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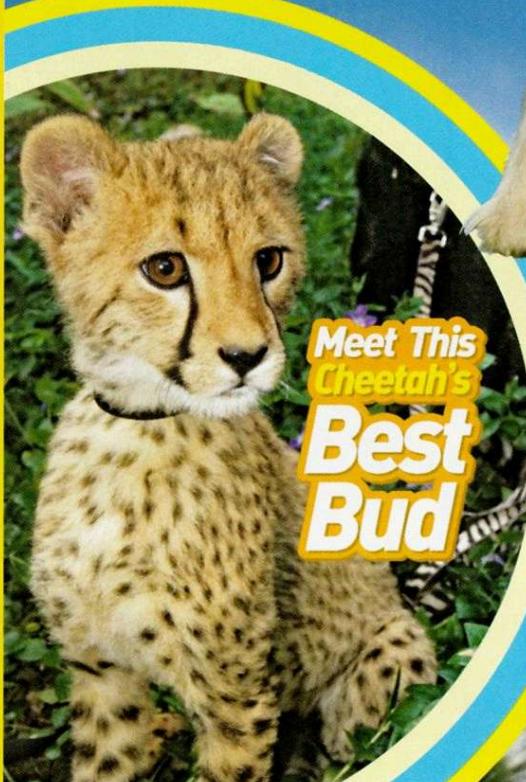
AWESOME
WEIRD-BUT-
TRUE FACTS



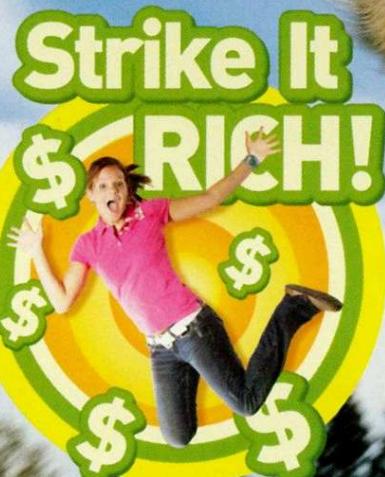
COOL
VALENTINE
RECIPES

KIDS

Extreme Dogs!



Meet This
Cheetah's
**Best
Bud**



DARE TO EXPLORE
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NEW
movie



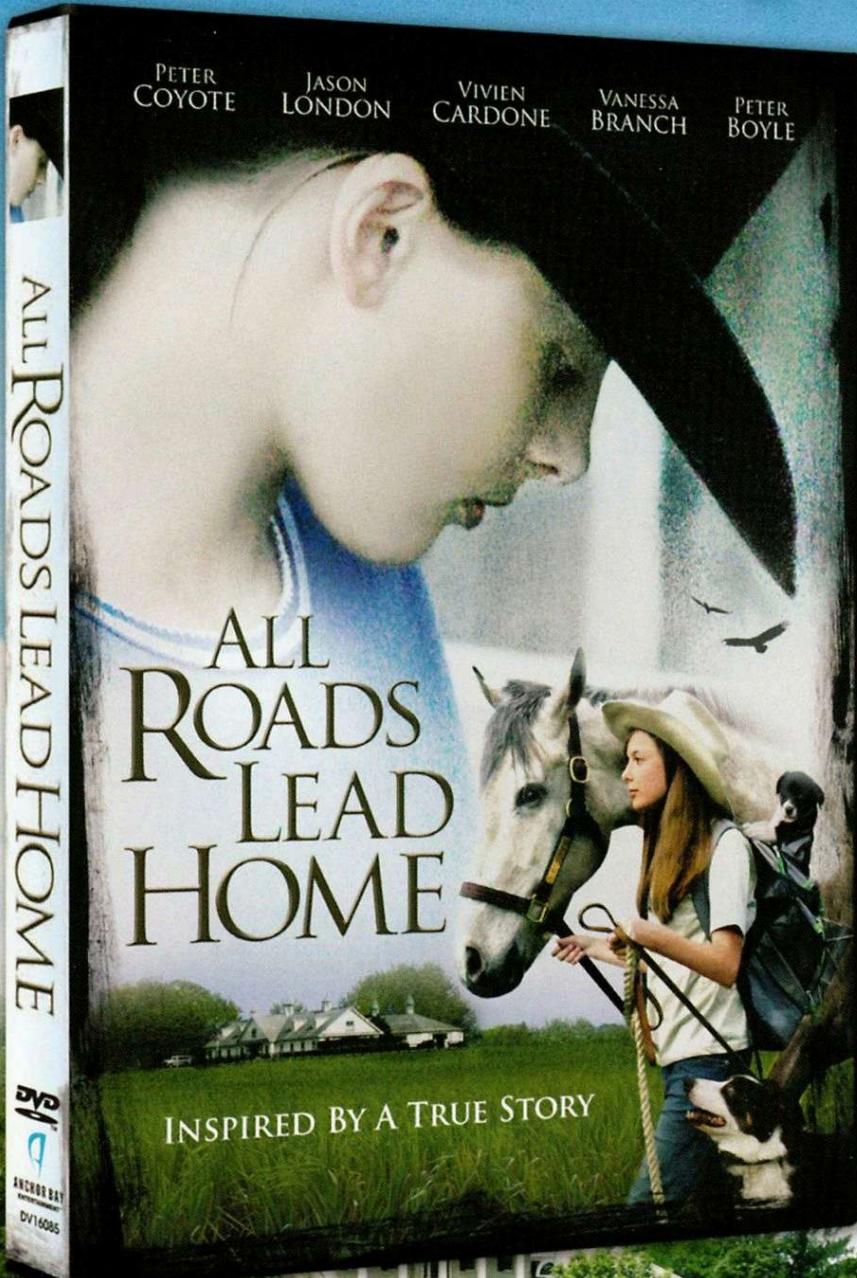
BEDTIME
STORIES

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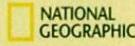
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Just for KIDS online!

Go online to play games, watch animal videos, read the latest news in News Bites, and get the facts on U.S. Presidents! kids.nationalgeographic.com

On the Cover

An extreme dog goes to new heights to catch a Frisbee.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN GIUSTINA / GETTY IMAGES

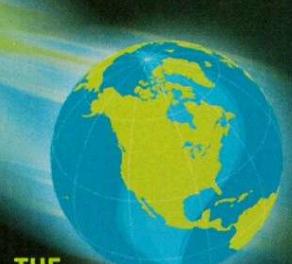


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BY JEFFREY WANDEL

Check out these 10 outrageous facts.



THE EARTH TRAVELED MORE THAN
5,000 MILES IN THE PAST 5 MINUTES.

A SNAIL WOULD TAKE ABOUT 220 HOURS TO CRAWL ONE MILE NONSTOP.



THE OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY STANDING TREE ON EARTH IS NEARLY 5,000 YEARS OLD—ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT.

YOU ARE MADE UP OF ABOUT
10 TRILLION CELLS.

THERE CAN BE ABOUT AS MANY **INSECTS** IN ONE SQUARE MILE AS THERE ARE PEOPLE ON THE ENTIRE **PLANET.**

THE TALLEST VOLCANO ON MARS

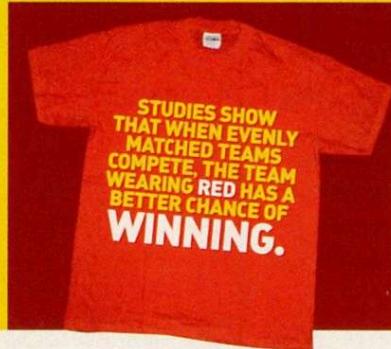


IS ABOUT
17 MILES HIGH.

THAT'S 61 TIMES TALLER THAN THE 110-STORY SEARS TOWER IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

A SAN FRANCISCO MAN USED 10,000 TOOTHPICKS TO BUILD A FOUR-FOOT-LONG REMOTE-CONTROL BOAT.

THE WORLD'S FIRST HANDHELD CELL PHONE COST \$3,995.



STUDIES SHOW THAT WHEN EVENLY MATCHED TEAMS COMPETE, THE TEAM WEARING RED HAS A BETTER CHANCE OF WINNING.

THE BRIGHTEST LIGHT ON A HOTEL IS IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, AND CAN BE SEEN FROM AIRPLANES 250 MILES AWAY.

ASTONISHING
STORIES FROM
THE FILES OF

Guinness World Records

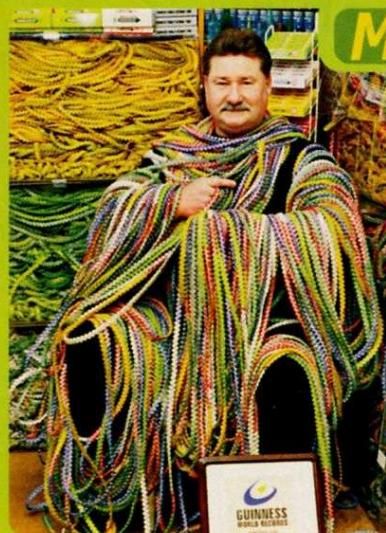
WORLD'S SMALLEST DOG

Boo Boo the long-haired Chihuahua may be small, but she has a big appetite. The pooch, who's the shortest dog by height on record, snacks on potato chips and enjoys a breakfast of ground turkey mixed with peas. Just four inches tall at the shoulders, Boo Boo is about as high as a cell phone. When she was born she was the size of her owner's thumb.



RICH DESSERT

This better be one yummy after-dinner treat. At \$25,000, it holds the record for the most expensive dessert. The Frrrozen Haute Chocolate (*haute* means high-class, not hot) is a slushy mix of the world's most expensive cocoas, milk, and edible gold. If you need a souvenir, you can take home the spoon: It's made of 18-carat gold and studded with white, black, and chocolate-colored diamonds.



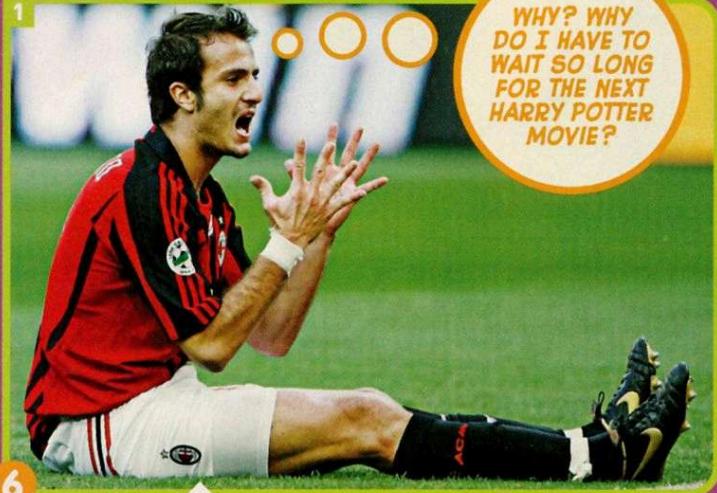
MILES OF GUM WRAPPERS

It's the ultimate recycling project: Instead of throwing away his gum wrappers, Gary Duschl has been folding them together for more than 40 years, creating a gum wrapper chain that stretches about 10 miles, the longest on record. So far the chain has more than 1.2 million wrappers linked together, and Duschl keeps adding. He doesn't chew *all* the gum himself—many wrappers were donated.

Go online for more information about Guinness World Records!
kids.nationalgeographic.com/Videos

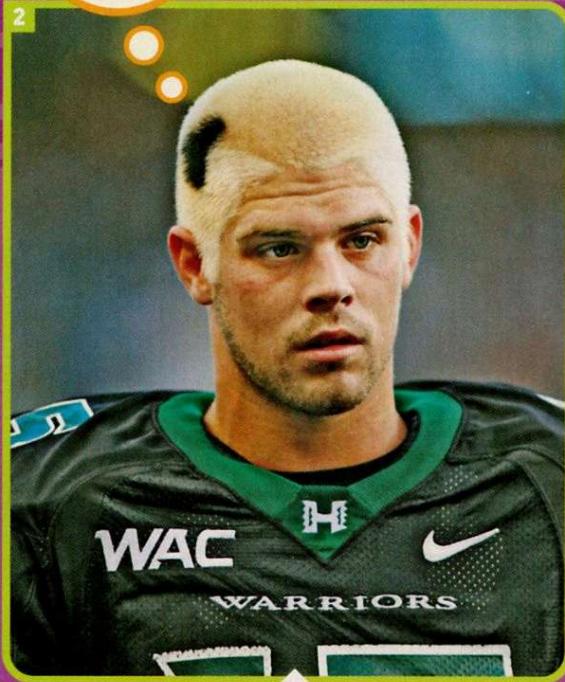
sports funnies

OOPS.
I GUESS
I MISSED
A SPOT.



6 Alberto Gilardino of Italy reacts to a play during a soccer match in 2007.

WHY? WHY
DO I HAVE TO
WAIT SO LONG
FOR THE NEXT
HARRY POTTER
MOVIE?



Sporting a map of Hawaii's Big Island on his head, University of Hawaii quarterback Colt Brennan appears in a 2007 football game in Honolulu, Hawaii.

