

HOMEWORLD BOUND
(ACT I & II)

BY

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Homeworld Bound is a fully playable, immersive first person adventure and construction game focused on the development of spatial skill training in children ages 7-11. <http://spatial.cs.illinois.edu/game-features.html>

FULL SCREEN

A grainy voice echoes through a communication channel.

JCD Command

I shouldn't have to stress the importance of this assessment on you again, recruit. Some high-ranking Joint Construction Division officials already think you've failed to make the grade and even Captain Steiger of JCD high command won't be able to help you if you disappoint a third time.

Your suit's instructional AI will trigger once you've made contact with the planet. HRZ-04 is classified a dead world, so you'll be completely alone down there. This test is about your ability to construct something out of nothing, about deploying your skills to find a way off the planet.

Let's hope you can prove us wrong.

The grainy voice blends into static.

EXT. PLANET'S SURFACE

Game begins with player stranded in a canyon on the surface of an alien planet. Player has a moment to linger before receiving instructions.

LYNN

This is assessment support device 12-25-14-14, designation - LYNN. Suit sensors indicate contact with planet surface HRZ-04. Vocal capabilities disconnected as per JCD requirements. Beginning evaluation.

Please use W, S, A, and D, to move around. Using the MOUSE will change the direction in which

you're looking. You can press and hold the C key to review controls at anytime.

Player moves after receiving controls.

LYNN

Warning. Proximity alert. Long range sensors measuring undocumented energy signals. Proceed with caution.

Player comes to a ledge between two high canyon walls.

LYNN

Press spacebar to jump. Use W, S, A, and D, to control the direction of the jump.

Player comes to fuser lying on the ground.

LYNN

Fuser detected. Move over an object to pick it up.

Player picks up fuser.

LYNN

Integrating Fuser X7000 into internal spacesuit processing.

FULL SCREEN TUTORIAL:

BOOTING UP... Welcome to the fuser X7000 premier technology for constructing and crafting!
Warning: low power! Please replace batteries.

EXT. PLANET'S SURFACE

LYNN

Beginning Joint Construction Division assessment stage-one. Current record set by Captain Ellena

Steiger and support device 12-25-14-14
designation - LYNN.

Previous recruit attempts - poor.

Proposition . . . if you want to move faster,
hold down shift to sprint.

Player begins exploring to find batteries.

LYNN

You have found a battery part. Collect three more
for a whole battery.

When the player collects the rest of the battery parts a
line from LYNN will be delivered and trigger a building
tutorial section.

LYNN

All battery parts collected. Starting up fuser .
. .

FULL SCREEN TUTORIAL.

FUSER BATTERY PARTS DETECTED. STARTING UP FUSER TUTORIAL.

LYNN

(INTRO)

This is the target object.
This is the part you start with.
Click to select new parts from the bottom panel.
Click on the flashing arrow to rotate the part.
This shows how many rotations you can make. Game
over when it reaches zero!

Click on the black surface to select it.
Click on another black surface to select it also.
Click on the fuse button to fuse two parts.
Congratulations you have successfully fused two
parts. Click next to end the tutorial!

(BUILDING BATTERY)

LYNN

The battery part looks small on the screen. Use the scroll wheel on the mouse to zoom in and out.
Click and drag with the mouse to move the camera to see the black surfaces.

Player completes battery tutorial.

LYNN

You've built a battery for the fuser. Fuser requires three more to restore full functionality.

Player explores for more batteries.

LYNN

Warning. Proximity alert. Short-range sensors show output of high-energy signals, proceed with

-

As the player comes to another battery part, from beneath the ground, a floating orb appears and hovers near them.

ORB

(Shaking off dirt)

Why is it that I can flit about the universe and take a dip in a black hole, but can't seem to nap without some clueless biped marching over my head?

What are you doing on my planet, human? And why do you have a talking calculator with you?

LYNN

Correction. I am not a calculator. I am an advanced artificial intelligence network integrated into this recruit's spacesuit. I am support unit 12-25-14-14 designation - LYNN.

ORB

More like designation boring.

(Lowering towards the ground)

Ok, back on your pointless way then. If you're still around in twenty thousand years or so, pop over and wake me up.

Do watch your step.

Player gets ready to go back to collecting battery parts.

LYNN

We are currently on a JCD mission -

ORB

Oh, you must have confused my questioning with actual interest. My apologies. I really don't care what you're doing.

LYNN

Recruit, please continue with assessment. JCD Command has issued another notice stating the importance of your final testing attempt.

