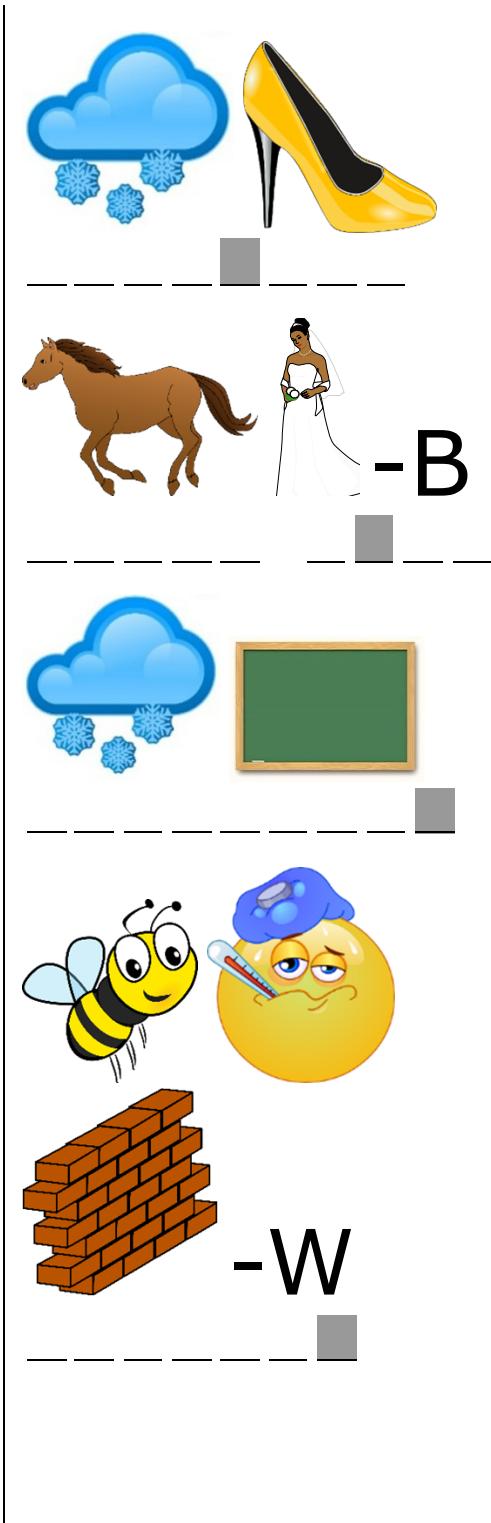
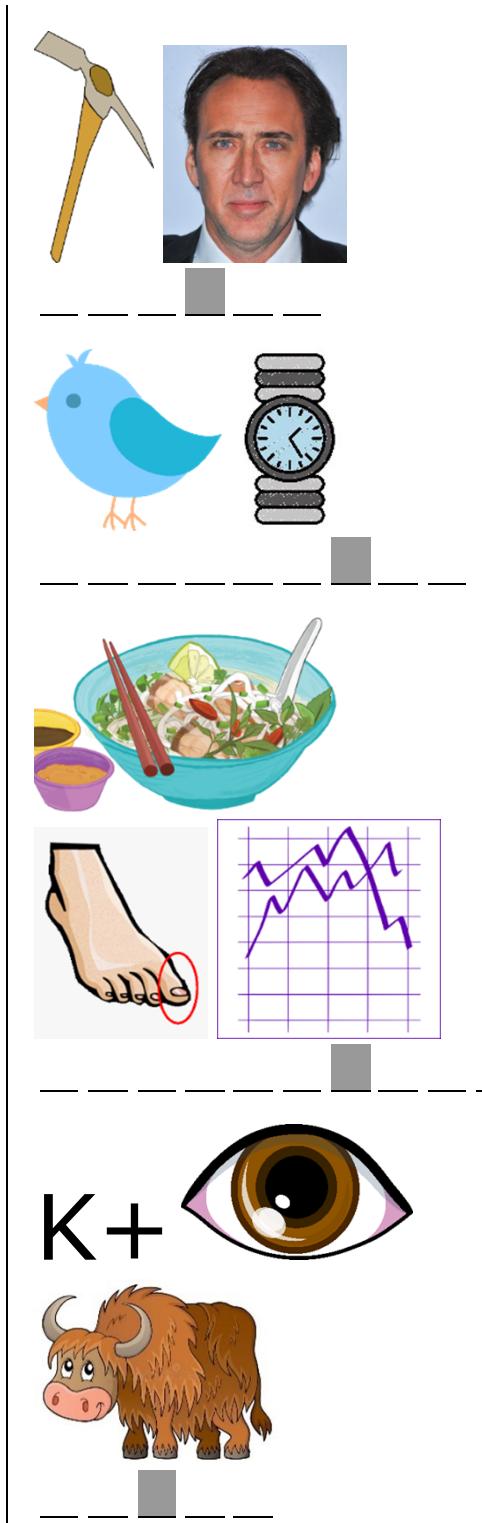
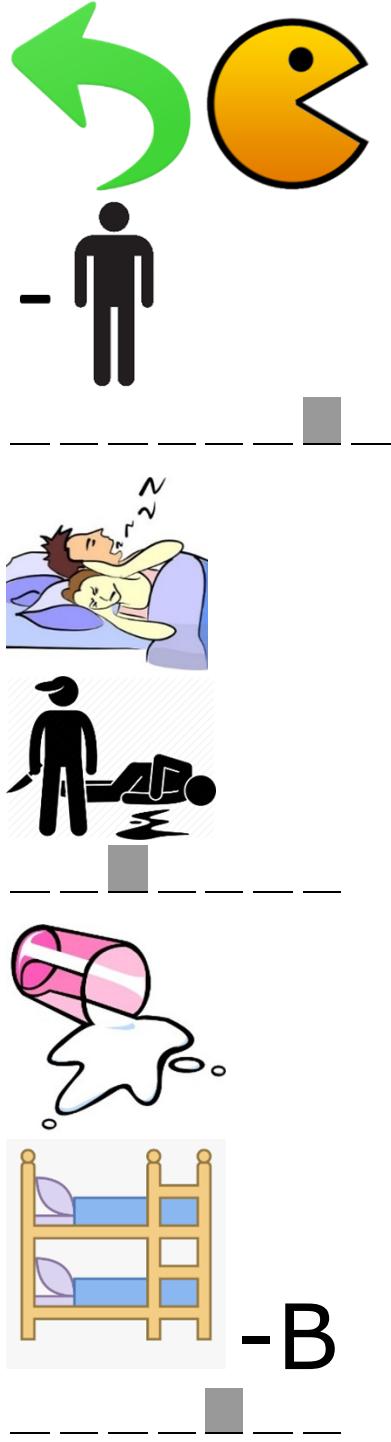