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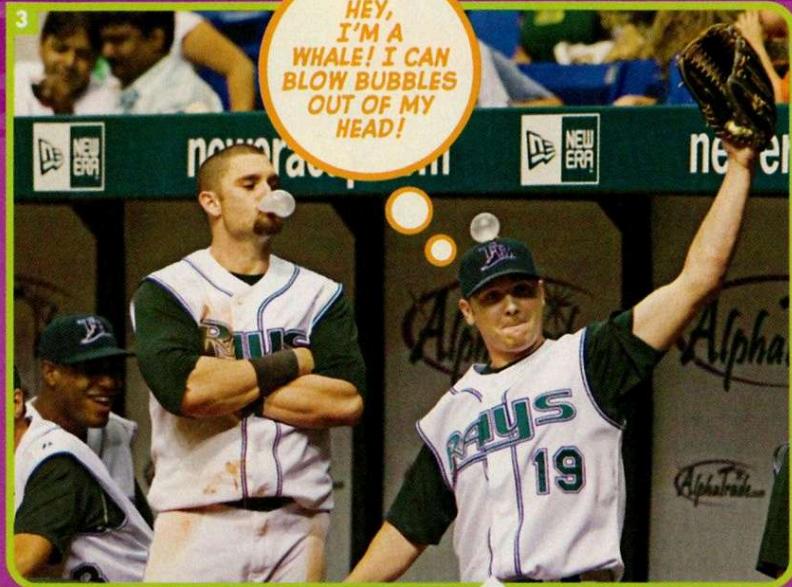
(\$10,000 is approximate – a \$7,500 college scholarship, \$2,500 donation for their special cause and other pawsome rewards.)

Prizes awarded in local currency.

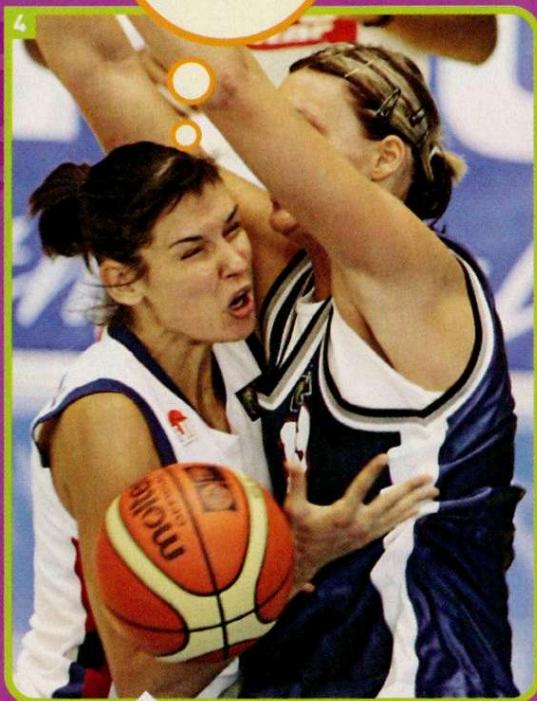
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR TO WIN. Entry to the Contest is free. Purchase will not increase your chance of winning. The Build-A-Bear Workshop® Huggable Heroes® Contest begins 12:00:01 a.m. ET ("Eastern Time") January 16, 2009 & ends 11:59:59 p.m. ET February 27, 2009. Subject to the Official Rules available with Contest Entry forms in-store at participating Build-A-Bear Workshop locations in the U.S., D.C., Puerto Rico & Canada or online at www.buildabear.com for US residents or www.buildabear.ca for Canada residents. TWO WAYS TO ENTER: ONLINE: Log onto www.buildabear.com/huggableheroes (U.S. residents) or www.buildabear.ca/huggableheroes (CAN residents), follow the links to the contest area and complete the registration form. BY MAIL: Complete the Official Entry Form along with your short answer responses to the community service questions (hand printed or typed and on a separate sheet of paper if needed) about someone or yourself who has made/makes a difference to the quality of life in their community and/or around the world. Mail to "Huggable Heroes Contest Entry" at one of the following addresses: U.S./D.C./P.R.: PO Box 6000, Manhasset, NY 11030-6000. CAN: P.O. Box 10001, 5576 Yonge Street, North York, Ontario, M2N 0B6, Canada. Entries must be postmarked by February 27, 2009 & received by March 6, 2009. Entries must include consent of Nominee and Nominator, and consent of parent/guardian of a Nominee and Nominator if either is not of age of majority in their state/province of residence. Nominator and Nominee must be legal residents of the 50 United States, D.C., P.R. or Canada. Nominator must be 7 years of age or older. Nominee must be between the ages of 7 - 18 as of February 27, 2009. Subject to all applicable federal, state, provincial and local laws & regulations. Void outside the US, PR and CAN and where prohibited. PRIZES: Twelve (12) Huggable Heroes Grand Prizes (10 from the U.S./D.C./P.R. and 2 from CAN): A \$7,500 USD educational savings scholarship; a \$2,500 USD donation toward Winner's designated 501(c)(3) charity or a registered Canadian charity from the Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation; a trip to a U.S. city chosen by Sponsor at a designated time in July 2009 for Nominee and one guest for a professional photo shoot; and the potential to be featured in the Build-A-Bear Workshop 2010 calendar. Trip includes roundtrip standard class air; minimum of two (2) nights double occupancy standard hotel accommodations, and ground transportation to/from airport/hotel. Approximate Retail Value (ARV): \$14,000 USD each. (50) Finalist Prizes: A \$50 Build-A-Bear Workshop® Bear Buck\$® gift card. ARV: \$50 USD each. Up to 282 Semifinalist Prizes: A \$15 Build-A-Bear Workshop® Bear Buck\$® gift card, ARV: \$15 USD each. Total ARV of all prizes: \$174,730 USD. Prizes awarded to winning Nominees or parent/legal guardian on behalf of winning Nominee if a minor.

Many will enter but only 12 will win a Grand Prize.
Sponsor: Build-A-Bear Workshop, Inc., 1954 Innerbelt Business Center Drive, St Louis, MO 63114.

PHEW!
WHEN'S THE
LAST TIME YOU
TOOK A
BATH?



Tampa Bay Ray Scott Kazmir unknowingly wears a gum bubble on his hat blown by teammate Jonny Gomes during a 2007 baseball game in Florida.



France's Sandra Le Dréan (left) is blocked by Petra Kulichova of the Czech Republic at the 2006 FIBA World Championship for Women, in Brazil.

© DANIEL DAL ZENNARO / EPA / CORBIS (1); © JORDAN MURPH / ICON SMI / CORBIS (2); REUTERS / STEVE NESIUS (3);
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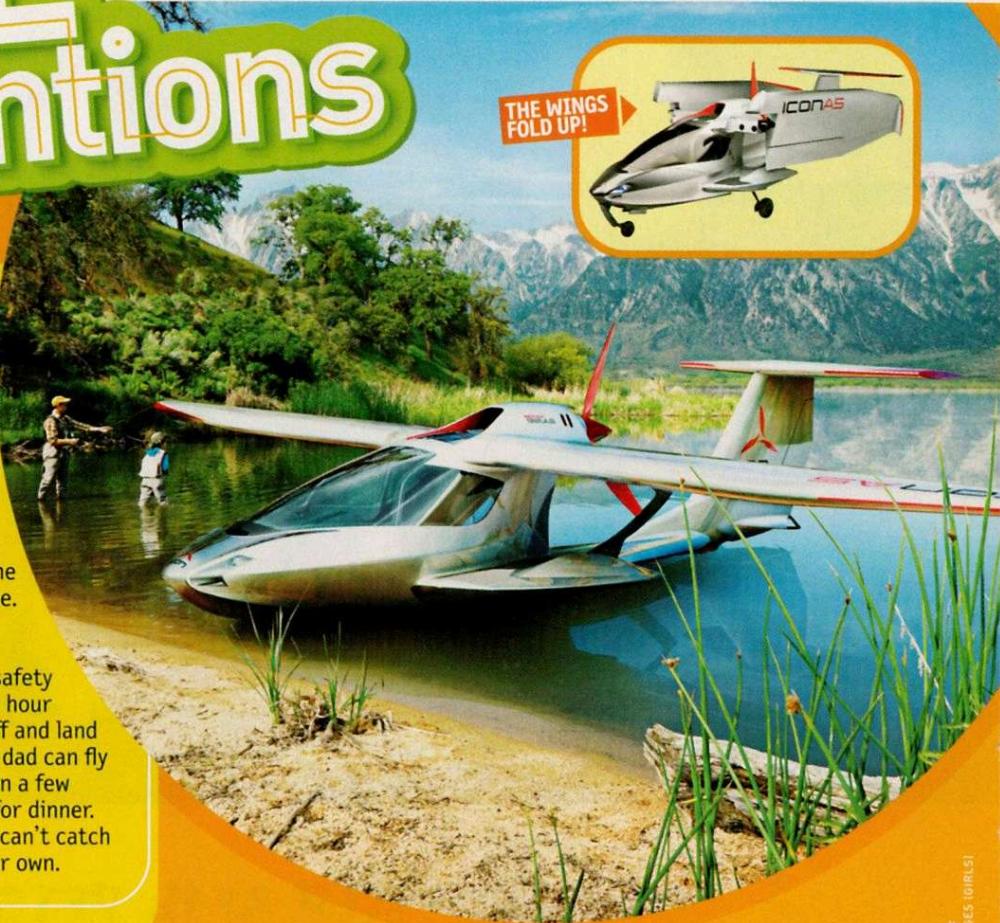
COOL inventions

BY DOUGLAS E. RICHARDS

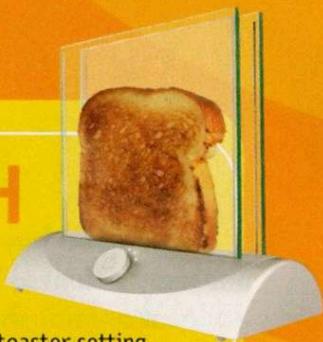
FOLD-UP PLANE

Can't decide if you want to go boating, fly in a private plane, or take a drive? With the ICON A5 sport airplane you can do all three. Its wings fold back, so you can pull it on a trailer behind the car if you're driving.

Designed to be easy to pilot, with lots of safety features, the A5 can fly up to 120 miles an hour using ordinary gasoline. And it can take off and land on both land and water. Now you and your dad can fly to your favorite lake 200 miles away, get in a few hours of fishing, and easily make it home for dinner. Is there anything the A5 can't do? Well, it can't catch fish. For that, you and your dad are on your own.



SEE-THROUGH TOASTER



You've probably forgotten to adjust the toaster setting properly and ended up with burnt toast hard enough to hammer nails. Or maybe the bread has popped up before it was barely brown at all. That's because English muffins, frozen waffles, bagels, and even different types of bread all have different moisture content and require different settings. Get ready to say goodbye to still-cold waffles and charred bagels forever. With the see-through toaster—just a concept for now—it'll be as simple as watching what you're toasting until it achieves the perfect shade of brown. Best thing since sliced bread.

SINGING WALLPAPER

You're listening to loud music in your room when your mom knocks on the door. "Turn down your wallpaper!" she says. No, there aren't any speakers in your wallpaper—the speakers are your wallpaper. Certain materials, such as quartz and other crystals, have the ability to convert electricity into sound. Using these materials, scientists at Johns Hopkins University have invented a flexible film that is thinner than paper and someday may be capable of turning every wall in your house into a speaker. Rock on!



COURTESY OF ICON AIRCRAFT (AIRPLANE, BOTH); COURTESY OF BRAND X PICTURES / JUPITERIMAGES (GIRLS)

VIDEO game CENTRAL

GAME NIGHT!

Next time you're having a family fun night or a few friends over, grab your game controllers for a change from board games and cards. Everyone will want a turn with these games!



YOU'RE IN THE MOVIES

Xbox 360

Instead of just watching a movie, why not make your own? *You're in the Movies* makes it easy—and fun. Just do whatever the mini-games ask (dance from side to side, rock like you're twirling a hula hoop) in front of your Xbox 360's camera, and the game will cut you out of the footage and place you into any of several pre-recorded movie clips. And if you want to get more hands-on, you can change the music, edit your clips, or add a voice-over.

>> TIP #1 If you want to easily add a certain feeling to your movie, try changing the speed of your clip. You can make anything seem more serious with slow-motion, or downright goofy by speeding things up.

>> TIP #2 Once you get the hang of the game, try creating your own voice-over tracks to change the tone of your movies. See if you can make a horror clip feel like a comedy, and vice versa.

BY MARK MACDONALD

MONOPOLY

Wii

Play *Monopoly* a fun new way. Think the game takes too long? Try the new Richest Mode: You deal in properties instead of money, and can complete a game in half an hour. Try

new *Monopoly* boards like one from the future or another made out of candy. Compete in mini-games like a Get-Out-of-Jail contest: You move the Wii remote back and forth to saw through your cell bars and escape.



>> TIP #1 To fill your passport and unlock boards quickly, play as a Developer in Richest Mode. Switch to new boards as soon as they unlock and play again.

>> TIP #2 In the Go-to-Jail mini-game, run as fast as you can when the game starts. As you reach your top speed, press jump and hold it down. You'll skip at full speed all the way to the end.

DISNEY SING IT!

Wii, PS3, Xbox 360

Maybe you already sing along to music in the shower or in the car. Now you can earn points for singing. This game judges how well you can belt out all your favorite Disney tunes, including songs from *High School Musical 1* and *2*, *Hannah Montana*, *Camp Rock*, and *Corbin Bleu*. You can perform duets or choose your part in songs with multiple singers. If you can't hit the right notes, try the tutorial mode to learn the same techniques the pros use to perfect your pitch.



