they score a hit and Mr Lister marks the score card. If it's wrong they miss and don't score.

Now it's the other teams turn to fire off an answer and try to score a hit. Or a miss.

The first team now get their second shot. And so on. The shootout ends when each team have finally fired off **three** answers, hit or miss. The team with the most hits wins the card. If it's a draw, then everyone's in the Last Chance Saloon!



LAST CHANCE SALOON

In the Last Chance Saloon, both teams take on the Impossible Question to decide who walks away with the card, and the drink on the back from Mr Lister's bar.

For example, on the Supermarket chains card, the Impossible Question is: "How many plastic bags did UK supermarkets give away in 2014, before the bag-tax came in?"

After a few seconds of head-scratching, both teams write down their answer. Then Mr Lister counts "1... 2... 3... Draw!" and both teams flip over their final shot at glory.

The closest to the answer wins the card and the bottle on the back. (In the very unlikely event of a dead heat, no team wins the card. It rolls over to the next round. Now everyone's back in and shooting for two drinks.)

EXTRA DRINKS

Collect two spare drinks and you can give them to Mr Lister who will confiscate a drink from another team for you, and return it to the pile. Collect three spare drinks and swap them with Mr Lister for the drink of your choice.

Good luck, partner.

Pencils and moustache