The orb pops up from the ground. It hovers near the player and follows as they continue collecting battery parts. Subsequent dialogue delivered during exploration.

ORB

Assessment? Is that why there have been so many ants marching around on my planet? Are they testing your ability to blindly walk into napping strangers? If so, I predict you'll pass.

LYNN

The elite recruit assessment is defined as a measurement of the final building and construction capabilities of potential JCD applicants. For this current recruit, there have

been two subsequent failures of the necessary assessment.

ORB

Two failures! Why not just quit then, human? You don't seem cut out for this?

The player comes to another battery part.

ORB

Also I would be careful touching that particular battery . . . things might get explosive.

LYNN

Area scans show no indication of explosives. Recruit may proceed with assessment.

ORB

Of course the calculator has no humor button.

Player continues collecting battery parts. At any point during exploration, after collecting four battery pieces, the player will enter a building screen.

LYNN

This current recruit went through a very difficult process requesting a third testing attempt from the JCD. It seems they refuse to give up.

Archives show that only one other recruit has failed this assessment twice and gone on to join the JCD.

ORB

Interesting. You are fascinating, human.

But why can't you talk for yourself? I'd rather avoid speaking to the bird's nest strapped to your body.

LYNN

Correction - I am not a bird's nest.

The recruit's vocal capabilities have been disconnected as per JCD requirements. This is to avoid excess communication with support unit 12-25-14-14 designation -

ORB

For the love of the universe, why would anyone want to avoid conversation with you?

At any point during exploration, after collecting four battery pieces, the player will enter a building screen. This process will be repeated until four batteries have been built.

Player continues collecting.

LYNN

Query - What are you?

HRZ-04 is classified a section five planet. Current scans show no life and an absence of the base requirements for inhabitance.

ORB

Well . . . if the scans say it.

I'm only here, alive, telling you my face hurts from being stepped on.

But I guess I must not exist. Silly me. Going on like this for so long. It's a good thing you came along to inform me of how things are, calculator.

Player continues collecting battery parts.

LYNN

Correction - not a calculator.

Repeated query - What are you? Please define your existence parameters. Please, state your intentions.

ORB

My existence parameters?

Can't you see that I'm clearly an artificial intelligence network. I'M JUST LIKE YOU! I am support unit 13-26-15-15 designation -

LYNN

That is incorrect - Proximity scans show you are organic and not a JCD support device.

Observation - the last known inhabitants of HRZ-04 were the Andrelic species of approximately ninety thousand years ago. This cannot be your planet. You fall outside current JCD archive data on Andrelic anatomy.

ORB

Wait . . . I'm not Andrelic? That's why I got picked on at school! That's why father was always frowning!

LYNN

Please state your intentions. Why are you on this planet? What are your existence parameters?

ORB

Let's just say I'm here due to a special blend of bad situations. A hint of fear here, a dash of family drama there, throw in a little alone time wondering the icy vastness of the universe and, hey presto, you get me.

I was here for the end of the Andrelics, but I'd prefer not to talk about them. And as for my species - we exist outside the petty concerns of

calculators and their fragile bipedal hosts. I'm pure existence, pure energy. I'm pretty awesome actually.

Player continues collecting.

ORB

And my intentions are obviously to charm you, calculator. I think we have a real chance for a future together.

LYNN

Query - Your proximity to this recruit suggest a contradiction in regards to the portrayal of non-concern. Is this inconsistency intentional?

ORB

You stepped on my face . . .
A little company is the least you could do.

I need to unwind a bit before I sleep anyways. If I don't I'll have nightmares. I'm not a monster.

Player finishes collecting battery parts/building batteries. Orb follows, floating closely behind. Lynn interrupts once battery is collected.

FULLSCREEN

LYNN

Fuser now fully charged. Increasing scanning pulse to show hidden building materials near recruit's current location. Generating planetary map image. Hidden material locations are marked in yellow.

Image of canyon map shows top right of the screen.

ORB

Wait. Please don't tell me. Did that little machine of yours just . . .

LYNN

Warning. Proximity alert. Warning. Long-range sensors show colossal radiation influx heading this direction at immeasurable speed. Prediction - three minutes until contact. Routing timer to show through suit view screen.

ORB

We should leave. Now.

Gameplay shifts to a race against 3 min clock. Player must sprint to collect necessary hidden materials. Subsequent dialogue delivered during race.

ORB

I would hurry. The calculator's 'Distorted energy' description is the understatement of the millennia. This thing's been chasing me from planet to planet for 2 million years. Or did you actually think I enjoyed sleeping in the dirt?

