



# Captain Toad: Treasure Tracker

It's a *Mario* game, but you can't jump. By working around this apparently unsolvable limitation, the designers stretched level design barriers to find new, creative solutions to navigate space.

The main character, Captain Toad, is cute and clumsy in a typical Nintendo fashion. After countless guest appearances in dozens of games, the little mushroom is now ready for his first solo adventure. Unfortunately, the

large, heavy backpack he's carrying during his explorations prevents him from jumping. Also, he's unable to perform any standard attack. A great difference from the arsenal of fireballs and triple jumps *Mario* games normally feature.

With all these hindrances, it's the levels that make this game interesting. They resemble little doll's houses you can peek into by rotating the camera to observe all the details and possible

interactions. Just like a snow globe, they encourage playful interaction. Ultimately, the game's best aspect is the physical connection between controls and space.

Captain Toad is an exercise in game design that proves that sometimes less is more. Discovering the little surprises in each level is a joy. Be prepared for a pleasurable experience, but don't expect a competitive challenge. ●



## FACT or FICTION?

### Can we become zombies after death?

by Alexander Hili



Yes, hypothetically we can be transformed into brain loving zombies. A scary answer to a scary question. However, before going out to buy a chainsaw to cut those zombies in half please be aware that a human zombie has never existed.

The rest of the animal kingdom isn't so lucky. Different types of fungi, parasites, and pathogens have altered the life of other organisms and transformed them into zombies. One of the most graphic examples is *Leucochloro-*

*ridium paradoxum*, a tapeworm which has been observed to infect and take control of snails. After inserting itself into the snail's body, the tapeworm slowly spreads and concentrates in its eye stalks making these look like tasty green caterpillars. In turn this makes the snail more eye-catching for hungry birds that are an intermediate host for this parasite. If that is not gory enough just wait for the zombie part. The flatworm makes the snail do its bidding by exposing itself during daylight. By

staying on the highest leaves pulsing the eye stalks making them look like tasty morsels ready for the picking by the hungry birds above.

This case is not unique. There are other species which are known to be zombified: ants, flies, crickets, and others. At the time of writing no fungus, parasite, bacteria, or virus has been found to infect and transform humans. Till then there is no need to get your zombie-proof chainsaw and sawn-off shotgun. ●