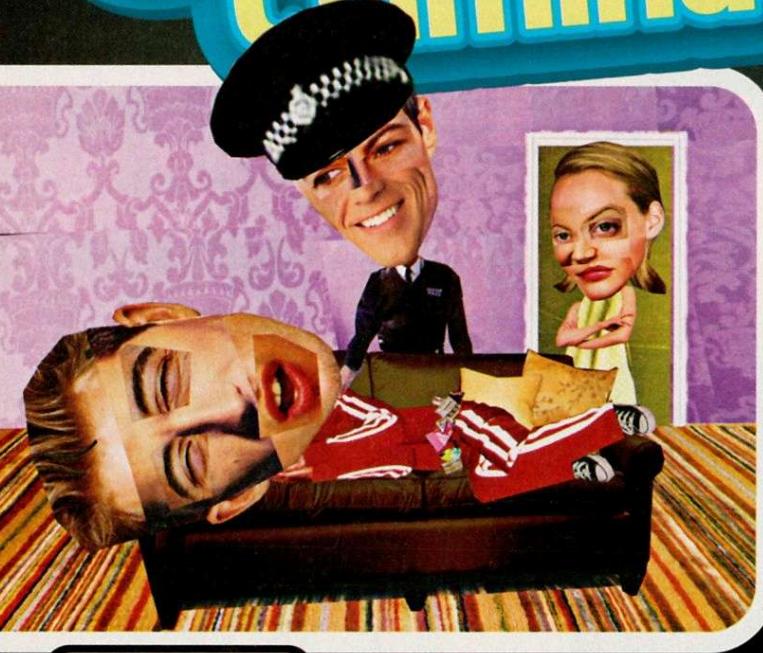
>> TIP #1 Sing 65% of the notes correctly for two pages to raise your score multiplier to 2x, then 80% correctly for four pages for 3x, and finally 90% for four more pages for the ultimate 4x bonus.

>> TIP #2 Apply the seven skins you find in the Personalize menu on your console to give the game a new look.

Stupid Criminals

BY ERIN TAYLOR MONRONEY

BUSTED!



Sound Asleep

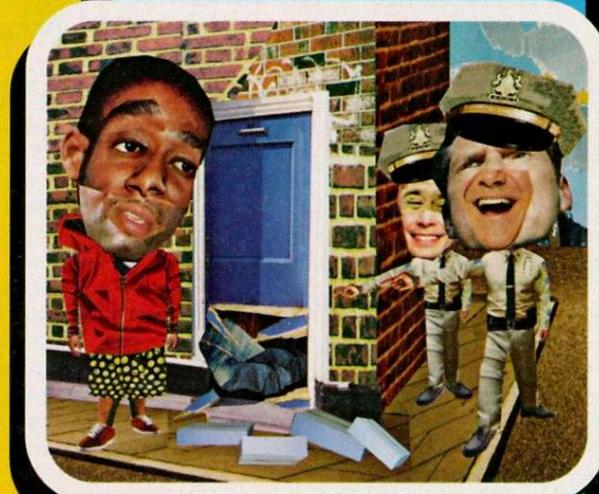
BURNLEY, ENGLAND, IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ▶

This criminal must have thought he was having a bad dream when he woke up in front of the cops. A woman had called police after waking up one morning to strange noises. When police arrived, they discovered the noises were from a burglar sacked out on the woman's couch. Apparently the bad guy broke in the night before, stuffed his pants with jewelry—then decided to take a nap before escaping. Guess if you snooze, you lose.

Snagged

WICHITA, KANSAS ▶

This guy wasn't only arrested—he was nailed! When police arrived on the scene of a suspected robbery, they realized the burglar was still inside the building. So they waited by a back door with a suspicious hole in it. Suddenly, stolen items came flying out of the hole, and the burglar soon followed. But as he tried to crawl out of the hole, his pants snagged on a nail and he had to leave them behind. The police waiting for the crook nabbed him, minus his pants.



Next in Line

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS ▶

If you're dumb enough to rob a bank, you're probably dumb enough not to notice the police officer standing behind you. The would-be bank robber drew odd looks as he waited in line wearing white gloves and a scarf over his face, so a uniformed officer quietly walked up behind him. The robber was so busy passing the teller a note demanding big bills and "no funny money" that he didn't notice the officer. When the teller handed over the cash, the officer arrested the crook. Sometimes standing in line is worth the wait.

Bet you didn't know

BY ERIN WHITMER

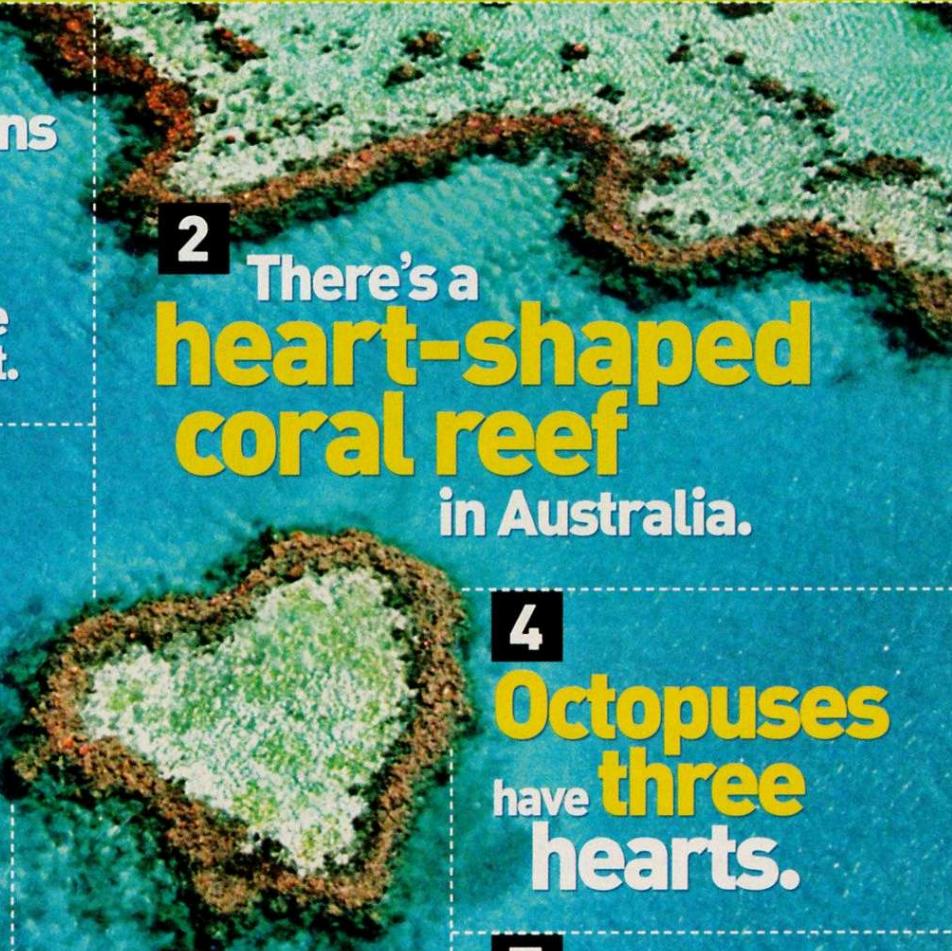
7 heart-pumping facts

1 Ancient Egyptians believed that a person's **soul was located** in the heart.

3 About **eight billion** conversation **heart candies**

are produced every year—enough to wrap around the **moon** more than nine times.

5 A woman's heart usually **beats faster** than a man's heart.



6 It would take more than **1,500 human hearts** to equal the weight of a **blue whale's heart.**

4 Octopuses have **three hearts.**

7 An **astronaut's heartbeat** slows down in **outer space.**

Wildlife WATCH

BY JENNIFER WEEKS

WANNA
PLAY LEAP
LIZARD?

WHERE BLUE IGUANAS LIVE



Baby blue iguanas are not able to turn blue until they're older.

Saving the Blue Iguana

These baby blue iguanas are a reason to celebrate. Found only on the Caribbean island of Grand Cayman, in the Cayman Islands, they are one of the most endangered species of lizard in the world. The dragon-like creatures can grow up to five feet long and turn bright blue (below). But they can't protect themselves against threats such as the houses and roads being built in their shrubland habitat. Young iguanas are also a tasty snack for predators such as snakes, cats, and dogs.

RESCUE 911

When the number of wild blue iguanas dropped to fewer than 25 several years ago, wildlife experts took action. They began breeding blues in captivity on Grand Cayman and at zoos in the United States. As soon as the baby iguanas were big and fast enough to escape predators—at about two years old—the scientists prepared to release them into the wild.

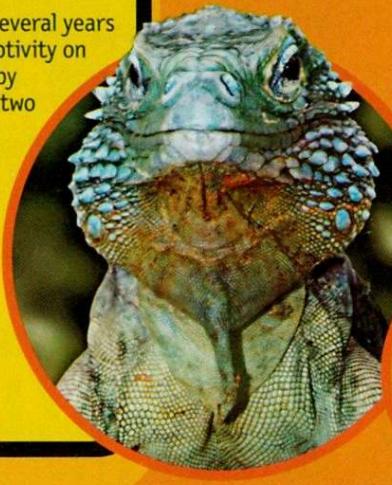
HOME FREE

The experts implanted harmless microchips under the young lizards' skin and photographed the iguanas' head scales, which have unique patterns just like human fingerprints. That way the scientists could identify and track the iguanas in the wild. The program has been so successful that 270 wild blue iguanas now live on the island. Experts say that if they can boost the wild population to at least a thousand and protect more of their habitat, there will be blue skies ahead for these living "dragons."

WHY SO BLUE?

An adult blue iguana's skin is usually gray in the morning. As daylight warms the cold-blooded animal, it turns light blue. During mating season, males turn even brighter blue (left) to attract females.

The blue iguana has a third eye on top of its head that detects light.



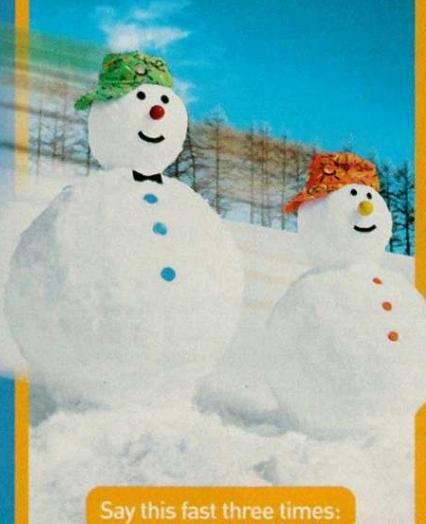
Just Joking

KNOCK,
KNOCK.

Who's there?
Kenya.
Kenya who?
Kenya guess
who it is?



TONGUE
TWISTER!



Say this fast three times:

Silly snowmen slip like
soap down slopes.

Q

What goes
zzub zzub?

A bee flying
backward.

A

Q

How do you know if there's an
elephant under your bed?



A

You bump your nose
on the ceiling.

Q

You've got to be joking...

What's in the
middle
of a
jellyfish?



A

green scene

BY JILL YAWORSKI

MAKE A 3-D VALENTINE!



Be sweet to your loved ones and the Earth this Valentine's Day. Turn everyday items around your house into something heartfelt. Show how much you care about the environment by creating recycled cards for your family and friends.

YOU WILL NEED

heart-shaped cookie cutter
bowl of water
old newspaper or leftover tissue paper
glue wash (equal parts glue and water)
paintbrush
scissors
an old greeting card
a clean plate



WHAT TO DO

- 1 Tear newspaper or tissue paper into small pieces. Place the cookie cutter on the plate. Making sure each piece overlaps, position a few pieces of the paper inside the cookie cutter to create a thin layer. Dip your finger into the bowl of water and then press it gently on the paper layer, making the paper damp. Continue layering, dipping, and pressing until the cookie cutter is about half full. Let it dry for at least a day.
- 2 When the paper mold is completely dry, gently press down on the mold and carefully lift off the cookie cutter. Using a clean paintbrush, apply a light coat of glue wash to the mold. As it dries, move on to step three.
- 3 Cover an old greeting card with things from around the house—such as construction paper, magazines, newspapers, or doilies. Write a poem or message inside the card and then glue the 3-D heart to the front. Now you're ready to give this Earth-friendly valentine to someone you love!

DIGITAL VISION / GETTY IMAGES (GIRL), MARK THIESSEN / NDS STAFF (CARDS, BOTH)

People in the United States send about a billion Valentine's Day cards each year.

There are two towns in the U.S. named Valentine—in Nebraska and Texas.

For more about helping the Earth, go online.
preserveourplanet.com

extreme SPORT

MOUNTAIN UNICYCLING

BY LAURA DAILY



Think off-road biking is hard? Try doing it on one wheel!

A mountain unicycle—called a muni—takes on the hills, boulders, streams, and loose dirt that regular mountain bikes do. Equipped with an extra-wide knobby tire, munis go anywhere that a mountain bike can go.

Mountain unicycling is rougher and tougher than mountain biking. Munis don't have brakes to help control your speed, and they don't coast, so you have to pedal the entire time. Plus cyclists take their lumps—and bumps—because they have to stay seated. They can't stand up and glide over rocks and logs like mountain bike riders.

"It's not about speed," says John Foss, a one-time muni champion. "It's about just staying on the unicycle!"

Get Fit!

Unicyclists need good balance. With a parent's OK, find a long, straight piece of wood two inches high by four inches wide. Set the wood on the ground with the wider side flat. Walk heel to toe to the end. Repeat. To make it harder, move the board to an incline such as a driveway.

Amazing Animals



I THINK
MAJANI MAY
BE MORE
POPULAR THAN
MILEY CYRUS.



Dog Helps Cheetah

Escondido, California

Every star needs a posse to help calm them in front of fans. Majani the cheetah has Clifford the Labrador retriever mix. "Cheetahs are naturally skittish," says animal trainer Susie Ekard, who works with Majani to appear in presentations at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. "Clifford has helped turn the cheetah into a more relaxed cat."

