

STAR TREK ROLEPLAYING GAME

SPECIES PROFILE

SPECIES NAME: The LER

VISUAL REPRESENTATION



SPECIES ADJUSTMENTS

+2 Agility, +1 Intellect, +2 Presence, +1 Perception

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Ler (pronounced "Lair") are a humanoid race almost genetically identical to humans. There are some internal differences, and a few noticeable external differences. But, most Federation biologists concur that the Ler are a genetic cousin to, or descendant of the human race.

The Ler are taller than humans, on the average; with a Ler male being between 183 and 213 centimeters in height, and females averaging 178 to 196 centimeters.

Most Ler have dark hair that they wear short, and in a loosely curled style. But, some Ler are born with lighter hair and there have even been one or two cases of blond Ler.

Ler have very clear, soft skin. And they tend to have tanned complexions, due to their nature-based culture and outdoor lifestyles. Their eyes are usually dark, or gray. But their facial features are impossible to discern from those of a human of the same gender.

The most striking physical feature of the Ler are their hands. The Ler have five fingers on each hand, and two opposing thumbs. One located on either side of the hand.

This affords a Ler a superior manual dexterity to that of most other humanoid races. And combined with their lithe, agile builds and athletic physiques, Ler are

some of the most elegant, and coordinated beings in the known galaxy.

Ler do not have body-hair, although they do have eyebrows and eyelashes, and some males are able to grow thin, stubbly facial hair. This is more common in the lighter haired Ler. And some, of both gender, will also have a sparse amount of pubic hair.

Ler have gentle, soothing voices, and speak with an accent that sounds both Latin and Germanic, as a result of their complicated native language.

CULTURE

Ler culture is both pacifistic and hedonistic. As a matter of fact there is a period during the Ler's fertility cycle where all Ler participate in open sexuality, and free love.

The Ler are an agrarian people, and live what some might call a lifestyle of primitive conditions. They do have access to some advanced technology, including Ler bioships – starships that are powered and driven completely by bioneural circuitry and components.

It is interesting to note that the Ler keep a very similar calendar to Earth. However, their dating system is 64 years advanced from the Earth calendar. For example, the original 5-year mission of the USS Enterprise would have taken place in 2330 – 2335, and the Borg assault on Wolf 359 in 2431 on the Ler calendar.

Ler reproduce infrequently, generally becoming fertile only every ten years. And during the periods between fertility, the Ler indulge in very open, casual sexual practices. Most Ler females have only two children, but occasionally they have a third, and twins are not unknown.

Ler family structure is organized around a "braid," which they have designed to preserve maximum genetic diversity to offset their low initial population and small birth rate. A braid starts with two "fore-parents". They mate and produce the "elder outsibling". Then each of the fore-parents goes forth and brings back another ler of the appropriate gender, the "after-parents". The fore-parents each mate with an after-parent and produce the "insiblings", five years younger than the elder outsibling. Then the after-parents mate and produce the "younger outsibling", five years younger than the insiblings. The insiblings remain in the braid and become the fore-parents to the next generation; the outsiblings will leave to join other braids as after-parents. The rare surplus children tend to be given the responsibility of beginning completely new braids together. Alternation in the gender of children is enforced with pheromones. In rare cases, sometimes on purpose, two same-sex insiblings are born; the braid line ends there, as all four children must weave into other braids as after-parents.

The braids also pursue a traditional occupation. There are record-keepers, potters and weavers, and many other occupations dutifully and skillfully performed by members of certain, specific braids. The Ler have made a deliberate choice to live in a primitive way. And they're quite distinct from any "primitive" historical human societies, though they've clearly taken aspects from different cultures and made them their own. They're using high technology for some things while choosing to live in the woods and carry

water.

Because of the Ler's striking genetic similarities to humans, as well as similarities in their culture, and in how they apply both advanced and primitive technology some Federation anthropologists have assumed the Ler are the consummate example of the actions of the Preservers. Not only are they a race seeded by the Preservers from human stock, but they have evolved into a society that, in many ways, must embody the type of society the Preservers were intending to try and preserve.

LANGUAGES

Ler communicate mainly using a verbal language called Singlespeech.

As in the Chinese language, each Singlespeech syllable has four possible meanings, but unlike Chinese, Singlespeech is not a tonal language. Instead, each Singlespeech word has four "modes" corresponding to the four classical Greek elements (Earth, Air, Fire, Water), with each mode having a symbolic meaning similar to the Divinatory tarot, and complex grammatical rules govern the allowed transitions from mode to mode. The meanings of Singlespeech words are therefore highly context-dependent, and careful attention must be paid to mode transitions during a conversation.