LYNN

Correction - I am not a calculator.

ORB

Actually, 2 million years wasn't a bad run. Maybe getting caught is worth not having to listen to you anymore.

It's probably just like a trip to the sauna anyway, boiled in radiation hotter than a collapsing star - it might be nice.

LYNN

Proposition to recruit - hold down shift to sprint.

ORB

That's the spirit.

Player collects all necessary hidden materials.

LYNN

Warning. Proximity alert. Warning. Two minutes and thirty seconds until contact with colossal radiation influx. Recruit must build faster than current JCD records. Beginning fuser x7000 startup.

Beginning JCD assessment stage-two. Current building record set by Captain Ellena Steiger and support device 12-25-14-14 designation - LYNN. Record set at three minutes and fifteen seconds.

ORB

Are you seriously bragging right now?

Rocket boots tutorial must be done in two minutes. Failure results in a game over screen. After successful building of rocket boots, subsequent dialogue is delivered while escaping.

LYNN

Congratulations! Current JCD assessment stage-two record established by new recruit and support unit 12-25-14-14 designation -

ORB

Oh come on! Remember the whole not dying thing? We need to leave!

LYNN

Recruit - Please hold down spacebar to jump higher with the rocket boots! Use rocket boots along a section of the canyon walls to access stage-three of current JCD assessment.

ORB

And?

LYNN

And to escape the incoming radiation influx.

ORB

Why are you like this?

Player uses rocket boots to climb to the top of the canyon. From there the player sees a sprawling new level and another area of interest - the towering spires of a ruined city.

LYNN

Beginning JCD assessment stage three - THE HIGHLANDS

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. PLANET'S SURFACE

Act begins with player exploring a vast and hazy stretch of alien planet known as The Highlands. Player accompanied by Lynn and the Orb.

LYNN

Recruit - Fuser energy depleted. Functionality requires four more batteries. Please explore JCD assessment stage three - The Highlands - to restore fuser capabilities.

ORB

Yes, please, we really should re-charge the device that nearly got us killed. Do hurry.

Player continues collecting battery parts. Subsequent dialogue delivered during exploration.

LYNN

Current record for assessment stage-three set by
Captain Ellena Steiger and support device -

ORB

Look calculator, I'm sure all the other office
supplies in the JFB or whatever are extremely
jealous of your wonderful records, but buddy,
pal, if I'm being honest, I'd rather avoid
hearing about them over and over again.

LYNN

Correction - JCD support devices do not get
jealous. Our sole purpose is to assist recruits
during their assessments.

ORB

Ah yes, the ever important exam! The golden
ribbon! The shining star! If it's approval you
two are seeking - I'm sure we can acquire it
through simpler means. Maybe a pat on the head
would suffice? A loving nudge under the chin?

Personally, I like to prioritize our continued
existence over an unnecessary examination at the
moment. But that's just me - pretty self-
absorbed.

LYNN

Assessment requirements must be -

The level shakes as dust rises along the horizon of the
highlands.

LYNN

Warning. Proximity alert. Radiation influx
infiltrating deep into the planet's surface.
Sensors show creation of large tunnels beneath
the exterior. Stability of JCD assessment stage

three - THE HIGHLANDS - is potentially compromised. Monitoring.

ORB
(To self)

Seems the diligent students here aren't the only ones aware of my sleeping habits anymore.

Player continues collecting battery parts. At any point during exploration, after collecting four battery pieces, the player will enter a building screen.

LYNN

Query - Your whispering suggest withheld information regarding the pursuing radiation influx. Is this assessment accurate?

ORB

What's accurate is that you two have made a royal mess of things. Do you know that? A million years of preparation gone, vanished, like it was nothing.

Are you going to help me out of this?

Player continues collecting battery parts.

LYNN

Logged quote - "As for my species, we exist outside the petty concerns of calculators and their fragile bipedal hosts. I'm pure existence, pure energy. I'm pretty awesome actually."

Query - Why do you need our help?

ORB

Maybe you do have a humor button after all, calculator.

LYNN

Correction - As I am not a calculator, I do not have buttons.

Recruit - given situational unpredictability, it is recommended that completion of the JCD assessment take full priority. Please continue.

Player continues collecting battery parts.

ORB

Human, I understand, ok? I know you want to get into your little clubhouse or whatever, but I really need to get off this planet.

How many times do I have to say that we're in real danger here?

LYNN

The final stage of the Joint Construction Division assessment results in the creation of an S-class starship. Recruit must use it to escape the surface of HRZ-04.

