

While resting on the shores of a serene lake, an unusual creature, a mischievous, glimmering Ducitan swoops down and eats valuable items from your group. The Ducitan heads towards a small island in the center of the lake, where an intricate cave system lies hidden. Will you follow and get your stuff back?

WHO STOLE MY STUFF?

BY BENNY RAIMONDI

1. Cave of puddles

You wade through the shallow waters of the lake and enter a cool, damp cave. Emerging from the water, you find yourself in a room with numerous puddles, each scattered with shiny coins. Some puddles are unusually still while others ripple slightly. *(Inside the rippling puddles are hiding carnivorous waterplants.)*

Story: As you enter, the Ducitan is nowhere to be seen but its laughter echoing through the cave.

To proceed safely:

Throw small objects or use a stick to test the puddles, identifying those with the plants. Among the puddles, one conceals an underwater tunnel marked by a faint current. Diving into this puddle leads you to the next room.

2. The fridge

Emerging from the underwater tunnel, you enter a cavern with an almost freezing temperature. The walls are sticky and scattered around are several treasure chests filled with water, seemingly empty. *(These chests are actually animal food preserving chests, hiding fish, small dead rodent, bones, shells, and shiny objects.)*

To proceed safely:

- Recognize signs of animal activity: scratch marks, frequent use of certain chests, and a slight water current. Swim through the tunnel next to the most frequently used chest, following animal trails to the next part of the cave system.
- On the wall, discover a sort of sticky resin, used by the creatures to secure their nests to the walls in the nesting cave.

Action: There can be a confrontation here between a few male Ducitans providing the chests with food.

3. The toilet

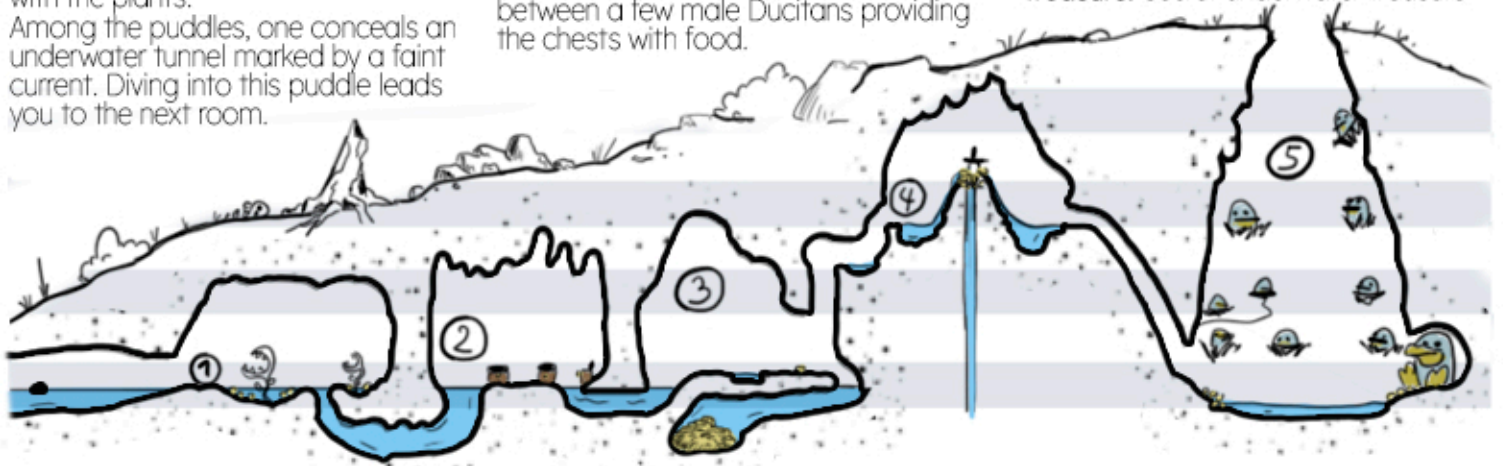
You find yourself in a smaller cavern with a narrow stream too slim for a human to pass through. Signs of animal litter, broken shells, bits of fur, and food scraps are scattered around. Animal paw prints and scratch marks lead up the walls and across the ceiling, indicating a climbing route.

Story: There is a small piece of stolen treasures dropped on the ground, the laughter is still echoing and getting louder.

To proceed safely:

- Use the sticky resin found in the previous cave to coat your hands and feet, improving your grip on the slippery rocks.
- Ascend the walls using the sticky residue in the previous room.

Treasure: Secret underwater treasure



Ducitans are waterbird creatures with strong claws. They can store up to 1m³ in their magical stomach pouch.



Ducitan

4. The sword in the fountain

Climbing the rocks, you enter a cavern with a large rock piled high with gold coins. Embedded in the center is a magnificent sword. Water trickles from beneath the coins and the sword. Unbeknownst to the adventurers the sword and coins are holding back a fountain of water that, if released, will flood the cave system.

Action:

-If the sword is pulled, they need to find an escape route to prevent flooding.

To proceed safely:

- Observing the water flow and positioning of the sword can hint at its purpose.
- A tunnel on the far side of the cavern, partially obscured by rocks and moss, provides an route. to the next cave

If sword is pulled: the cave starts filling with water and there is no way to close the stream of water, they need to exit quickly. The bars indicate how fast the cave fills itself up. 1 bar a minute.

5. Nesting cave

Following a well-trodden path, you enter the final cave, a large chamber with a high ceiling. Filled with nests of Ducitans all breeding with laughter. An opening at the top offers a potential exit, but it's too high to reach without assistance. This is the nesting ground of the creatures, filled with shiny objects and teeming with Ducitans.

To proceed safely:

- Use shiny objects to distract the animals.
- Work together to boost each other up towards the opening.

Action:

If the animals are disturbed, the leader of the flock, an enormous and aggressive creature, will lead an attack.

Payoff: Once you retrieve the stolen treasure from the ducitans nest, Through negotiation or combat, you recover your items and potentially gain new treasures. The Ducitan impressed by your bravery or strength, may even follow allong for future adventures.