

The poverty maze

The aim of the game: to escape from the maze with as much money as possible.

Equipment: one maze, two counters, two budget sheets, 24 action cards. It's best to print the different Action (Fundraising and MP notices) and Cost cards on different coloured card, so you can tell which is which.

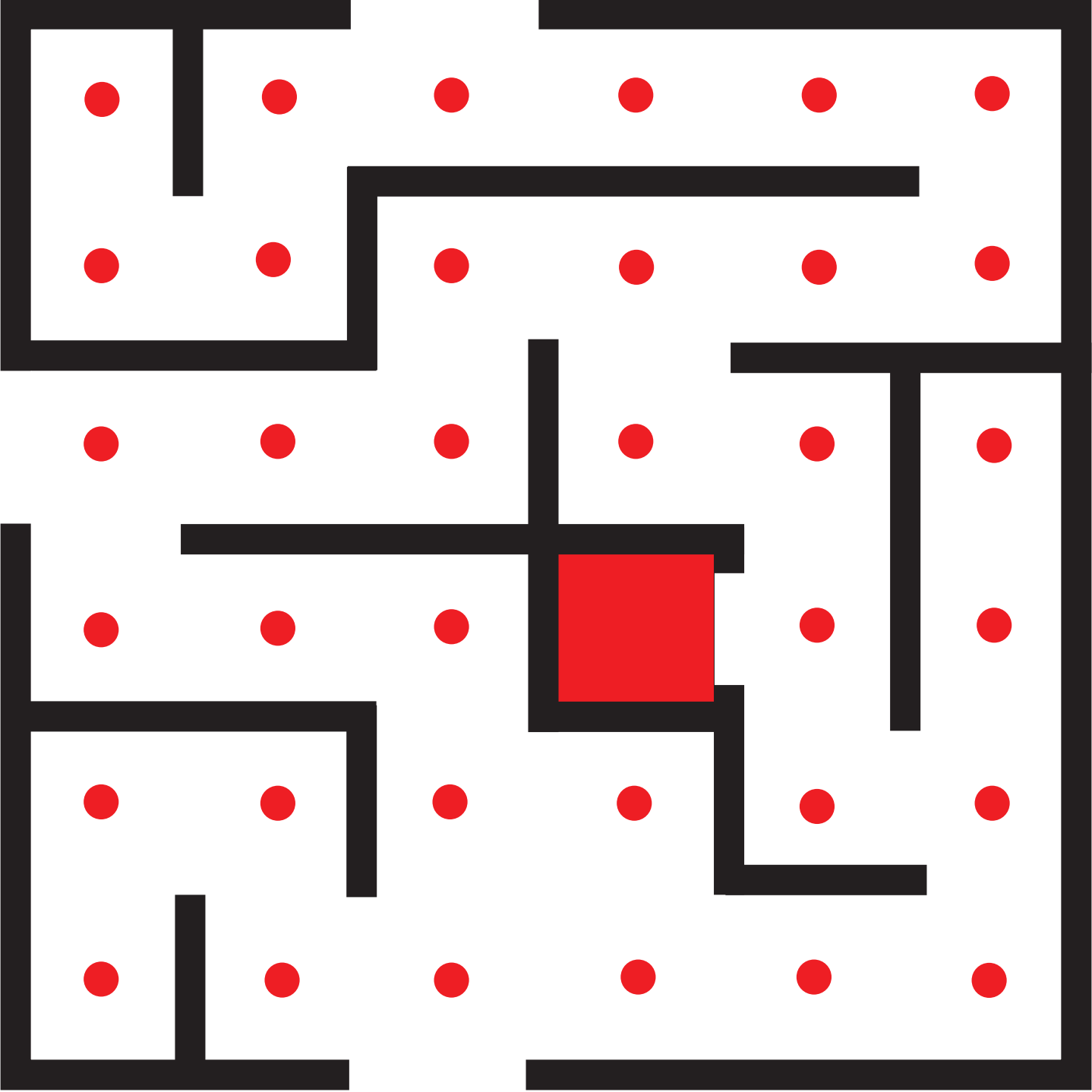
How to play: the poverty maze is a game for two players. To begin, put the Action and Cost cards face down in separate piles, cut out a counter and write your name on your budget sheet. At the start of the game, you each have a budget of £179. The aim is to leave the maze with as much of this remaining as possible.