ORB

Actually, I've always been a staunch believer in the tremendous power of standardized testing.

Let's get that golden ribbon!

Next line delivered when Player finishes building a battery.

LYNN

You've built a battery for the fuser. Fuser requires two more to restore full functionality.

Player continues collecting battery parts.

LYNN

Query - Current low-res scans of pursuing radiation generate a similar emission pattern to

your own. This commonality suggests a similar anatomy or a shared physiology? Would this assessment be accurate?

ORB

Don't scan me you dirty little iPod.

LYNN

JCD requirements dictate that proximity scans occur on a constant frequency. You were not specifically selected for scanning.

Query - If emission patterns show a commonality or shared species physiology, why then are you being pursued?

ORB

Because I just want to dance! To shift and jive!
To shuffle my feet on the floor! I'm only alive
when I'm dancing and - Oh my horrible planet!
They've done it! Dancing's been outlawed! The
horror!

LYNN

Current inflection suggests insincerity.

ORB

What gave you that idea - is it the fact I don't
even have feet?

LYNN

Repeated query - Why are you being pursued?

ORB

Look, I don't know why it even matters.

LYNN

Observation - The more information obtained about
the pursuing hazard, the increased probability we

have of overcoming it. Questioning is therefore a necessary procedure.

Orb

I . . . broke my banishment by making contact with the Andrelics. That's it. That's the truth.

And a sentinel from my own species is chasing me because of it.

Ok, all right, no more questions - please and thank you.

Player continues collecting battery parts.

LYNN

Query sequence - Why were you banished? Why did you come to planet HRZ-04? What subsequently occurred to bring about the end of the Andrelic species?

ORB

Yeah, I'm not answering any of those.

Let's just get this test finished and get on to the whole escaping bit.

Player continues collecting battery parts in quiet for some time.

LYNN

Given the absence of viable responses to previous queries, I will repeat the series of questioning every two minutes until answered.

ORB

Wait? Are you serious?

Human, can't you press mute or something?

LYNN

Repeated correction - I do not have buttons.

Player continues collecting battery parts.

LYNN

Repeated query sequence - Why were you banished?
Why did you come to planet HRZ-04? What
subsequently occurred to bring about the end of
the Andrelic species?

ORB

No means no, you pigheaded machine.

LYNN

Beginning constant stream of questioning.

ORB

Come on now. This is just ridiculous.

LYNN

Specific query sequence - Why were you banished?
Why did you come to planet HRZ-04? And what
subsequently occurred to bring about the end of
the Andrelic species?

Specific query sequence - Why were you banished?
Why did you come to planet HRZ-04? And what
subsequently occurred to bring about the end of
the Andrelic species?

ORB

Look - I've dealt with the empty void, survived
cosmic explosions and galactic radiation - A mute
and their technological parrot will not outdo my
resolve.

LYNN

Specific query sequence - Why were you banished?
Why did you come to planet HRZ-04? What
subsequently occurred to bring about the end of
the Andrelic species?

Specific query sequence - Why were you -

ORB

All right! One!

I'll answer ONE question.

If you keep going like this I imagine the
universe will rip itself apart.

Player continues collecting battery parts in quiet for some
time.

LYNN

Please allow a moment for processing. Please
provide a truthful response to avoid unnecessary
repetition of the question.

ORB

I really do not like you.

Player continues collecting battery parts.

LYNN

Selected query - Why were you banished?

Player continues collecting battery parts in quiet for some
time.

ORB

(No Response)

LYNN

Repeated query - Why were you banished?

Player continues collecting battery parts in quiet for some time.

ORB

(No Response)

LYNN

Repeated query with increased volume output -

ORB

You don't have any idea what it's like, calculator. I doubt you ever could.

The feeling of failure radiating off family, friends - it's like a living thing.

I'm sure the twice-failed recruit here understands. Don't you, human?

Failure doesn't need to be acknowledged; the feeling's always there, blistering. My species doesn't easily hide things, either - our feelings about one another leak out for everyone to see.

Player continues collecting battery parts in quiet for some time.

LYNN

Query - please provide clarification.

ORB

My species has a rite of succession; we also have a rite of passage into our community. It's called: The Qatari - and it's a process where we guide ourselves transforming into a new form . . .

LYNN

Query - please provide clarification.

ORB

I could if you'd stop interrupting.

I failed. I didn't meet the standard. But at least now I know my people are getting along better without me.

LYNN

Query - So one failure of the Qatari results in banishment? Is it possible to re-try, to practice and then test again?

ORB

It doesn't matter. I'm not going back.