It all started six years ago when Ekard was walking the leashed animals to an event. On the way, Majani spotted one of the park's large green trash cans...and froze. "He was like, 'That big green monster is going to eat me,'" Ekard says. Clifford, however, ran ahead, sniffing the can unafraid. "Must be OK," Majani may have thought, and resumed his trot. Since then, Clifford has accompanied Majani on all his gigs. Now the once fearful feline always acts like a cool cat.

—Aline Alexander Newman

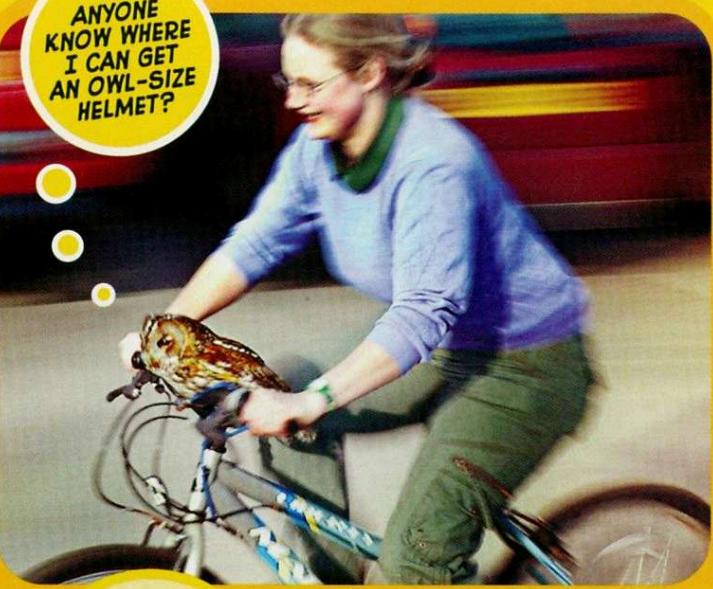
OWL RIDES BIKE

Eccleshall, England, in the United Kingdom
Treacle the owl has a strange hobby: He's a biking fanatic. Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre owner Jenny Morgan wondered if the lazy Treacle, who has lived at the center since he was a chick, would like riding on her bike. She set him on the handlebars, where he happily perched while she pedaled. Now she and her feathered friend ride together a couple of times a week. He usually just watches the scenery go by—except when the ride gets bumpy. Then he turns his head to stare at her! Could cycling become a favorite activity of the other captive birds? Not likely. "The birds give Treacle a rather odd look," Morgan says. "It's not exactly a normal hobby for an owl."

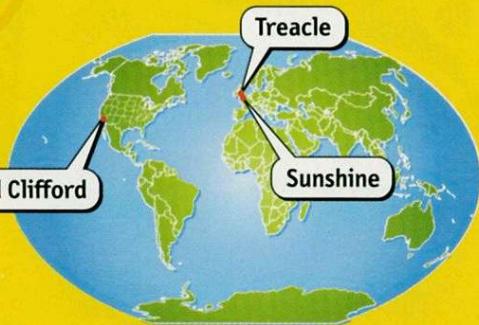
—Elisabeth Deffner



ANYONE
KNOW WHERE
I CAN GET
AN OWL-SIZE
HELMET?



Treacle's
owner doesn't
allow him to ride
all the time. He
needs to fly to
exercise his
wings.



ALIEN INVADES AQUARIUM?



Southsea, England, in the United Kingdom

This creature has a secret. It's not that it's an alien from another planet. The secret is that although the creature—a baby thornback ray—appears to have a happy face, she doesn't have a face at all! What you see here is actually two nostrils and a mouth on the ray's underside. Nicknamed "Little Ray of Sunshine" by keepers at Blue Reef Aquarium, the ray spends most of her time hiding under sand. So like other rays, her eyes are on the topside of her body to watch for prey. But Sunshine had spotted a worker who feeds her and swam up against the side of the tank to grab some grub. Sunshine may not really be smiling, but she sure seems glad that it's dinnertime.

—Heather E. Schwartz



THESE DOGS LIKE EXTREME SPORTS, BUT OTHERS MAY NOT. NEVER FORCE YOUR PET TO DO SOMETHING IT DOES NOT WANT TO DO.

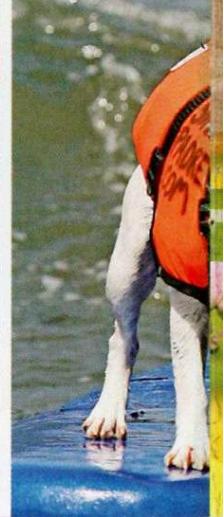
HANG
20,
DAWGS!



AN ADVENTUROUS DOG WAKEBOARDS WITH A HUMAN PARTNER.

D

WEARING GOGGLES, BANDIT THE BIKER DOG CATCHES SOME WAVES WITH HIS BUDDY R.J. AT A SURF DOG COMPETITION.



EXTREME dog!

BY RUTH A. MUSGRAVE

ROCKY FEELS THE
BREEZE ON HIS
OWN PERSONAL
WINDSURFING
BOARD.

DOG
PADDLING
OR A GAME OF FETCH
JUST WON'T CUT IT FOR THESE
ADVENTUROUS ANIMALS.

BOWWOW-ABUNGA!

There's a new breed of dog in town: the extreme dog! While most pooches act as if sneaking food from the table is living dangerously, some aren't happy unless they're catching awesome waves or cruising a thousand feet in the air.

Take Bandit the Boston terrier. He digs his California lifestyle so much that he surfs whenever he gets the chance. Owner Mark Shaffer knows Bandit is ready to paddle out to gnarly waves when the pooch puts his paws on the board. And it's no surprise to Shaffer that Bandit craves the waves. The dog's first love is riding motorcycles. "That's where he learned to balance and lean into a turn," Shaffer says of his pet, whose full name is, of course, Bandit the Biker Dog.

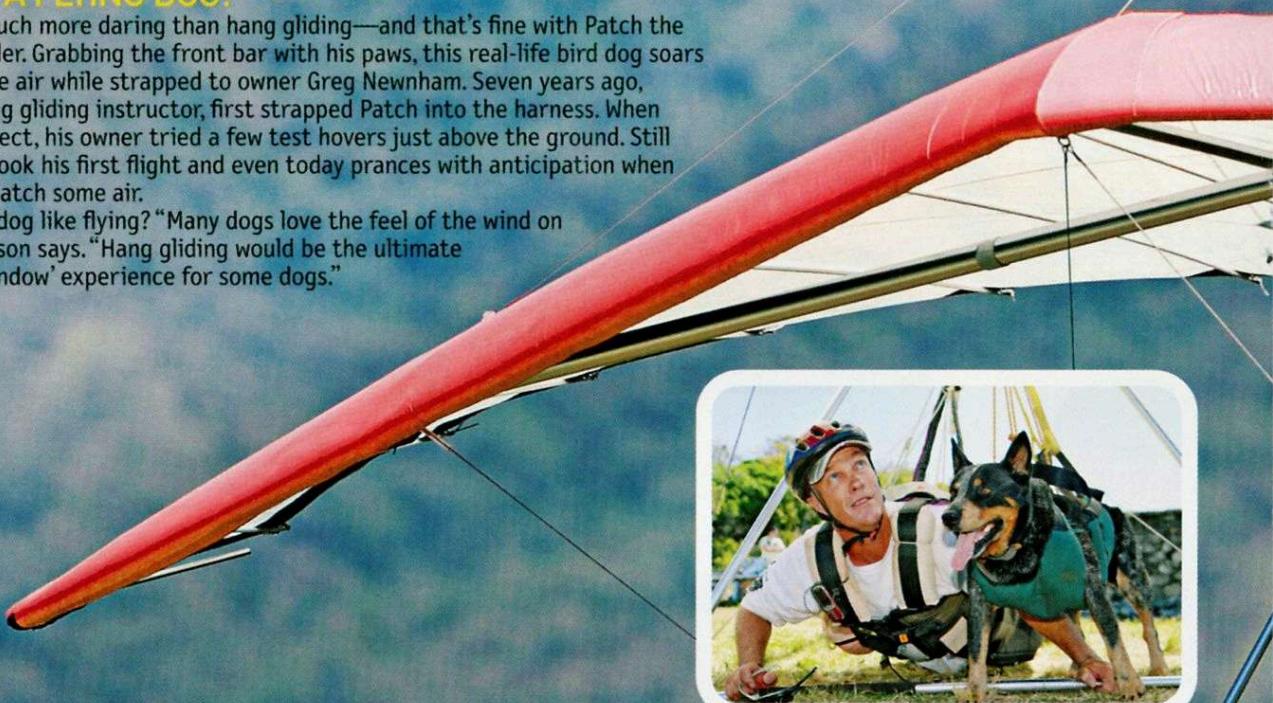
"Dogs like Bandit are unique individuals," veterinary behaviorist Jacqui Neilson says. "Like people, dogs that enjoy daring activities have a special personality, talent, or athletic ability."

© PETER BEVIE / ZEFA / CORBIS (BIG PHOTO);
JAMIE BUDGE PHOTOS / PHOTOGRAPHERS DIRECT
(ROCKY); AP PHOTO (BANDIT AND R.J.)

DUDE, IT'S A FLYING DOG!

You can't get much more daring than hang gliding—and that's fine with Patch the Queensland heeler. Grabbing the front bar with his paws, this real-life bird dog soars 2,500 feet in the air while strapped to owner Greg Newnham. Seven years ago, Newnham, a hang gliding instructor, first strapped Patch into the harness. When Patch didn't object, his owner tried a few test hovers just above the ground. Still excited, Patch took his first flight and even today prances with anticipation when it's his turn to catch some air.

Why would a dog like flying? "Many dogs love the feel of the wind on their face," Neilson says. "Hang gliding would be the ultimate 'face out the window' experience for some dogs."



EXTREME DoG sPoRTs

Extreme dogs have a blast, but some take their passion for excitement to the next level and compete against other dogs.



FRISBEE: Maybe your dog can catch a Frisbee, but can it fling itself four to five feet off the ground or use its owner as a launchpad to snatch the disk from the air?

DOCK DOGGIN': Lots of dogs love water. Pooches that compete in dock competitions race across a dock and leap more than 25 feet across the water—all to retrieve a floating toy.

SKIJORING: Think sled-dog racing, only the dog is pulling a snow skier instead of a sledder. Racing as fast as 15 miles an hour, these dogs share a need for speed and adventure.

EXTREME BREEDS

A dog can't really be bred for skateboarding, but many dogs do have physical advantages that give them special skills.



BREED: BLOODHOUND
SPECIAL SKILL: TRACKING
WHY: THEY HAVE SUCH A STRONG SENSE OF SMELL THAT THEY CAN DETECT SOMETHING THAT WAS THERE DAYS BEFORE THE DOG ARRIVED. THEIR LONG, FLOPPY EARS HELP THEM HOLD AND FIND SCENTS, TOO.



TOTALLY "PAWSOME"

Some dogs are just built for extreme sports. Like a teenager in bulldog clothing, Tillman is a natural skateboarder because of his strength and size. As a pup, the bulldog was always trying to steal another dog's board, so owner Ron Davis got Tillman his own. He first learned to simply roll along without falling off. Now he's got mad skater skills, pushing the board with one or two legs and even turning by himself. "He doesn't like to quit," Davis says. "When I tell him it's time to go home, he takes his board far away to delay us leaving."

Extreme dogs know how to have fun—but they're also extremely good at something else. "The coolest part about Tillman isn't that he skateboards," Davis says. "It's how he makes people smile when they watch him."

BREED: ST. BERNARD
SPECIAL SKILL: MOUNTAIN RESCUES
WHY: THEIR LARGE BODIES GIVE THEM STRENGTH AND STAMINA, AND HUGE FEET ARE IDEAL FOR TREKKING THROUGH THE SNOW.

BREED: NEWFOUNDLAND
SPECIAL SKILL: SWIMMING
WHY: THEIR DENSE COATS PROTECT THEM FROM ICY WATER, PLUS THEY HAVE WEBBED FEET.

BREED: FOX TERRIER
SPECIAL SKILL: DIGGING
WHY: THEIR SHOULDERS AND FRONT LEGS ARE ANGLED IN JUST THE RIGHT POSITION FOR DIGGING, AND THEIR SMALL SIZE IS PERFECT FOR WRIGGLING DOWN BURROWS.

BREED: SIBERIAN HUSKY
SPECIAL SKILL: PULLING
WHY: WELL-DEVELOPED CHEST MUSCLES HELP THEM PULL SLEDS THROUGH SNOW. THICK COATS KEEP THEM WARM IN CHILLY WEATHER.

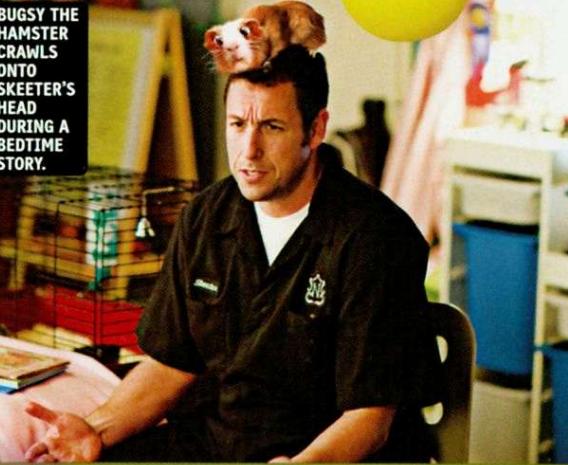
BREED: GREYHOUND
SPECIAL SKILL: RUNNING
WHY: A GREYHOUND'S SLEEK STREAMLINED BODY MEANS LESS WIND RESISTANCE FOR FASTER SPEED. ITS LONG LEGS AND LUNG CAPACITY ALSO GIVE IT AN EDGE.



