The Island

As part of the Hudson 400 festivities, Waag Society and the John Adams Institute have created The Island; an urban mobile game that connects students in Amsterdam and New York in real time.

By becoming a merchant, they connect with the history that links both cities together.

The two hour game starts with a short instruction. The students are divided in teams and receive...

... an historic map of the city

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... a marketprice chart

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... a phone with internet and GPS

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Students set out in the city. They have to decide on a strategy. The goal is to end up with as many guilders as possible. To do so they have to: Collect, trade or sell goods.

Of course local goods are worth less than foreign goods, so they have to be smart about it!

The team navigates using the historic map and the GPS map on the phone.

Amsterdam

Volgens mij moeten we die kant uit.

We hebben nu drie textiles en twee foodstuff. Als we nu een deal maken kunnen we vette winst halen.

Meanwhile in New York...

We should go to the communication nexus. It's our best chance for guilders right now.

New York

Come on, let's hurry!
At the communication nexus several teams in Amsterdam are negotiating with teams in New York and vice versa.

Everybody is trying to get the best deal.

Hello... yes... hi there...

We are looking for otters; they sell for a high price here.

OK... we'll sell.

Hi... nice to meet you!

We have two otters and a tobacco. We would like four textiles in return.

Ok deal!!!

Amsterdam

Both teams quickly write down the deal and each others team names.

Now off to the distribution center, to ship the goods using the mobile phone.

But wait! A message! The market price for otters has gone down!
Both teams still decide to go to the distribution center. They can save their new goods and wait for another market price change, or try and use them for an ever better deal later on.

But first... they have to finish the deal using the mobile application.

The team agrees to sell the goods. They figure it's better to cash the goods that have a relatively high marketprice.

On the way to the merchant they see several 'extra' locations in the mobile application. Here they can test their historic knowledge in exchange for extra goods.

The team name was NY5...
THE PRESSURE IS ON, ONLY FIFTEEN MINUTES TO GO! IN AMSTERDAM IT'S GETTING LATE BECAUSE OF THE SIX HOUR TIME DIFFERENCE.

EVERYBODY IS TRYING TO MAKE LAST MINUTE DEALS. EVERY GUILDER COUNTS...

GAME OVER! AND AFTER A FEW MINUTES, THE WINNERS ARE KNOWN...
 STUDENTS CAN CHECK PHOTOS AND END RESULTS AT WWW.PLAYTHEISLAND.ORG
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