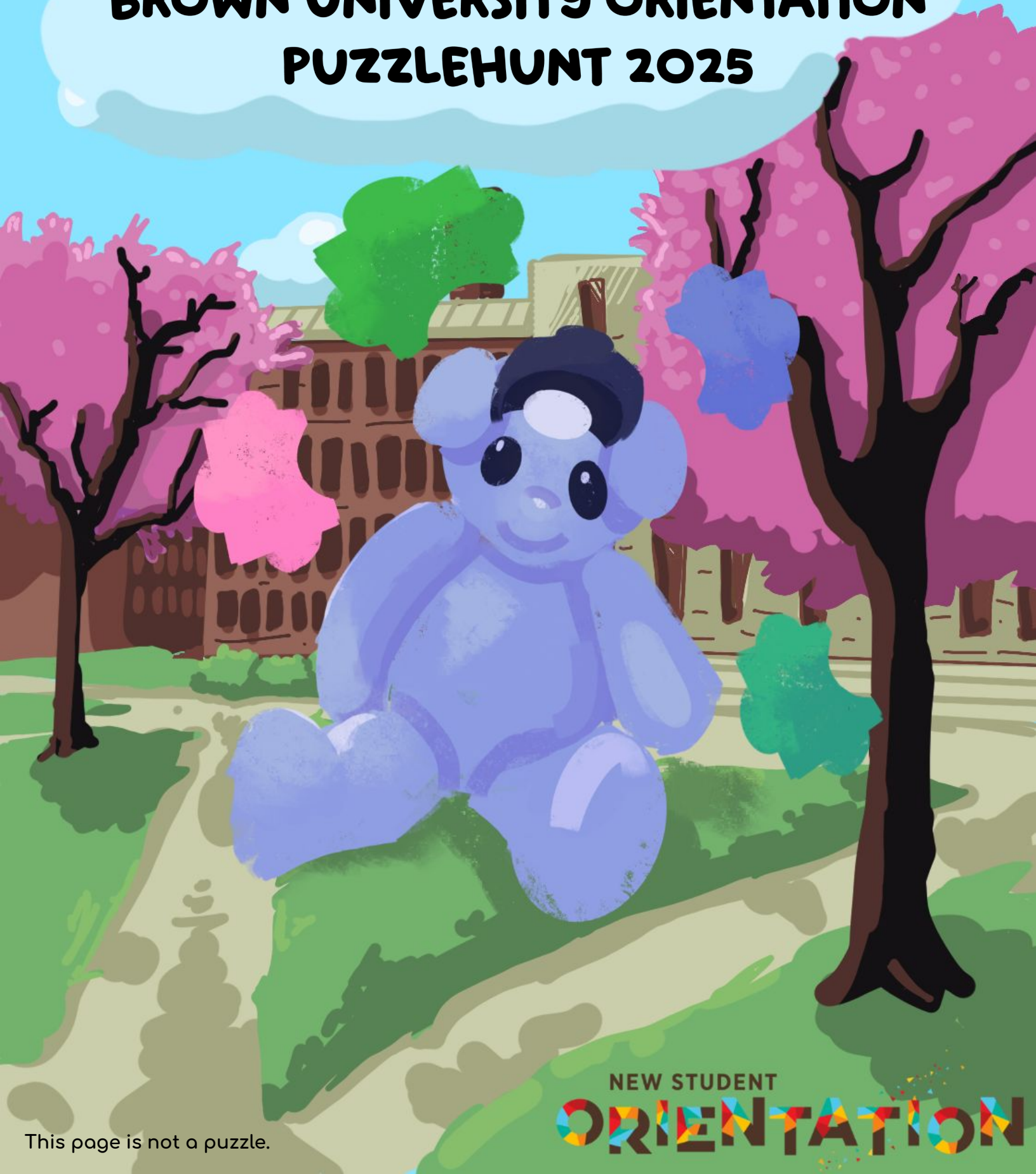


# BROWN UNIVERSITY ORIENTATION PUZZLEHUNT 2025



This page is not a puzzle.

NEW STUDENT  
**ORIENTATION**

# What is this?

## What is a Puzzle?

- A puzzle is an abstract reasoning challenge—you are given some clues, and usually no instructions. Think escape room. Your task is to figure out how to solve it!
- Each puzzle “extracts” to a single answer— an English word or phrase.