Fancy Footwork

Skeeter appears to be walking around his niece and nephew's room, but look more closely. "One month into shooting, Adam broke his ankle and couldn't walk during the time we shot those scenes," Shankman says. So the director got sneaky. "I used a double (someone who looked like Sandler from the back) to show Skeeter walking away," he says. Other times, the camera focuses elsewhere while you hear footsteps, then cuts to a shot of Skeeter standing in a new spot as if he walked there.

BUGSY THE HAMSTER CRAWLS ONTO SKEETER'S HEAD DURING A BEDTIME STORY.



Other Worlds

Skeeter tells his niece and nephew bedtime stories based on real places and times. Moviemakers were supersecret about those scenes, but here's the scoop on the real deals.

STORY SCENE: OUTER SPACE

REAL DEAL: THERE ARE SO MANY STARS THAT EVEN SCIENTISTS DON'T KNOW THE EXACT NUMBER. SOME SCIENTISTS ESTIMATE IT COULD BE AS HIGH AS 70 SEXTILLION. THAT'S A 7 FOLLOWED BY 22 ZEROS.

STORY SCENE: THE WILD WEST

REAL DEAL: AMERICAN-STYLE BLUE JEANS (THE KIND WITH METAL RIVETS) WERE INVENTED IN THE "WILD WEST"—THE WESTERN UNITED STATES FROM ABOUT 1870 TO ABOUT 1900. THE STURDY PANTS WERE CREATED FOR RUGGED GOLD MINERS.

STORY SCENE: ANCIENT GREECE

REAL DEAL: MOST PEOPLE IMAGINE ANCIENT GREEKS WEARING TUNICS AND SANDALS. BUT WHEN THE WEATHER GOT CHILLY, THEY WORE CLOAKS, HATS, AND LEATHER BOOTS.

You Could Already Be a Millionaire

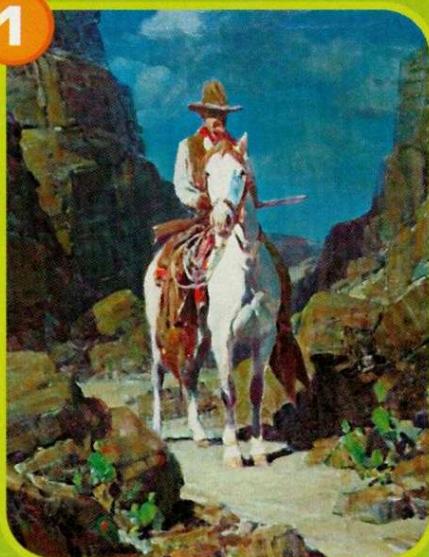
5

ways you could stumble across valuable stuff.

BY TRACY PRZYBYSZ

You never know when an ordinary task might make you rich. One man was cleaning his father's attic and found a rare recording of a Beatles practice session—worth about \$23,000. "There are treasures to be had, if you know what you're looking for," says Marsha Bemko, executive producer of the TV show *Antiques Roadshow*. Check out these treasures found in unexpected places.

1



THE TREASURE: PAINTING BY FRANK TENNEY JOHNSON

FOUND: BY A KID AT HIS GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE

NOW WORTH: \$200,000

Five-year-old Jacob Freed loved cowboys, which is why his grandparents' old cowboy painting wound up on his bedroom wall instead of in the trash after his grandparents moved. Curiosity about the painting eventually led Jacob and his parents online, where they discovered that other works from the painter, 20th-century Western American artist Frank Tenney Johnson, were selling for more than \$100,000. "Our chins hit the floor," says Jacob's father, Mark. They later sold the painting for a whopping \$200,000.

2



THE TREASURE: HANDWRITTEN MUSIC BY JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

FOUND: IN AN OFFICE

NOW WORTH: POSSIBLY \$1 MILLION

Researcher Michael Maul was looking for clues about composer Johann Sebastian Bach's life when he spotted a crate of 18th-century documents in a library office. "I knew the library collected only manuscripts from around Bach's lifetime," Maul says. Riffling through the crate, which contained hundreds of letters written to a German duke, Maul found an unexpected surprise: unpublished, handwritten music by Bach from 1713. The composer wrote the music to honor the duke on his birthday—a present now worth possibly a million dollars.

THE TREASURE: 12TH-CENTURY PLATE

FOUND: ON THE ARMS OF AN OCTOPUS

NOW WORTH: AT LEAST \$30,000

When a fisherman pulled up his net near Seoul, South Korea, he noticed all the octopuses had bits of pottery—plus one unbroken dinner plate—stuck to the suction cups on their arms. Turns out the octopuses had wrapped themselves around ancient pottery used by ruling families of the Koryo Dynasty. The pottery had been on a ship that sunk around A.D. 1150. The plate itself is worth more than \$30,000. No wonder divers returned to the fishing spot to scoop up the rest of the undersea treasures.

3





**THE TREASURE:
POSTCARD FROM
ANNE FRANK**

**FOUND: IN A
BOX OF ANTIQUE
CARDS IN A STORE**

**NOW WORTH:
MORE THAN
\$165,000**

Paul van den Heuvel wanted to teach his students about the Netherlands' 1945 Liberation Day—when Germans were driven out of the country during World War II—by showing them items from that time period. Picking through a box of old but inexpensive postcards in his father's antique shop, van den Heuvel spotted a 1937 postcard from Anne Frank, a girl best known for the diary she kept while hiding from the German Nazis during the war. Previous Anne Frank letters have sold for \$165,000, but experts think this postcard is worth much more.

4



**THE TREASURE:
A BOX OF SILVER
COINS**

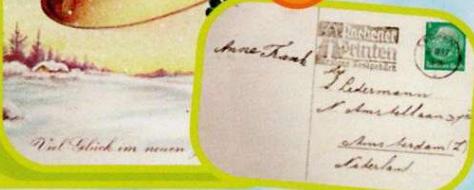
**FOUND: IN AN
ATTIC**

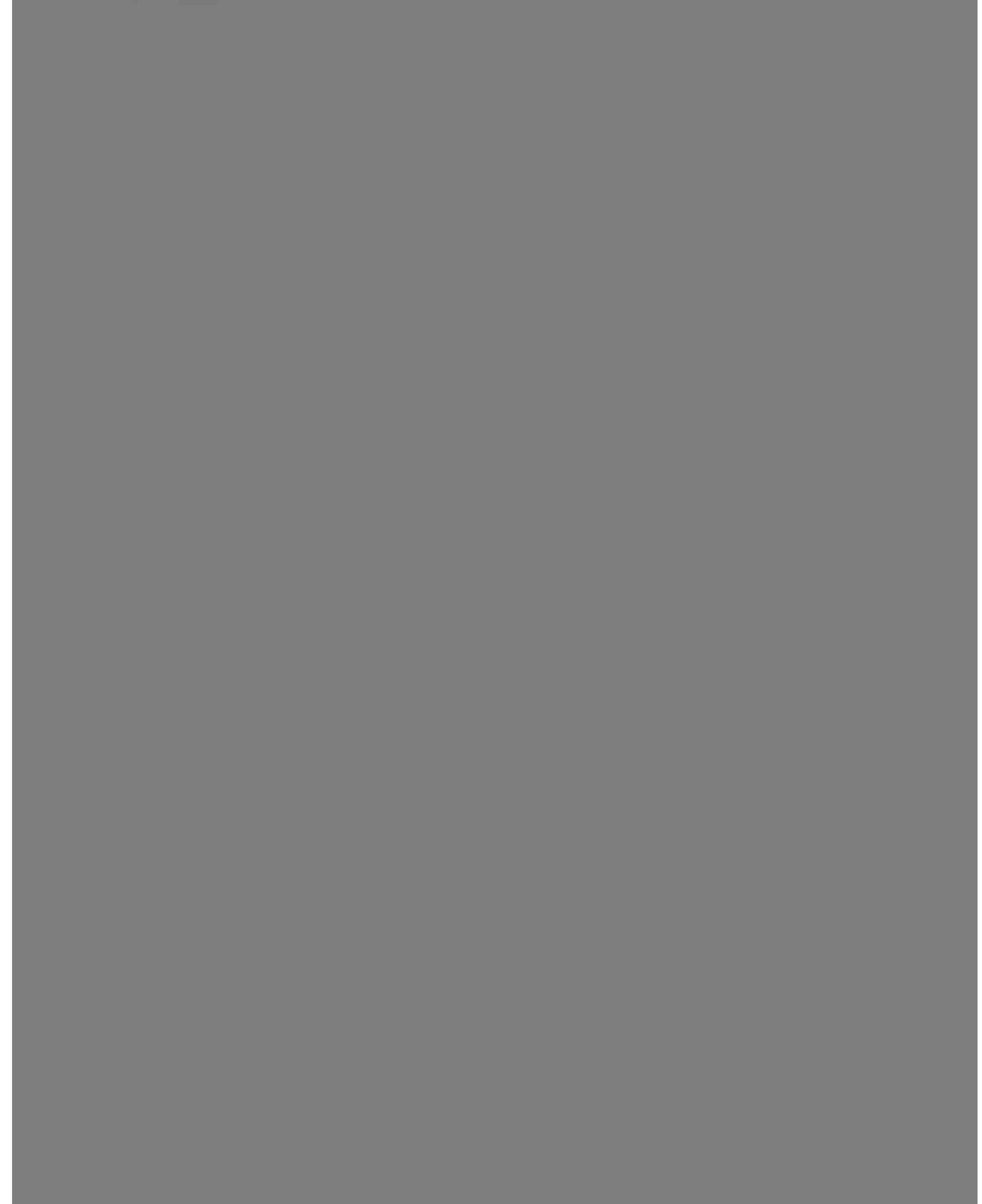
**NOW WORTH:
\$2,000**

This was real buried treasure—but it was buried under insulation in an attic. While working on his home's wiring, Matt Rodgers discovered a box tucked beneath the insulation. Inside was \$2,000 worth of silver dollars and quarters, along with notes from a father to his family. Instead of keeping the cash, he returned the box to the family. "If the roles had been reversed, I would have wanted my family heirlooms back," Rodgers says. "It was the right thing to do."

© CORBIS (GIRL JUMPING); © D. HURST / ALAMY (MONEY); IMAGE DIGITALLY COMPOSED;
CORTEZ MARK FREED PAINTING; COURTESY KLASSIK STIFTUNG WEIMAR / HERZOGIN
ANNA AMALIA BIBLIOTHEK (MUSIC); REUTERS / HO NEW (PLATE); WILLIAM COOLEY /
NOVATO ADVANCE (COINS)

5





Squirre



HEINZ, A
EUROPEAN
SQUIRREL,
QUICKLY
LEARNED
TO FIND
FOOD.



BY SCOTT ELDER

Rescue

After a terrible, windy thunderstorm, a tiny baby squirrel lay motionless on a forest floor in Germany, a country in Europe. Kai Jeworreck came across the little orphan while out for a walk. The European squirrel was so young it had just begun to grow fur and its eyes were still shut. Jeworreck gently picked up the newborn. Its body felt cold and still. But then, in the warmth of his hands, the squirrel wriggled its legs slightly. Jeworreck tucked it inside his jacket and rushed home.

THE ORPHAN'S RESCUER found the telephone number for Squirrel Emergency—a German organization that helps injured and orphaned squirrels. They instructed him to keep the little squirrel warm and to give it an energy drink of tea, salt, and sugar. Then Jeworreck drove it to the home of Heike Boellert, one of the organization's volunteers.

She quickly determined that the three-week-old male squirrel was in very bad shape. He had pneumonia, which made it very hard for him to breathe. But Boellert was most worried about the crooked way he held his head. She took her new patient, whom she named Heinz, to a veterinarian. It turned out that he had a concussion from a bump to his head when he fell out of the nest.

IN NEED OF INTENSIVE CARE, Boellert took Heinz home with her. She was already rehabilitating four other orphaned squirrels. To imitate the constant attention and cuddling Heinz would have received from his mother in the wild, Boellert put the baby squirrel in a soft warm pouch that she wore around her neck. Along with antibiotics and vitamins, Boellert carefully fed him small amounts of special milk through a syringe every two hours—even at night.



NOW FREE AND INDEPENDENT,
HEINZ LIVES IN THE FOREST.

A helpless baby survives a violent storm, thanks to caring people.



HEINZ SOMETIMES VISITS HIS OLD HOME FOR A SNACK.

AFTER A FEW DAYS of round-the-clock TLC, Heinz's health improved. He opened his eyes for the first time. His head healed quickly and he became very active, so Boellert moved Heinz into a big box where he could practice scampering around. Boellert continued to snuggle with Heinz, and he often climbed onto her shoulder. The two had formed a close bond, but he could not become a pet—young Heinz was being prepared for a return to the wild.

After a few weeks, Heinz's teeth grew in and he faced his first survival lesson: Boellert gave him a nut. It took him many tries, but eventually he cracked it open. Next Boellert moved him to a large cage furnished with branches for climbing practice. The last stage of his preparation for release was for Boellert to end all close contact with Heinz so that he could learn what he was: a wild squirrel. Heinz moved in with the four other squirrels in a huge outside enclosure. "That way Heinz could get used to the temperatures, smells, and noises outside," says Moni Rademacher, another volunteer.

