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Replay: Toy ideas are new again for '06 holidays

If the daily sticky notes in crayon weren't subtle enough, let's be frank: You can't escape the gift-giving holidays. Especially this year, with retailers serving up a smorgasbord of toys and games from updated classics to educational delights to high-tech twists on old favorites.

The much-lauded Cogno Deep Worlds combines the joy of board games with adventure in pure science, plunging players into an alien ocean. Cogno, or one of his brethren, advances through the game by answering science questions (approved by institutions such as NASA), collecting life-saving gear along the way, while (of course) avoiding the dangers of the alien deep. For ages 7 and up. (\$34.99, 800-201-7575, www.amazon.com)