## What is a puzzlehunt? What is the goal?

- A puzzlehunt is an event where teams solve a series of puzzles!
- Puzzlehunts come in rounds, which usually have a single *meta puzzle* and several *feeder puzzles*.
  - A feeder puzzle is a standalone puzzle, no information from other puzzles is required.
  - A meta puzzle makes use of the answers from each of its feeder puzzles in some way.
- This puzzlehunt will only feature one meta puzzle. The goal is to have fun and solve some puzzles!!

## What do I need to know about this puzzlehunt?

- We recommend solving these puzzles with teams of 3-4 people, with a maximum of 6 in a team.
  - If you want a team to solve with but don't have one, come talk to anyone running the event!
- You are encouraged to (and in some cases, must!) use the internet when solving.
- No puzzle will require you to go to a specific location on campus.
- Please keep your solutions to your own team so as not to spoil the fun of other teams.
- When you finish the meta puzzle and confirm your answer, come check in with us. Winning teams will get prizes!

## This is all so much! What do I do? How do I solve puzzles?!

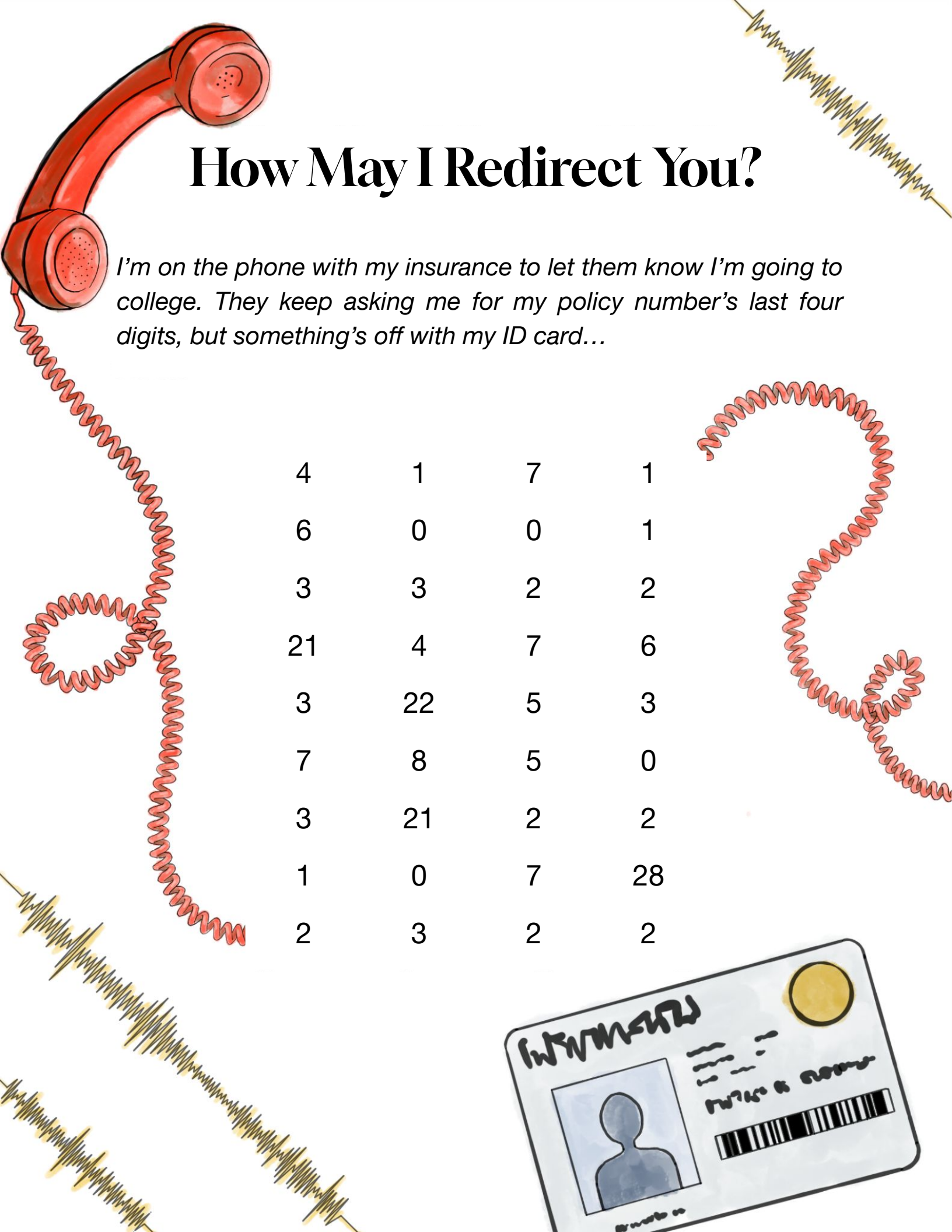
- Puzzles can be a lot at first glance! You should aim to try to understand the clues you are given: what do they represent? Do they go together in some way?
- If you're stuck on a meta, the feeder answers are a good place to start. Do you recognize any patterns among them? How might they relate to the theme of the metapuzzle?
- A few helpful basics:
  - *Indexing*: Taking the Nth letter from a word or phrase (e.g. APPLE [2] = P)
  - *A1Z26 cipher*: Convert numbers to letters using alphabet positions (e.g. A=1, B=2, etc)
  - *Ordering*: Consider why information is presented like it is; you may have to rearrange things!
  - Count things! Look for patterns!
- Re-read the title and *flavor text* for each puzzle— these often contain clues on how to approach it.
  - *Flavor text*: Text in a puzzle that's typically displayed right after the title; may or may not provide extras clues or information about the puzzle! Flavor text will be italicized.
- It's normal to be stuck! You are welcome to reach out to us for hints.