NINE WEEKS AFTER Heinz arrived at her home, Boellert opened the door on the enclosure and walked away. Heinz and the other squirrels explored the yard and the nearby forest. Boellert dropped plenty of nuts in the yard so the squirrels would be well fed while they learned to rely on their instincts to find food on their own and build nests in the trees.

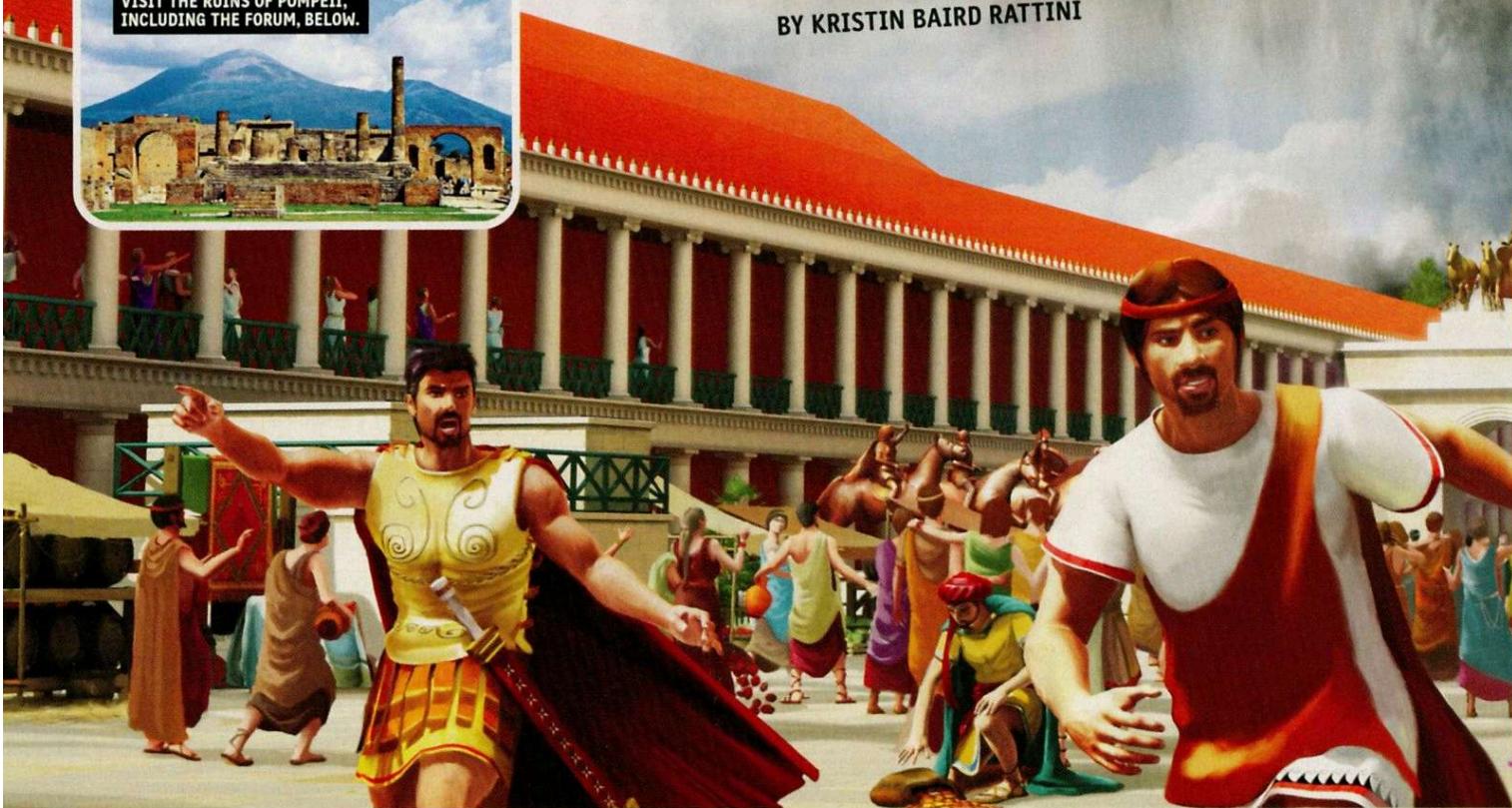
Heinz now has his own territory in the wild, but he didn't move far away from Boellert. Although he has no trouble finding food in the woods, Heinz often drops by Boellert's house anyway to say hello and get a few nuts from his old friend. Boellert is very proud of Heinz: "A teeny fighter became a survivor!"

THE LOST CITY OF POMPEII

When will the volcano that buried this ancient civilization blow again?

BY KRISTIN BAIRD RATTINI

TODAY MILLIONS OF TOURISTS VISIT THE RUINS OF POMPEII, INCLUDING THE FORUM, BELOW.



AUGUST 24, A.D. 79

Adrenaline-boom roars through Pompeii's crowded marketplace. The ground shakes violently, throwing the midday shoppers off balance and toppling stands of fish and meat. People start screaming and pointing toward Mount Vesuvius, a massive volcano that rises above the bustling city, located in what is now southern Italy.

Vesuvius had been silent for nearly 2,000 years, but it roared back to life, shooting ash and smoke some 20 miles into the air. Almost overnight, the city and most of its residents vanished under a blanket of ash and lava.

Now, almost 2,000 years later, scientists agree that Vesuvius is overdue for another major eruption—but no one knows when it

will happen. Three million people live in the volcano's shadow, in the modern-day city of Naples, Italy. Correctly predicting when the eruption will take place will make the difference between life and death.

THE SKY IS FALLING

Through excavations that started in 1748 and continue to this day, scientists have been able to recreate almost exactly what happened in Pompeii on that terrible day.

"The thick ash turned everything black," says Pompeii expert Andrew Wallace-Hadrill. "People couldn't see the sun. All the landmarks disappeared. They didn't have the foggiest idea which way they were going."

Some people ran for their lives, clutching their valuable coins and jewelry. Other

people took shelter in their homes. But the debris kept falling. Piles grew as deep as nine feet in some places, blocking doorways and caving in roofs.

Around midnight, the first of four searing-hot clouds, or surges, of ash, pumice, rock, and toxic gas rushed down the mountainside. Traveling toward Pompeii at up to 180 miles an hour, it scorched everything in its path. Around 7 a.m., 18 hours after the eruption, the last fiery surge buried the city.

LOST AND FOUND

Visiting the ruins of Pompeii today is like going back in time. The layers of ash actually helped preserve buildings, artwork, and even the forms of bodies. "It gives you the

THIS ARTIST'S CONCEPT RE-CREATES THE FORUM AT POMPEII AS IT LOOKED THE DAY OF THE ERUPTION IN A.D. 79. THE FORUM WAS THE CENTER OF PUBLIC LIFE.



feeling you can reach out and touch the ancient world," Wallace-Hadrill says.

There are kitchens with pots left on the stove and bakeries with loaves of bread—now turned to charcoal—still in the ovens. Narrow corridors lead to magnificent mansions with elaborate gardens and fountains. Mosaics, or designs made out of tiles, decorate the walls and floors. Some houses even have mosaics of guard dogs with "Beware of dog" written in Latin, the language of the Pompeians.

Ancient graffiti, including love notes and other messages, is carved into buildings. Some graffiti even lists the results of gladiator matches at the amphitheater—an ancient outdoor arena—where trained fighters once battled to the death.

WARNING SIGNS

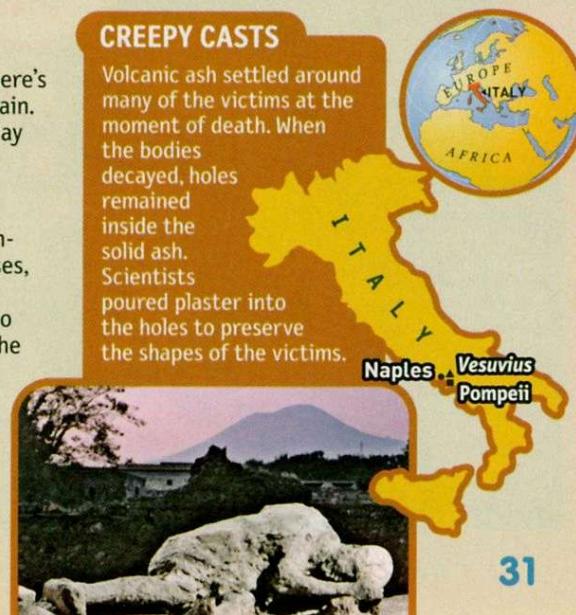
Pompeii may be ancient history, but there's little doubt that disaster will strike again. Luckily people living near Vesuvius today will likely receive evacuation warnings before the volcano blows.

Scientists are closely monitoring Vesuvius for shifts in the ground, earthquakes, and rising levels of certain gases, which could be signs of an upcoming eruption. The Italian government is also working on a plan to help people flee the area in an emergency.

It's a shame Pompeians didn't know what we now know about volcanoes. They could have lived on to tell the story of the city that was lost in time.

CREEPY CASTS

Volcanic ash settled around many of the victims at the moment of death. When the bodies decayed, holes remained inside the solid ash. Scientists poured plaster into the holes to preserve the shapes of the victims.

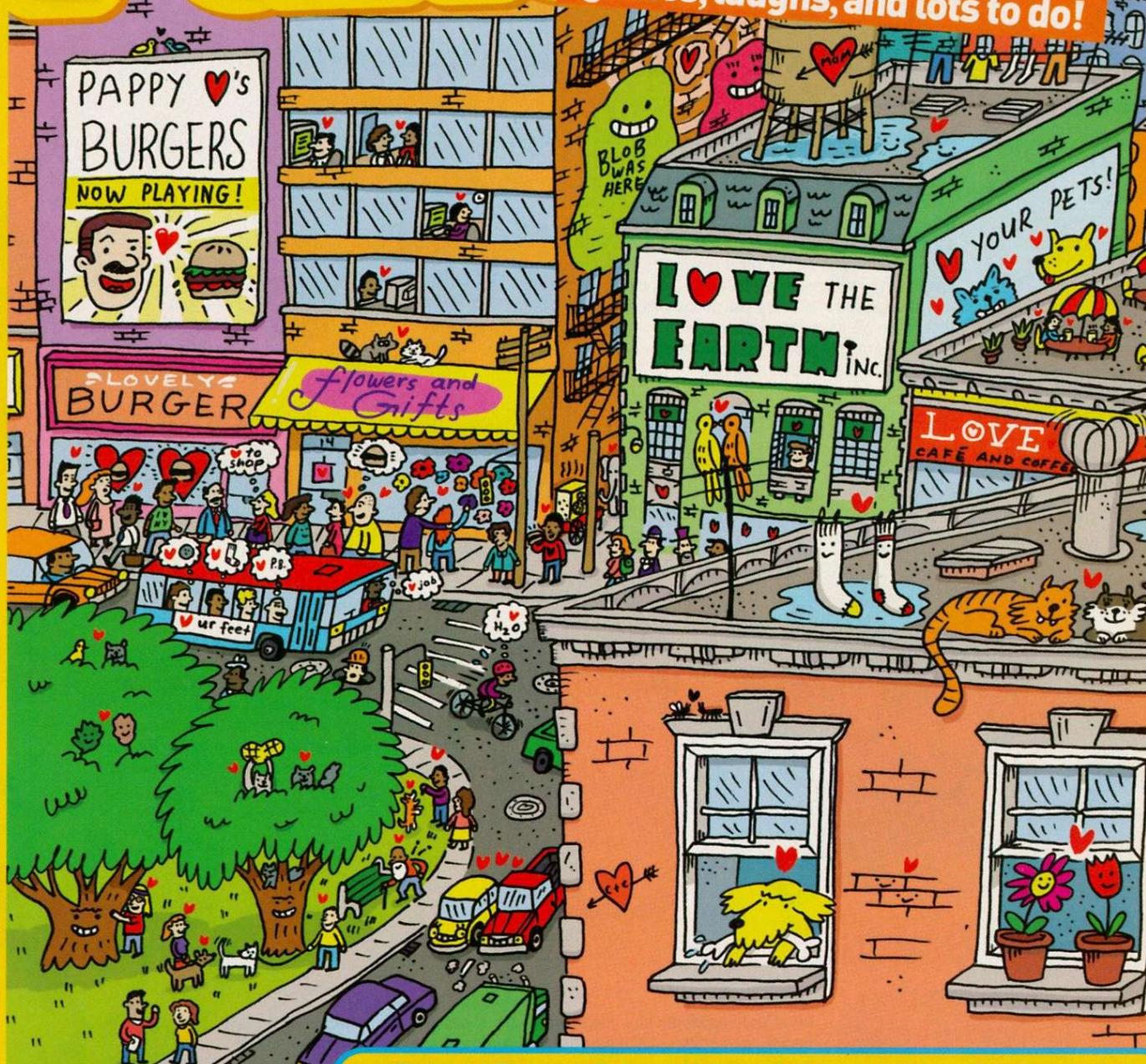


com City



FunStuff

games, laughs, and lots to do!



Change of Heart

Love is in the air on this city street, and it has everyone turned around. All of these small scenes are upside down or sideways. Find each small scene in the big picture. **ANSWERS ON PAGE 38**





Valentine's Day Recipes!

Win your family's hearts
by making these fun foods
for Valentine's Day
on February 14.

Ask for a parent's help
and permission before
you get started.