Elemental symbolism extends also to the meanings of Ler personal names, but each individual keeps their "governing element" a secret; this latter custom complicates Ler marriage negotiations, since each foreparent must choose the other foreparents' second (afterparent) mate, and the governing elements of each foreparent/afterparent mating must be complementary: Earth with Air, and Fire with Water.

There is also a less-frequently used mode of communication called Multispeech, which uses all the available communication channels, verbal and nonverbal, to convey information in a much more detailed fashion than Singlespeech ever could.

Most Ler find it easy to learn other languages, as most languages are less complicated than those spoken by the Ler. For this reason it is not uncommon for a Ler to speak Standard, or any of several other languages fluently.

COMMON NAMES

Each Ler has a name consisting of three syllables, e.g. "Maellenkleth", though their intimates sometimes use shortened versions of the name. Various categories of objects always have names with the same numbers of syllables, e.g. stars have four-syllable names.

Names seem to have no gender-basis, and are interchangeable between the sexes.

Although the name of the species is pronounced with a long-A sound, as the word "lair", some people, including humans, have been known to pronounce it with a short-U sound as "luhr".

This is not offensive to most Ler, and they will usually

let the mispronunciation slide.

HOMEWORLD

Whether it is the original world of origin for the Ler, or not, the Ler currently call a small class-M planet in the Alpha quadrant their homeworld. And it is known, simply, as Ler. The Ler system is located approximately 20 light years from the Bolarus system, near the border of The Patriarchy. The Ler have strong ties to the Bolian, and Deltan people and remain free of any influence from The Patriarchy.

Ler is a very Earth-like planet, but is largely non-industrialized, preserving much of the planet's natural environment, flora, and fauna.

The Ler prefer to make their homes in green, growing regions of the planet where there is plenty of water, lots of trees, and preferably a scenic, mountainous geography.

FAVORED PROFESSION

Most Ler do not choose to leave their homeworld, but they are not a reclusive, or xenophobic species. They welcome visitors, as long as visitors do not bring any trouble with them.

To this end, most Ler interacted with on Ler itself will be Merchants, Diplomats, or Ler Mystics, with the occasional Soldier – a peacekeeper who will do his or her best to insure the peace on Ler without resorting, themselves, to violence.

Offworld, Ler can find themselves in virtually any occupation. Merchants are still common, as are Scientists, and Explorers. And there are several Ler officers in Starfleet.

These Starship Officers will usually be Operations, Science, or Engineering officers. Usually a Ler will not pursue a career as a Security or Tactical officer. There have been one or two Ler known to work for Starfleet Intelligence.

And at least one Ler has risen in the ranks of Starfleet to command an Ambassador class starship.

SPECIES ABILITIES

Possibly as a result of genetic manipulation by the Preservers, or another ancient intelligence, the Ler are physically and mentally superior to humans in many ways.

They are naturally fast, and limber, resulting in a +2 Agility bonus. They also have a powerful natural charisma. Most people find the Ler attractive, and they also have an ease of rapport with most people they meet. This gives them a bonus of +2 to their Presence scores, as well.

Their sharper mental faculties make them not only more generally intelligent but also very astute. This provides all Ler with a +1 bonus to both their Intellect and their Perception attributes.

The Ler also have several natural abilities inherent to all members of the species:

Dexterous: Due to having an extra finger and an extra thumb on each hand, the Ler have very high manual dexterity. This gives them a +2 bonus to Physical skills.

Dodge: (bonus edge) All Ler have an innate ability to move quickly, and an instinct for getting out of harm's way. They have the Dodge edge as a species trait.

Pacifist: (species flaw) Ler will have this flaw, at level 1, as a species trait. They are a non-violent people. They can fight to defend themselves, but will not kill unless faced with extreme circumstances. Nor will they leave anyone to die, even a sworn enemy.

Sensual: Ler are very sexual, and erotic beings. It is hard to resist the charms of a Ler, and if a Ler finds themselves sexually attracted to someone they will usually act upon it. They have a +2 bonus to all Influence (Seduce) skill rolls, and a +1 to Influence (Charm).

Bonus Edges: Ambidextrous, Multi-tasking, Night Vision.

Species Flaws: Proud (optional).