Nov. 26, 2009

GAMES

Please your gamer or bring the whole family together

1. Sort it Out!
Which is fastest: a cheetah, a helicopter or a steam train? Take your best guess, put things in order and find out. A great party or family game that creates the perfect combination of knowledge, luck, challenge and fun. $90, major retailers

2. Lost Cities
This two-player card game explores the Himalayas, ancient volcanoes and Neptune's underwater world. It's quick to play, with simple rules, but also great at forcing tricky decisions. $25, Blue Highway Games (Queen Anne), Ludicrous Games (Bellevue)

3. PlayStation Portable go system
Sony's new PSP go is more than 50 percent smaller and 40 percent lighter than the original portable system. Games, TV shows and movies can now be downloaded directly on demand via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth, with 16 GB of storage. $250, major retailers

4. "Uncharted 2: Among Thieves"
Antihero Nathan Drake is back even bigger and better in the sequel to PlayStation's insanely popular and groundbreaking "Drake's Fortune." $60, major retailers

5. Pandemic
Know a wannabe microbe hunter? Players in this cooperative board game form a team of specialists who work together to save mankind by halting the spread of different diseases. $35, Blue Highway Games (Queen Anne), Uncle's Games (Bellevue)

6. The Beatles: Rock Band
Be one of the Fab Four as they take the world by storm. Play their trademark instruments and re-create their vocal harmonies on the Ed Sullivan Show and in other famous concerts. Available for Xbox 360, PlayStation3 and Nintendo Wii. $60, major retailers

7. dreamGEAR Shadow 6 Wireless Controller
The new controller for PlayStation3 is the most comfortable and precise to date, with a custom analog stick layout and enhanced L2 and R2 triggers that help prevent fingers from slipping. $50, major retailers

8. Small World
It's similar to the classic game of Risk with players vying for control of territories on a map, but it plays much faster, is more forgiving, has great art and appeals to both genders. A colorful cast of fantasy characters includes dwarves, wizards and amazons. $50, Blue Highway Games (Queen Anne)