



Atkinos: The World Is Bigger Than We Thought

The sailing ships of the First Fleet passed so far out to sea that they were no longer able to see the light from the great light tower. The sailors were brave and they pressed on. They did not fear anything, but they did encounter some odd new creatures...





And they began to see this large creature surfacing on a frequent basis as they sailed further out:





The crew noticed that some areas were getting shallow. This led them to believe they were approaching land. As they looked out, they saw some unusual underwater rock formations.



The captain pressed on, though he was concerned that such strange rock formations may presage even more unusual terrain to come.



This didn't seem quite so strange. Maybe good land was close at hand after all.

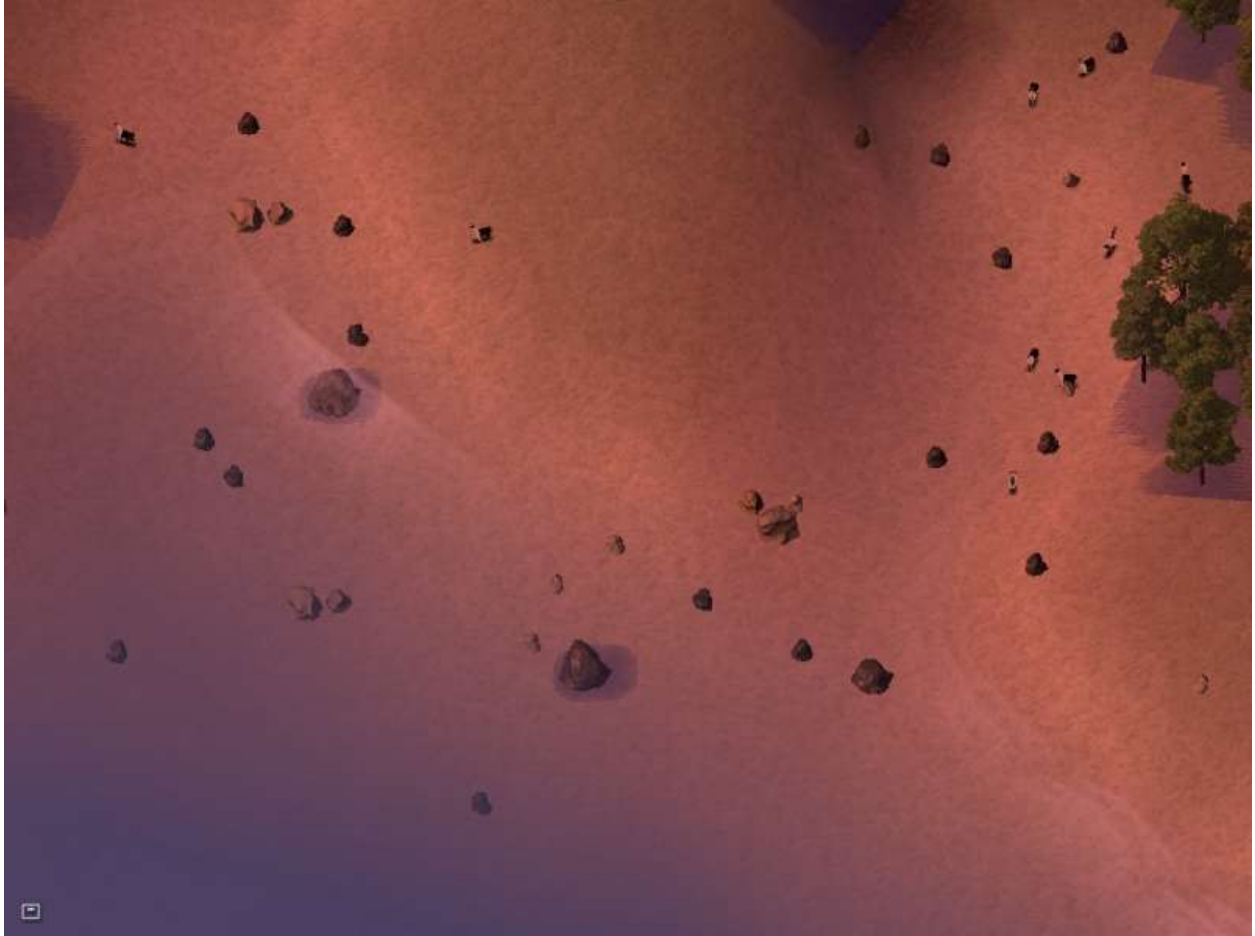
Then...

EUREKA! I think. Um, yeah, that's it. Land has been found at last! The world has grown! Unfortunately, these are the smallest islands ever created in the Sim universe, so these micro islands will serve only as tiny landmarks in the annals of exploration, not as a base for future growth and exploration.





After basking a while in the excitement of finding new land, the explorers moved on. After all, these islands were really too small to even plant a flag upon. Of course, they didn't have a flag yet, either. They sailed the rest of the day and as the sun was setting, one crewmember in the crow's nest called out and said "Land ho!" He got a few skeptical glances, so he reiterated, "This time, it's big enough to walk on!" Then, the excitement began to mount. As the sun set, the lead ships, the *Praline* and the *Godiva Truffle*, approached the first substantial land ever discovered.



The ships pulled up to the rocky shore as it was bathed in the red-orange glow of sunset. Campsites were established to spend the night. Animals around the island were surprised to see new occupants, but not alarmed.



As the dawn broke, teams were sent out to explore the island and its surroundings. They were surprised to see how much rockier this land was than their own.



The small island was quickly explored. It was teeming with animals, many of whom were conveniently made of meat. A celebratory barbecue ensued before exploration continued.



Beach party – succulent animals invited. BYOB^{BB} (the extra B is for Bring Your Own Bar B-Q sauce!).



The strange rocks found along the shore were interesting. They were found to have traces of valuable metals in them, but not enough to make it profitable to extract.

The island was now explored. The other ships, which had been exploring on parallel tracks, reported back that they, too, had discovered small islands.



The first island



The second island



The third island

It was a trifecta of discoveries! The big task now was to name these new lands. The ships all met at sea between the first and second island to debate the naming. All sorts of names were proposed:

Larry: How about Stooze Islands?

Moe: A wise guy, eh? [insert eyepoke here]

Wiley: How about Acme Isles?

[insert anvil drop here]

Curious George: Ooo ooo Aah Aah Island?

Man With Yellow Hat: No, George. Time to come in and clean your cabin!

Bart: How about El Barto, Krusty Island and Cowabunga?

Homer: D'oh! [insert choking here]

Jack Sparrow: How about Treasure Islands?

Long John Silver: Arrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrgh!

John: How about Ringo, Paul, and George Islands?

Elvis: No way! I want Hunkahunka, Thankyewvurramuch and Uh-hawhaw Isles!

[Elvis then got into a heated debate with John. This ended rather tragically: John was fried in a vat of butter and topped with bananas and peanut butter and eaten by Elvis in a single gulp]

The captain spoke up and demanded that his argument stop! He insisted that the naming process was driving people crazy. That's when he came up with the perfect name for the islands. From this point forward, the three small isles were known as the Schulmaniac Archipelago.