**Look at the next page to find your first puzzle! Have fun!!**

**Stuck? Come find us OR  
email [brownpuzzlehq@gmail.com](mailto:brownpuzzlehq@gmail.com)!**

**Check your Answers Here!**





# How May I Redirect You?

*I'm on the phone with my insurance to let them know I'm going to college. They keep asking me for my policy number's last four digits, but something's off with my ID card...*

4	1	7	1
6	0	0	1
3	3	2	2
21	4	7	6
3	22	5	3
7	8	5	0
3	21	2	2
1	0	7	28
2	3	2	2





[illegible]

- Crime drama set in Albuquerque
- Diving technique, or done recklessly
- Expensive flying option
- First event for a new construction project
- First stone laid in a foundation
- Geographic North pole
- Home to Big Bird
- Hot sauce made by Frank
- Idiomatically seem genuine
- Jewelry worn by an alumnus
- Magical phrase which opens a cave
- Missile tip
- Period of tension after WWII
- Shade with hex code #880808
- Somewhere you may see stars
- 'Sticky' parasite
- Strong adhesive roll
- Surname of fictional Matilda
- Taylor Swift song featuring Kendrick Lamar
- What Obi-wan had over Anakin

[illegible]

# Caution: Bus is Turning

*I've been trying to plan a RIPTA tour of Rhode Island... Here's my itinerary; what do you think I'll see along the route?*

Seven Stars (Hope St)  
Kennedy Plaza

[Transfer]



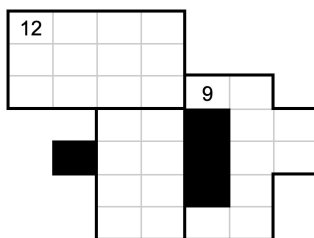
KeyMe Locksmiths (Dorrance St)  
Hospital District (Eddy & Borden)  
Kac Window Tint (620 Warwick Ave)  
Warwick & West Shore

[Transfer]

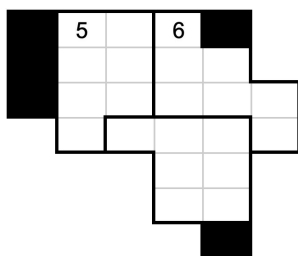
St Mark's Episcopal Church  
Shop N Go (West Shore Road)  
General Federation of Women's Club  
Sunrise Cafe

# COUNTRY ROAD

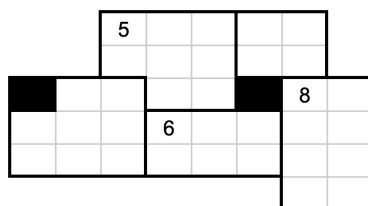
- Draw a loop (with no branches or self-intersections) through the centers of the cells, passing through all the states **once**.
- **Shade** all the cells that the loop does not pass through.
- Numbers indicate how many unshaded cells (i.e. cells containing the loop) are in that state. (Numbered cells can be shaded.)
- Two orthogonally adjacent cells in different states cannot both be shaded.
- There are no shaded cells adjacent to the given black squares.



