

Solo mode



During solo games, use the Automaton cards to simulate how a second player (known as an Automaton) would place their Gardeners. Your goal is to create the most beautiful hanging garden and score as many victory points as possible.

The rules are the same, but with the following changes:

Setup

Choose a color for the Automaton. Give them the Gardeners and Objective markers in that color. Shuffle the Automaton cards and place them next to the gameboard.

Choose a difficulty level below and take the corresponding components:

Easy	Intermediate	Difficult	Expert
3 gold coins	2 gold coins	1 gold coin	0 gold coins
4 tools	3 tools	2 tools	1 tool

How to play

The game plays in the same way as a 2-player game.

If the Automaton holds the first-player marker, they start the round.

For the Automaton's turn, draw the top card of their deck and **apply the effects of that card from the bottom up**.

Anatomy of an Automaton card

3 Bonus action




2 Card to discard in that column





1 Gardener placement





1 The Automaton follows the same placement rules as you do. If they can, they place their Gardener in the column with a 1. If that is occupied, they place their Gardener in the column with a 2 and if not, the column with a 3.

2 Then they discard one or more cards in that column, as follows:


 /  /  : Discard the first card **from the bottom** featuring a tree, animal or visitor.


 /  /  /  : If that item does not feature in that column, discard the card on the level indicated, **counting from the bottom**.




 /  /  : Discard **all the flowers** in that column. If there are no flowers in that column, do not discard any cards.

Then reveal one or more Garden cards.

3 Finally, apply the Automaton's action bonus:

 : The Automaton takes the first-player marker.

 : The Automaton completes an objective. They can only complete each objective once, and where possible, their token is placed in the left position. They complete the objectives from left to right.

 /  /  : Discard an enhancement that corresponds to that cost.

End of the game

Check your score in the table below to find out whether you deserve to be creating Hanging Gardens for the royal couple.

Score

Commentary

0-45

Your garden is a total disaster! Even Nebuchadnezzar himself would be afraid to hang a pot of basil in your garden!

46-55

You've got a few timid-looking shoots, but it's a long way from being a Hanging Garden—maybe add some fertilizer?

56-65

Well done! Your garden is starting to look like a true Hanging Garden of Babylon.

66+

Your botanical masterpiece is truly worthy of Queen Amytis! The gardening gods look down on your creation with pride.