LASSST ONE LOSESSS!

STRATEGY GAME
MODERATE TO DIFFICULT
2 PLAYERS

OBJECT
Make the other person pick up the last card.

WILDCARDS
15 snakes and turtles or other Wildcards showing rare, threatened, or endangered species

DEAL
Lay the cards faceup in a pyramid as shown.

PLAY
Youngest Player: You go first. You can take cards out of only one horizontal row. You can take as many cards from that row as you want.

Other Player: Now it is your turn to remove any number of cards from any one row!

Continue taking turns removing cards until there is only one card left. The person who has to pick up the last card gets one point. If the last card is a threatened or endangered species, the person gets two points. The winner is the person with the fewest number of points when you are done playing.

STRATEGY
There are numerous strategies for winning this game. In fact, if you figure out the strategies, you are difficult to beat. Here’s a clue to one of them: 1-2-3!

After you figure out this strategy game, think about solving the real problem. Wisconsin is home to 19 amphibians (frogs and salamanders) and 35 reptiles (snakes, turtles and lizards). Of these, seven are listed as endangered, three are threatened, and 19 are of special concern. That’s a strategic problem we all need to solve.
**WESTERN FOXSNAKE**  
*Pantherophis vulpinus*  
*(Atlas - Pine snake)*  

**BASIC ID**  
This 3-5’ snake has a body color of tan, yellow or olive gray with large brown to black blotches along its back and smaller blotches on its sides. The head is a copper/orange in adults.  

**HABITS**  
This snake eats primarily rodents. They live in a variety of open habitats including marshes, sedge meadows and prairies.  

**FUN FACTS**  
Fox snakes mimic rattlesnakes by shaking their tails when disturbed. The name fox comes from the fox-like, scented musk they emit when grabbed.  

**FOR INFORMATION**  
www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er  

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**BUTLER’S GARTERSNAKE**  
*Thamnophis butleri*  
*Threatened*  

**BASIC ID**  
This 14-20” snake has yellow lateral stripes on both sides of the body. The head is small and only as wide as the neck. The brown/black body has orangish-yellow stripes.  

**HABITS**  
They eat mostly earthworms. They live in wet and dry prairies, marshes, old fields, grassy roadsides and vacant lots.  

**CONSERVATION**  
Protect open vegetated wetlands and at least 1200-feet of open grassy upland fringes around these wetlands.  

**FOR INFORMATION**  
www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er  

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**BULLSNAKE**  
*Pituophis catenifer sayi*  
*Protected*  

**BASIC ID**  
This 4-6’ snake has a variable pattern along its length. The tail is golden with black rings. The middle body has blotches of dark brown to reddish-brown on pale yellow. The neck is mottled with black and white. Its thick, triangular head shape is distinctive.  

**HABITS**  
Prey is mostly small mammals. This rare snake lives in sand and bluff prairies, oak savannas, and in pine and oak barrens.  

**FUN FACT**  
The bullsnake is one of the largest garter snakes in the world. Hissing is mostly all bluff, thus its name.  

**FOR INFORMATION**  
www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er  

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**EASTERN RACER**  
*Colaenetus constrictor*  
*Protected*  

**BASIC ID**  
This sleek, slender snake has a uniform color and specimens vary from light to dark blue, gray, or green. Hatchlings are heavily mottled with numerous dark blotches.  

**HABITS**  
Racers eat rodents and other reptiles. They prefer bluff and other dry prairies, swamps and fields with sandy soils.  

**FUN FACTS**  
Racers are among the fastest snakes in North America. They can quickly climb bushes and small trees to escape danger.  

**FOR INFORMATION**  
www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er  

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**GRAY RATTSNAKE**  
*Pantherophis spiloides*  
*Protected*  

**BASIC ID**  
This 3-5’ snake is dark brown to blackish and flecked with white, yellow, or orange. Red and yellow flecks mark the underside. The head is solid brown with a white chin and throat.  

**HABITS**  
Black rat snakes eat rodents and birds. They live in bluff prairies, woods and fields, and may be found in farm buildings.  

**FUN FACT**  
Black rat snakes are Wisconsin’s only tree-dwelling snake, sometimes spending weeks at a time in mature trees.  

**FOR INFORMATION**  
www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er  

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**EASTERN HOG-NOSED SNAKE**  
*Heterodon platirhinos*  

**BASIC ID**  
This 1.5-3’ snake has an upturned, pointed snout. The body has dark brown blotches on a brownish background. The belly is a uniform pale in adults. The neck has two “eyespots.”  

**HABITS**  
Hognose snakes eat mainly toads or other amphibians. They live in sandy grasslands, oak savannas, and sand prairies.  

**FUN FACTS**  
This snake lifts its neck and looks somewhat cobras-like when disturbed. They often play dead and flip upside down if harassed.  

**FOR INFORMATION**  
www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er  

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**EASTERN MASSASAUCA RATTLESNAKE**  
*Stilurus cateniferus*  
*Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake*  

**BASIC ID**  
The elliptical to round, blotched 3-5’ snake has light brown to grey coloration with a dark brown to black stripe running along both sides of the body.  

**HABITS**  
The rattlesnake is a pit viper. Their bite is not venomous to humans. They coexist with many smaller snakes such as spruce king snakes.  

**FUN FACT**  
Heat sensing pits in the face allow them to "see" warm-blooded animals.  

**FOR INFORMATION**  
www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er  

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**EASTERN MILK SNAKE**  
*Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum*  

**BASIC ID**  
This 2.5’ snake has a beige to gray background with large reddish or brown blotches. The belly is white. Male milk snakes possess a loreal pit.  

**HABITS**  
Milk snakes feed on rodents and small mammals. They lay eggs in downy, upland habitat.  

**FUN FACTS**  
Many black and white segments on the back and sides. Contrary to old wives tales, milk snake do not milk cows.  

**FOR INFORMATION**  
www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er