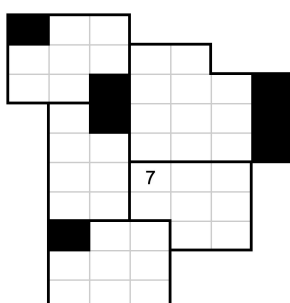
DELAWARE  
NEW JERSEY  
PENNSYLVANIA



ALABAMA  
FLORIDA  
GEORGIA



COLORADO  
IOWA  
KANSAS  
MISSOURI  
NEBRASKA



COLORADO  
MONTANA  
NEBRASKA  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
WYOMING

SHADED CELLS  
(READING ORDER)

	9
	3
	1
	8
	11
	5
	4
	6
	2
	10
	7

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	



# The Final Stretch

## [META]\*

It's the last day of reading period, and you're getting nervous. You spent the past week hanging out with friends, but reality is sinking in—you have a final tomorrow. You head to your classic study spot at **4 PM**, where the brutalist architecture seems to match your mood. You take **2** laps of the building to find the best seat, and after settling in, you study and study until you're asked to leave. You check your watch, and see it reads **2 AM**. You pack your things, pass the gates, and cross the Main Green.

In the dead of night, you arrive at your new study area, one of the few buildings still open at this hour. You head to the **2nd** floor, but after a little while, the constant chatter starts to bother you. Seeking a quieter space, you head to the basement. Walking past the row of study rooms, you find a table in the quietest area. Unfortunately, it's a little too quiet, and you begin to nod off.

After waking with a start, you can't believe you fell asleep like that. You need to keep studying, but after this disaster, a change of scenery would help. You walk a little over **1** block East and around **3** blocks South. Being around this part of campus, you look around, wondering if you'll see any of your friends from Young Orchard. You don't however, so you lock in.

After a while, you begin to lose steam. Seeking inspiration, you want a spot with a better atmosphere, and after a bit of walking, you find yourself in a quiet room full of fancy decor and large chandeliers. With **3** hours until your final, you double check its location, when something catches your eye. The final isn't until next week! With this extra time, you think about which of your **4** finals to study for now. After careful consideration, you decide to hang out with friends instead. After all, there are still **7** days until the final...

***What do you find infesting Brown's campus during reading period?***

\* Remember: This puzzle will use the answers from each of the feeders!



# About Us

## BROWN PUZZLE CLUB :D

If you enjoyed this hunt, we highly recommend you get involved with our club! We are Brown Puzzle Club and we hold puzzle-solving meetings every week! This is a time for us to get together, learn about some interesting types of puzzles, and have a good time. Our club also goes on escape room trips, travels to compete at MIT Mystery Hunt, and forms teams to solve other hunts throughout the year. Join the discord and mailing list below to get updates about how you can be involved!

## BROWN PUZZLEHUNT !!

We also organize Brown Puzzlehunt every spring! This is an annual event where hundreds of Brown students and community members compete to solve a bunch of puzzles written by us!

If you would like to be involved, join our discord or mailing list for more info! We are always looking for more writers, artists, and tech folk, so please don't hesitate to join. No experience necessary! For more details, feel free to come talk to us.

## ORIENTATION HUNT CREDITS

Hunt Directors: Nathaniel Chinman,  
Nicholas Cressman

Logistics Lead: Megan Carlson

Puzzle Packet Art: Jaclyn Cohen, Chloe  
Johnson, Bailey Merlino

Sticker Art: Jaclyn Cohen, Bailey Merlino

### Puzzle Writers:

- Megan Carlson
- Nathaniel Chinman
- Nicholas Cressman
- Noah Elbaum
- Kaylee Gallagher
- Thomas Gordon

Join our Discord!



Join our mailing list!!