Starting from the centre of the maze, you take turns to move one space (marked by a dot). Every time you turn a corner, you have to pick up a card from the Cost pile, and subtract the amount on the card from your budget.

If you're running out of money, you can miss a go and perform an Action instead. Once you've collected *either* six MP Notices cards *or* six Fundraising cards, this causes a change in policy and you're both awarded an extra £62 in benefits.

The game ends when one of you leaves the maze. The winner is the person who has the most money left in their budget.

The poverty maze



Fundraising

A 4k fun run with your sports team raises £40

Fundraising

Your family takes unwanted clothes and books to a charity shop

Fundraising

You complete 24 hours in silence raising £25

Fundraising

You put your spare change into box

Fundraising

Your class does a break time bake sale, raising £15

Fundraising

Dress down day at school raises £700

Fundraising

Your year group puts on a concert, raising £60

Fundraising

Your class collects spare change, raising £20

Fundraising

You organise a 5-a-side tournament raising £30

Fundraising

Sponsored bike ride with your friends raises £25

MPs notice

Your family makes a video diary of living on £138 per week – it's shown on the local news

MPs notice

Your class makes a poster about UK poverty, and you send it to your local MP

MPs notice

You write an article about your school's actions for UK poverty in the local paper

MPs notice

Your class starts a letter writing campaign and bombards your local MP

MPs notice

You organise a bring and buy sale at your town hall – the press cover the event

MPs notice

Your class writes a letter arguing for policy change – it's printed in a national paper

MPs notice

You invite a celebrity who supports Save the Children to your school – they come

MPs notice

You join a rally walk through the centre of your town – journalists are there

MPs notice

You collect 500 names on a petition and deliver it to 10 Downing Street

MPs notice

You are interviewed on local news about your school's charity campaign

Cost card

£40

Family visit to grandparents

Cost card

£60

Sofa breaks – replacement

Cost card

£18

Electricity bill

Cost card

£40

Food shopping

Cost card

£18

School books for children

Cost card

£50

Food shopping

Cost card

£8

School trip to cinema

Cost card

£18

School shoes

Cost card

£54

Dog is ill – vet costs

Cost card

£17

Daughter's birthday party

<p>Cost card</p> <p>£8</p> <p>Washing machine breaks – trip to the launderette</p>	<p>Cost card</p> <p>£7</p> <p>Handle falls off – new saucepan</p>
<p>Cost card</p> <p>£15</p> <p>Son's cycle helmet stolen – replacement</p>	<p>Cost card</p> <p>£23</p> <p>Son in football team – shirt</p>
<p>Cost card</p> <p>£17</p> <p>Friend has a baby – send a card and gift</p>	<p>Cost card</p> <p>£29</p> <p>Gas bill</p>
<p>Cost card</p> <p>£50</p> <p>Food shopping</p>	<p>Cost card</p> <p>£18</p> <p>School trousers torn – replacement</p>
<p>Cost card</p> <p>£14</p> <p>Equipment for school</p>	<p>Cost card</p> <p>£8</p> <p>Friend's birthday party – buy present</p>

Cost card

£12

Pocket money for children

Cost card

£50

Replace smashed window

Cost card

£7

Nappies for baby

Cost card

£6

Phone line rental

Cost card

£9

TV licence needs renewing

Cost card

£25

School uniform for children

Cost card

£18

Haircut

Cost card

£11

Weekly bus pass to get
to supermarket

Cost card

£36

Water bill due

Cost card

£110

Fridge broken – needs fixing

The poverty maze: extension questions

1. What would happen if you did not have enough money towards the end of the week to buy food?

Look at what you bought:

2. Is there anything else you would need to buy to keep your family?

3. How much would these things cost?

4. Could you afford them with just £179 a week to spend?