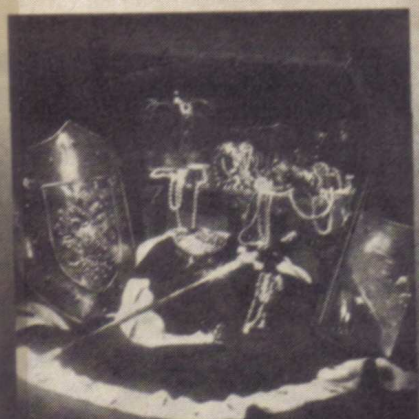


King's Quest



SIERRA



Q: I own an IBM PC and have finished the game King's Quest. Do you know if there are any more games coming out with 128K or more and that resemble the King's Quest format?

(Bruce Ambrose, Edmonton, Canada)

A: Sure enough, Bruce — and what else but *King's Quest II*, which you should be seeing advertisements for very soon. I can't tell you anything about

the plot, but Sierra On-Line designer Roberta Williams and her team have created a game that actually improves the format: more music and sound effects, a bigger sentence parser so the game will understand more, and a rather more satirical sense of humor than was evident in *King's Quest*. The graphics also got a big revamp, and the animation is said to be more complex: the non-player characters you meet, for instance, instead of being restricted to a single area, can now move around randomly through dozens of areas — making the game even more lively.

Q: I have a few questions about King's Quest: One, how can I get the axe out of the tree stump by the woodcutter's cabin; two, is there any way to get the fiddle in the cabin; three, how do you move the boulder in the cave by the condor; and four, is there any way to kill the witch and the sorcerer? Please print this letter or at least send me a reply.

(Scott Webster, Canaan, NH;
also, Matthew Tracey, Flushing, NY)

A: Five, I can't reply to *every* letter I get because I'm swamped with mail (and that's no joke); six, remember that there are always several solutions to every problem in *King's Quest*; seven, remember that non-violent solutions usually win you the most points; and eight, despite appearances, not *everything* in this highly animated game is really animated. This applies specifically to the axe; it's just scenery, so forget it. The fiddle isn't, though. If you'd like to have it, try noticing that the Woodcutter is kind of hungry. There's a magic household item ("something you find every day," Groucho Webster) nearby that, if you can figure out how to use it, might make

the woodcutter grateful enough to give you his most precious possession. Rolling the boulder away takes another being's help; you'll find him (or it) if you take a trip down the wishing well. Instead of helping him out, though, try making him mad (some "mouthwash" might do it). You can't kill the sorcerer; just try to avoid him (the magic shield can help if he attacks). To do in the witch, go into her house and hide in the bedroom until she comes home. While she's messing around with the fireplace, sneak up behind and pull a *Hansel and Gretel* number on her (you remember them, don't you?).

Q: King's Quest really has me loused up. I'm particularly stuck with those leprechauns; how do you get past the first leprechaun, and then out of the whole area? Also, how do I get by the rat, how do I give the gnome the clue he is asking for, and is the Fairy Godmother's spell good for anything?

(Stuart Snaison, Palos Verdes, CA)

A: Now look, you guys, you've got to figure out some of this stuff for yourself; that's supposed to be the fun of it, right? Lots of these things are interconnected; success in one area (generated because I gave you a clue) isn't necessarily going to save your bacon later. If you're a true adventure fan, you must be intrepid, persistent, resourceful, and endlessly confident of your eventual success. For you duffers though, I do have a few clues: First, the leprechauns *are* a real problem. You've got to have the magic mushroom with you before you even get near them, and to get the magic mushroom you have to (or usually have to) take a ride with the eagle. Go back to the eagle scene and try to climb aboard just when the eagle swoops past. The 'shroom ought to be near where the eagle drops you. You can figure out how to get it if you've ever gone mushroom picking before. To get by the first leprechaun, you'll also need the four-leaf clover, which is usually found right about where you would expect clover to grow. As long as you have this little item with you, he'll let you go about your business.