Cupid's Arrow Pizza

YOU WILL NEED

- HEART-SHAPED COOKIE CUTTER (OPTIONAL)
- ROASTED RED PEPPERS
- PEPPERONI SLICES
- 1 OR 2 READY-MADE PIZZA CRUSTS
- OLIVE OIL
- READY-MADE PIZZA SAUCE
- 8-OUNCE BAG OF ITALIAN-BLEND SHREDDED CHEESE

WHAT TO DO

With an adult's help, use a knife or cookie cutter to shape the red peppers and pepperoni slices into hearts. Then cut one crust into a heart shape, saving the excess crust for later. Spread a thin layer of olive oil on the heart-shaped crust. Top with pizza sauce and then cheese. Arrange the peppers and pepperoni hearts on the pizza. Form the arrow shape out of pieces of leftover crust or cut it out of a second crust. Top the arrow with a little olive oil. Bake the pizza according to the directions on the pizza crust package. Then, as the Italians say, "Buon appetito!"



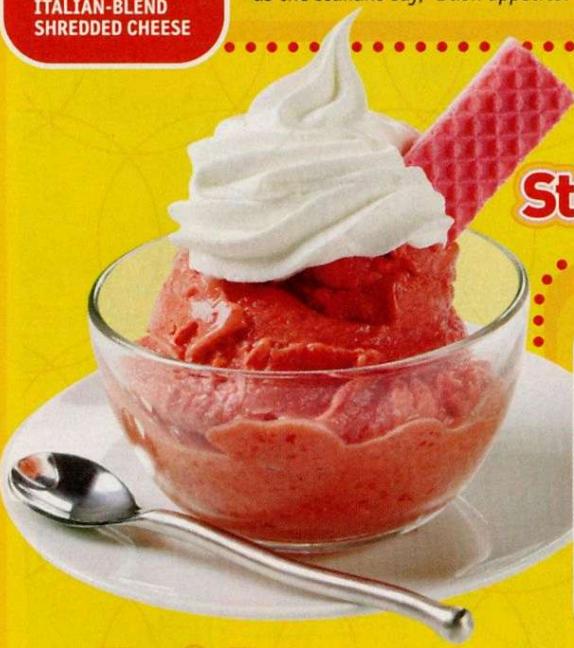
Strawberry Sorbet

YOU WILL NEED

- 1 POUND BAG OF FROZEN, UNSWEETENED STRAWBERRIES
- 1/3 CUP SUGAR
- 1/2 CUP BUTTERMILK
- 1 TABLESPOON LEMON JUICE
- WHIPPED CREAM (OPTIONAL)
- BLENDER OR FOOD PROCESSOR

WHAT TO DO

Place the strawberries and sugar in a blender or food processor, then pulse to mix. Combine the buttermilk and lemon juice in a separate bowl. Add the buttermilk mixture to the strawberries. Blend for several seconds until smooth. Top with whipped cream if desired. Makes four servings.



Fruit Bouquet

YOU WILL NEED

- TALL, NARROW VASE
- STYROFOAM BALL THAT FITS SNUGLY INSIDE YOUR VASE
- STRAWBERRIES
- RASPBERRIES
- RED GRAPES
- OTHER COLORFUL FRUITS, SUCH AS CANTALOUPE, PINEAPPLE, KIWIS, AND BLUEBERRIES
- WOODEN SKEWERS

WHAT TO DO

Place the Styrofoam ball inside the vase and set aside. Then wash and dry the berries and grapes. Ask a parent to help you cut the fruit: Stem the strawberries, remove the cantaloupe and pineapple rinds and the kiwi skins, then cut the fruits into bite-size pieces. Slide the fruit onto the skewers, alternating colors, and using plenty of red fruit for Valentine's Day. Fill each skewer to the top, but leave two inches without fruit at the bottom. Poke the empty ends of the skewers into the Styrofoam at angles. Make sure they are stable. Top with extra fruit to cover the Styrofoam. Then give your bouquet to someone special.



PHOTOGRAPH RENEE COMET / FOOD STYLING LISA CHERKASY
(PIZZA, SORBET): REBECCA VALE / NGST STAFF (FRUIT BOUQUET)

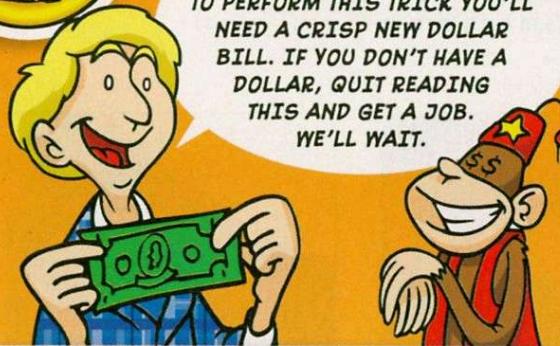
Mac King's



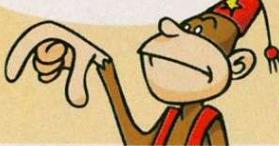
THE BUCK DROP\$ HERE!

HOWDY!
I'M MAC KING.

TO PERFORM THIS TRICK YOU'LL NEED A CRISP NEW DOLLAR BILL. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A DOLLAR, QUIT READING THIS AND GET A JOB. WE'LL WAIT.



SHOW A FRIEND THE DOLLAR AND TELL HIM THAT HE CAN HAVE IT IF HE PASSES A SIMPLE TEST. TO DEMONSTRATE THE TEST, HOLD THE DOLLAR IN ONE HAND AND DANGLE IT BETWEEN THE INDEX FINGER AND THUMB OF YOUR OTHER HAND.

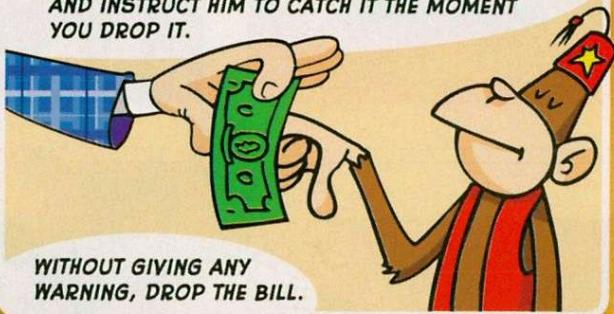


2

THEN DROP THE BILL AND CATCH IT BETWEEN YOUR FINGERS. THIS MAKES IT LOOK EASY. NOW LET YOUR FRIEND TRY.



3 DANGLE THE BILL BETWEEN YOUR FRIEND'S FINGERS AND INSTRUCT HIM TO CATCH IT THE MOMENT YOU DROP IT.



WITHOUT GIVING ANY WARNING, DROP THE BILL.

4 NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES HE TRIES...

He can't



the dollar.

catch



5

YOUR SIMPLE TEST HAS PROVEN THAT YOU ALONE ARE WORTHY OF DOLLAR BILL OWNERSHIP. CELEBRATE! SPEND IT ON SOMETHING FUN LIKE SOME DAY-OLD BREAD OR AN OLD SHOE. YOU'VE EARNED IT!



Howdy DoiT?

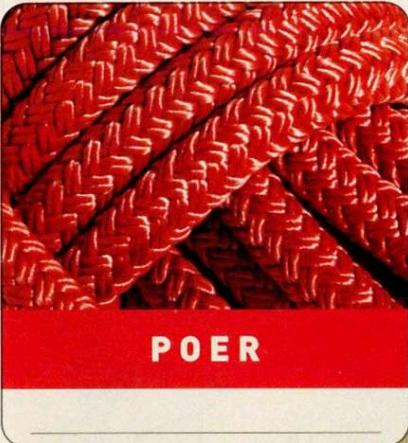
IT IS UNLIKELY THAT YOUR FRIEND CAN CATCH THE DOLLAR (EVEN IF HE DOES HAVE CHIMP LIKE REFLXES)! WHY? BECAUSE IT TAKES TOO LONG FOR THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO TRAVEL FROM HIS EYES TO HIS BRAIN AND THEN BACK TO HIS FINGERS.

What in the World?

Play interactive "What in the World?" and other games online.
kids.nationalgeographic.com

SEEING RED

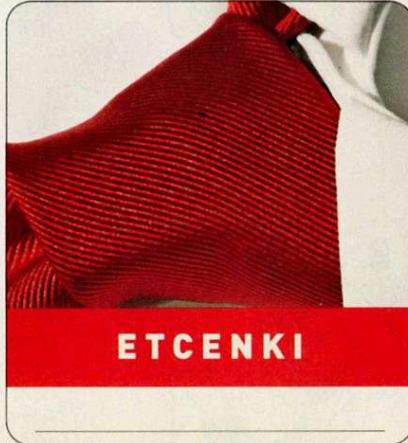
These photographs show close-up and faraway views of things that are red. Unscramble the letters to identify what's in each picture. **ANSWERS ON PAGE 38**



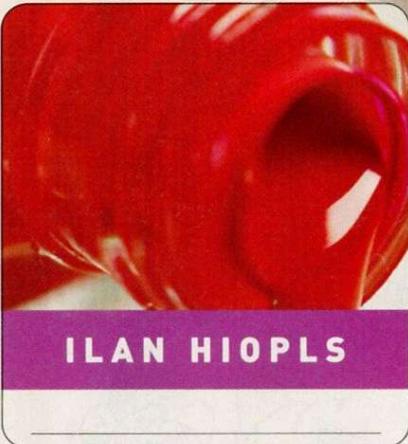
POER



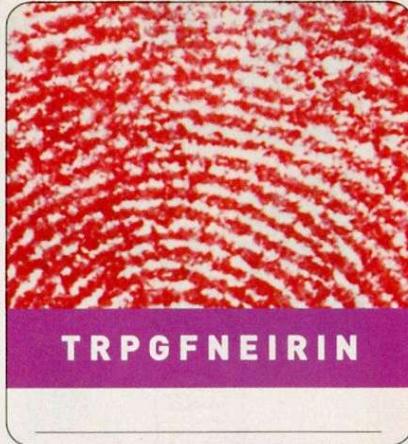
GTEAS AUNCTRI



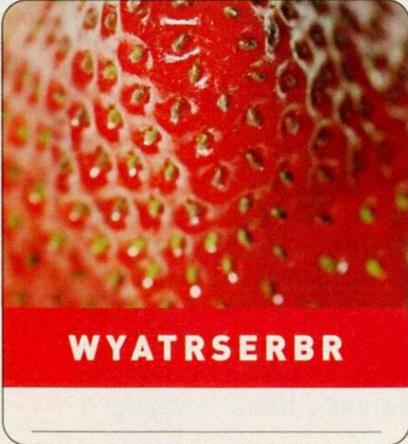
ETCENKI



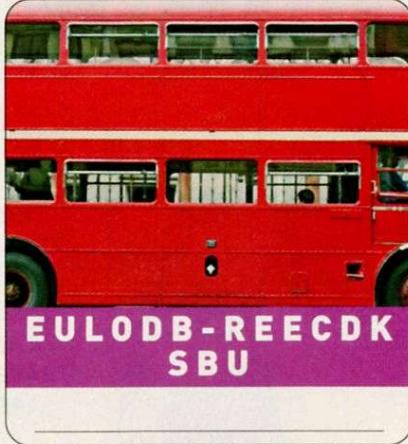
ILAN HIOPLS



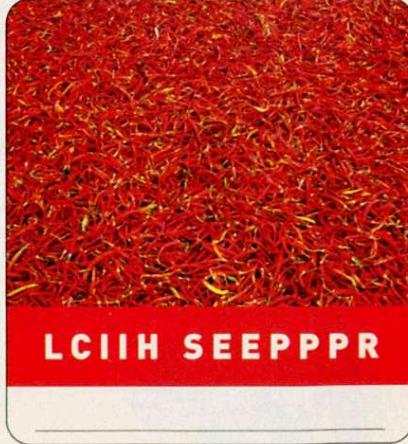
TRPGFNEIRIN



WYATRSERBR



EULODB-REECDK
SBU



LCIIH SEEPPPR

TOP ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): THOMAS NORTHCUT / RISER / GETTY IMAGES; DIERDORFF / GETTY IMAGES; SIRI STAFFORD / GETTY IMAGES
MIDDLE ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): PAUL TEARLE / STOCKPHOTO / GETTY IMAGES; © WALT DISNEY / COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION; PETER MILLER /
GETTY IMAGES; BOTTOM ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): JOSON / GETTY IMAGES; © DBURKE / ALAMY; BRUNO MORANDI / GETTY IMAGES.

Funny FILL-IN

On Thin Ice

BY JILL YAWORSKI

Ask a friend to give you words to fill in the blanks in this story without showing it to him or her. Then read out loud for a laugh.