That's why you're so fascinating, human. I admire how, in spite of everything, you keep trying.

I couldn't do it, I couldn't face that feeling, so . . .

LYNN

Query - Do Qatari guidelines prevent another testing attempt?

ORB

I'm not trying again, calculator.

LYNN

Accessing JCD archives - class - encyclopedic subsection - subclass - general definition.

Selected quote - "One who lacks the adequate courage to endure dangerous or unpleasant things - definition - Coward."

ORB

It doesn't matter what you think.

I'm not going back.

Player continues collecting battery parts in quiet for some time. Next line delivered when Player finishes building a battery.

LYNN

You've built a battery for the fuser. Fuser functionality fully restored.

ORB

Ok, so we're all in agreement about what comes next?

When the calculator uses its little machine our position's going to flare up like a firework. The sentinel's been searching for me underground so I think things are going to get dicey.

It seems our only option is the Ruined City located over the horizon there. There's a field generator that should buy us a little time if we can get inside.

Should we count it down? Maybe go on three or something?

LYNN

Firing fuser.

ORB

That makes sense.

LYNN

Scanning pulses show new building materials near the recruit's current location. Generating planetary map image. Material locations are marked in yellow.

Suddenly the level shakes as dust rises along the horizon of the highlands. Sections of the level/ground start breaking away and collapsing.

LYNN

Warning. Proximity alert. Stability of JCD assessment stage three - THE HIGHLANDS - is critically compromised. Immense ground disintegration occurring.

Radiation influx - correction - The Sentinel, is rapidly incoming.

Recruit please sprint toward JCD stage four - the Ruined City - while subsequently gathering newly revealed building materials. If directional assistance is needed, simply examine the horizon for the Ruined City spires.

ORB

Look I value a clean planet as much as the next floating energy singularity, but can't we just skip on the whole collecting garbage bit? We need to get to the city - there's no time for anything else.

LYNN

Proximity scans show the entrance of the Ruined City is currently blocked by debris. Newly revealed building materials are absolutely necessary for entry.

ORB

Just once, I want your scans to show that the entrance is open, that we have friends waiting and that they're thrilled we're coming. Just once.

Gameplay shifts to a race against a clock where the player must sprint to collect necessary hidden materials while avoiding the collapsing of the Highlands level by accomplishing some light platforming.

Subsequent dialogue delivered during race.

ORB

Actually, now that I think about it, the Ruined City is a bad idea - a really bad idea. Maybe we

try somewhere else instead? I think there's a little island getaway a thousand miles south of here? Any chance we could make that happen?

LYNN

Current sentinel proximity suggests destination - the Ruined City - as the only available option. Any other location would be unreasonable.

ORB

I know it's unreasonable. Don't you think I know that? I'm nervous, ok? I get unreasonable when I'm nervous.

Player collects all necessary hidden materials.

LYNN

All materials collected. Proposition to recruit - hold down shift to sprint to the Ruined City.

During final sprint to the city, the Sentinel - a giant orb-like structure - is shown pursuing behind the player, partially above the ground. Dust rises along the highlands as more and more sections start breaking away and collapsing.

Dialogue given when coming to the outside entrance of the Ruined City.

Orb

I really don't want to go in there.

LYNN

Current wants are situationally irrelevant.

Recruit - Two minutes and thirty seconds until contact with colossal Sentinel. Recruit must build faster than current JCD records. Beginning fuser startup.

Current building record set by Captain Ellena Steiger and support device 12-25-14-14 designation - LYNN. Record set at three minutes.

ORB

You know, despite everything, your bragging is actually comforting right now. What is happening to me?

Building tutorial must be done in a number of minutes. Failure results in a game over screen. After successful building of the sledgehammer, subsequent dialogue is delivered.

LYNN

Congratulations! Please use the sledgehammer on entrance debris. You have thirty seconds.

Player uses sledgehammer to break apart debris in front of the Ruined City entrance. The player, the Orb and Lynn all enter.

LYNN

Long-range scans show the protective field generator is holding against the Sentinel force.

Sentinel energy signal dissipating. Specific energy sequence retreating underground.

Congratulations - Current JCD assessment stage-three record established by new recruit and support unit -

ORB

Umm yeah, let's not rush into celebrating just yet.

As player moves into the opening of the ruined city, dozens of dark-shadow specters with glowing eyes peer down from city windows, from behind dark rubble, from along bending streets and curved pathways.

LYNN

Warning. Proximity scans show numerous energy signals. Warning. Discretion advised.

ORB

Out of the frying pan . . .

END ACT TWO