I tried ice-skating for the first time today and I guess you could say I had beginner's luck. I picked out the _____ skates and laced them up in _____ knots. _____ adverb ending in -est color adjective

I stepped onto the _____ ice. I _____ off the wall and into _____ adverb ending in -ly adjective past-tense verb

the middle of the rink. So far, so good. Then, out of nowhere, a group of _____ athletes _____ adjective

by me at about _____ miles an hour. Somehow I had skated into the middle of _____ past-tense verb big number

an ice _____ game! The next thing I knew, I was _____ all over the ice. As I attempted _____ sport verb ending in -ing

to _____ around the players, I saw a(n) _____ coming straight toward me. Before _____ verb type of sports equipment

I could move out of the way, it hit my _____ and _____ off my _____. _____ body part past-tense verb different body part

I tried to stay on my feet, but began _____ around and around. Instead of creating a figure eight, _____ verb ending in -ing

I was making a figure _____. When I finally came to a stop, a loud buzzer sounded and the players _____ number

yelled, "_____" That's when I discovered I had accidentally scored a goal and won the game! _____ exclamation

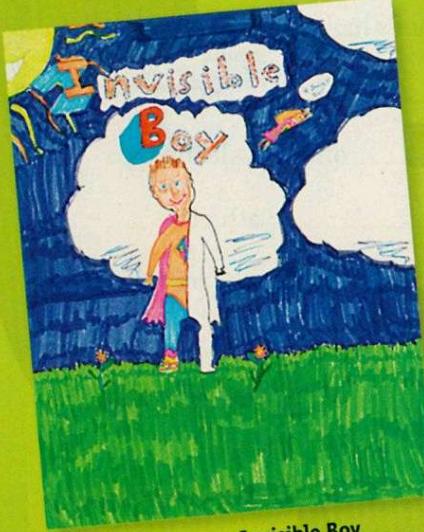


MARTY BAUMANN

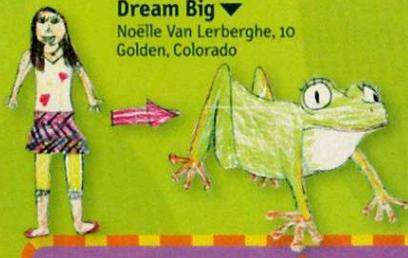
Art Zone

Awesome Superpowers

NG KIDS readers flex their creative muscle in these drawings of superpowers they would most like to have.



▲ Invisible Boy
Dean Marchant, 11
Los Gatos, California

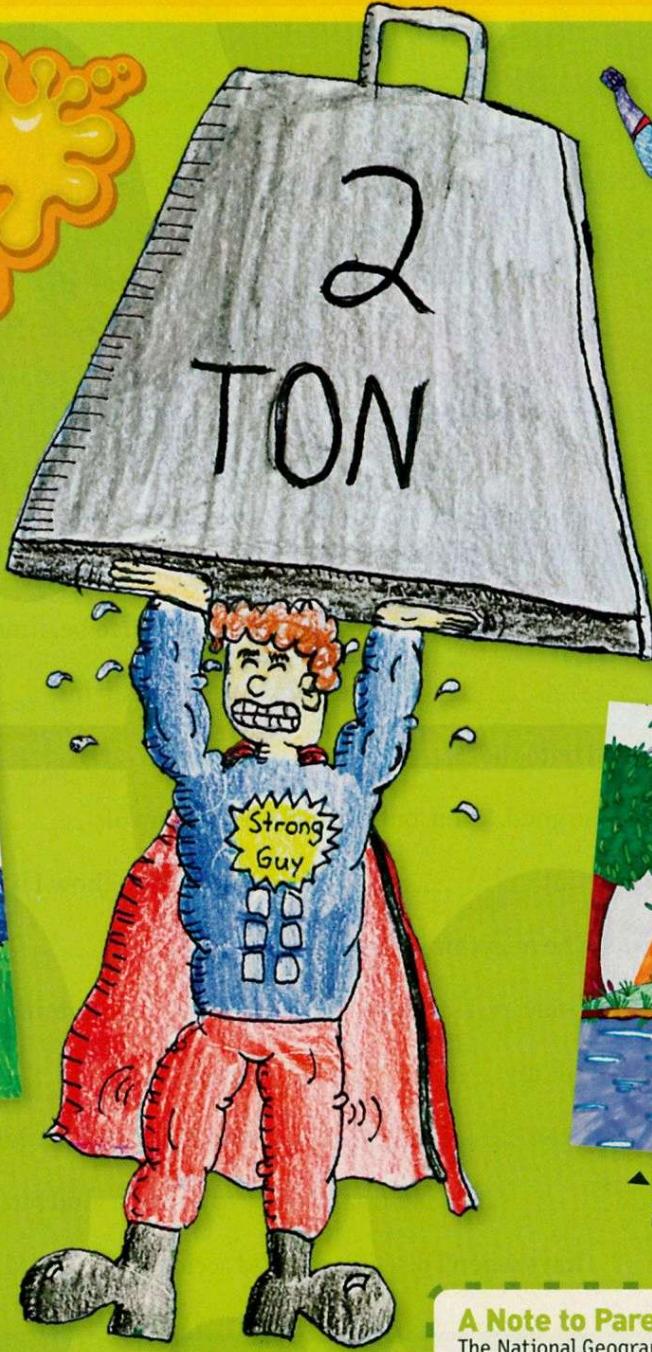


▲ Dream Big ▼
Noelle Van Lerberghe, 10
Golden, Colorado

Draw a wacky or unusual sandwich.

Send your original drawings to
NG KIDS—Sandwich Art Zone
P.O. Box 98002
Washington, DC 20090-8002

Include your name, address, phone number, date of birth, a title for your drawing, a statement that it is your own work, and the name of your parent or guardian. Your parent or guardian must sign a release for publication of your illustration. Submissions become the property of the National Geographic Society, and all rights thereto are transferred to the National Geographic Society. Submissions cannot be acknowledged or returned. Selection will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.



▲ I Believe I Can Fly
Megan Foister, 10
Saegertown, Pennsylvania

◀ Two-Ton Strong Guy
Max Kowalczyk, 13
Honesdale, Pennsylvania



▲ Mystic Water
Jessica Bennett, 11
Newport News, Virginia

Answers



„Change of Heart“ (page 33):

A Note to Parents

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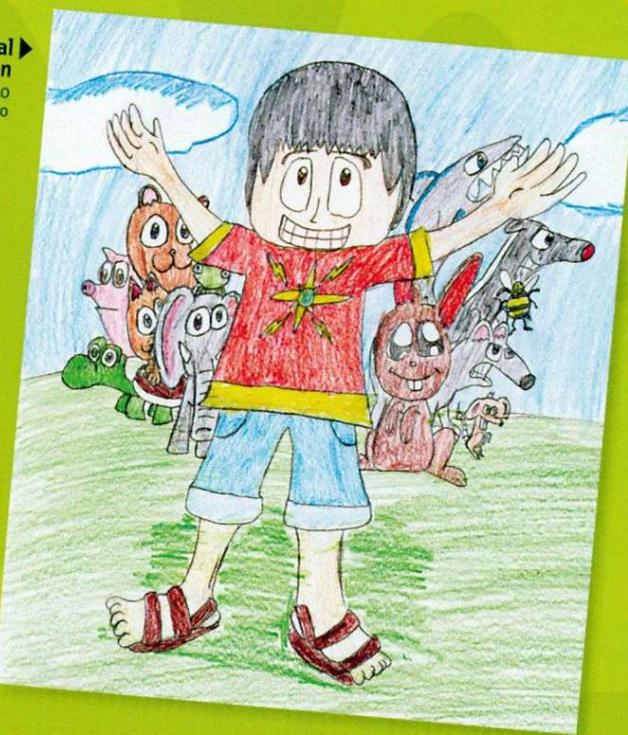
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National Geographic Society
Customer Service
P.O. Box 63001
Tampa, FL 33663-3001

Please note that the Society will never disclose your child's name to anyone for marketing or promotional purposes, or for any other purpose except as required by law.

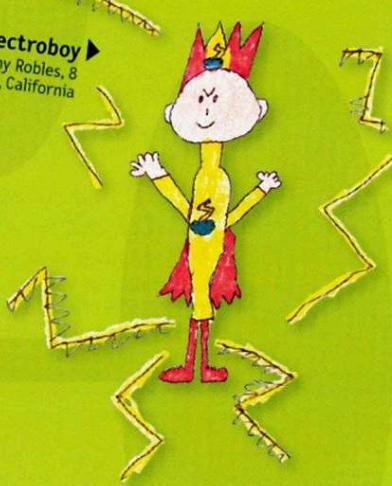
Animal Transformation
Brien Stutzman, 10
London, Ohio



Heat Blast
Errol Charette, Jr., 11
Taunton, Massachusetts



Electroboy
Sammy Robles, 8
Avenal, California



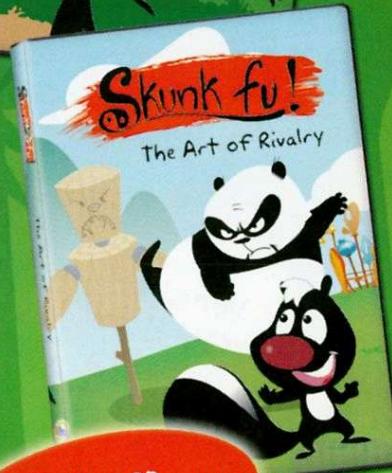
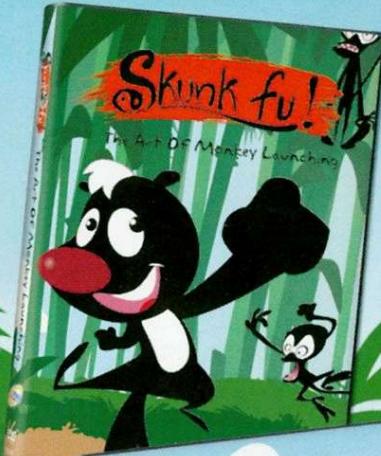
Me And My Clones
Adrianna Garcia, 9
Garden Grove, California



Superdoctor
Emily Underhill, 11
Westford, Massachusetts

Laser Beam Do-It-Yourself Homework
Mia Atherton, 12
Salt Lake City, Utah

Totally Kicking DVDs!



As Seen on
Cartoon Network!

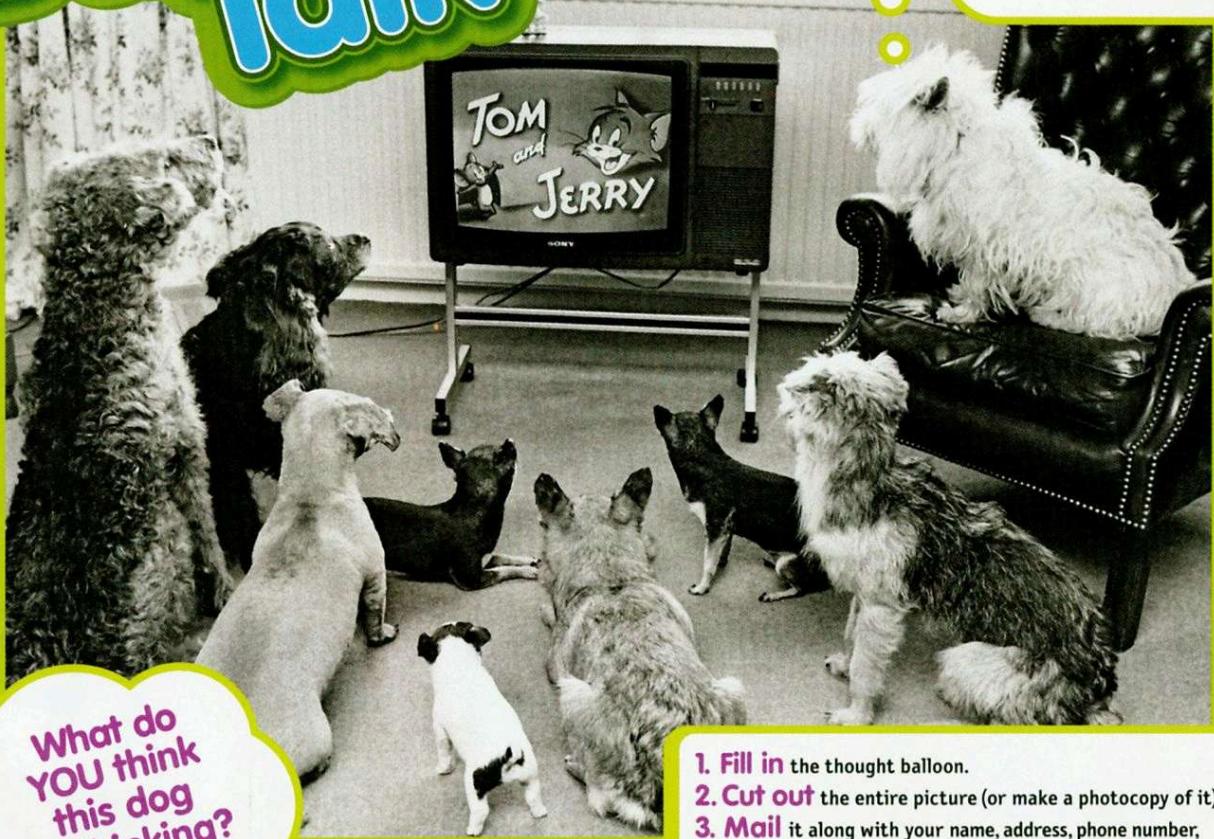
Buy Now – so you
too can learn to kick
some monkey butt!



Action Figures
Coming Soon!



Back Talk



1. Fill in the thought balloon.
2. Cut out the entire picture (or make a photocopy of it).
3. Mail it along with your name, address, phone number, and date of birth to NG KIDS, Back Talk, P.O. Box 96000, WASHINGTON, DC 20090-6000. Selection for publication in a future issue will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.



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From the October Issue

I'm so glad we chose
the Dead Sea for our
honeymoon.

Abby Decter, 11
Los Angeles, California

This desert is bone-dry.

Emily Havener, 9
Grove City, Ohio

What in the world happened
to, "Till death do us part"?

Ryan Pause, 12
Adams, Massachusetts

Do you think we've been
out here too long?

Bristol Lovoy, 9
Austin, Texas

I've got a bone
to pick with him.

Tony Burns, 11
Suffolk, Virginia

Wow, he's dead silent!

Kai Ebata, 11
Urbana, Illinois

Gimme some skin!

Mark DeLong, 11
Seymour, Tennessee

OK, from the top:
The hand bone's
connected to the...

Elly Hudson, 10
San Jose, California

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