Active Lifestyle

We're visiting national parks from all over the world and have scheduled a wide range of activities. After all is done, what else will we have seen?



America The Beautiful

I finished my tour of all the U.S. states and territories in 2009. So the following year, I began a new tour of some amazing national sites. I was so pleased that I made donations and never wanted any of my quarters back; *America is Beautiful*.

Hint: Yellowstone National Park → 2010 → 1 (= 2010 – 2009) → A

Gettysburg National Military Park → _____ → _____ → _____

Mount Hood National Forest → _____ → _____ → _____

Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site → _____ → _____ → _____

Mount Rushmore National Memorial → _____ → _____ → _____

Shenandoah National Park → _____ → _____ → _____

Mount Hood National Forest → _____ → _____ → _____

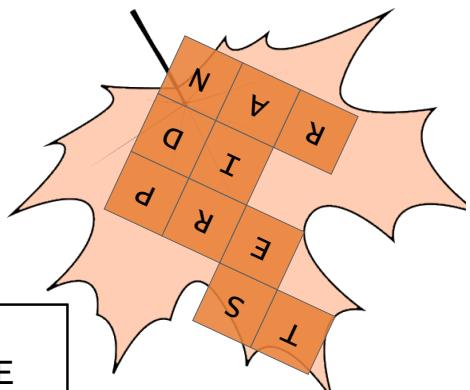
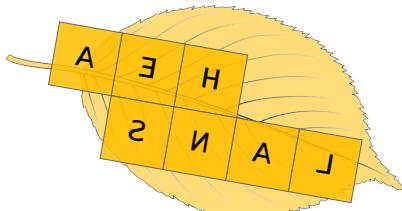
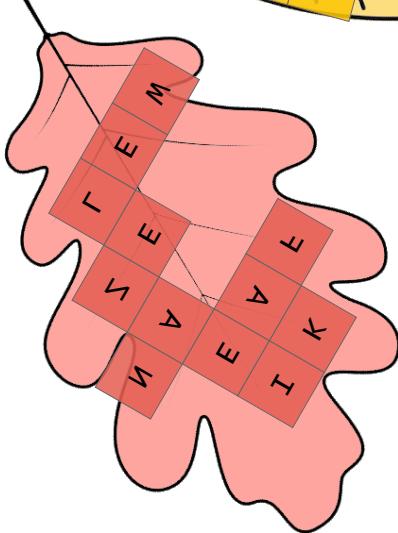
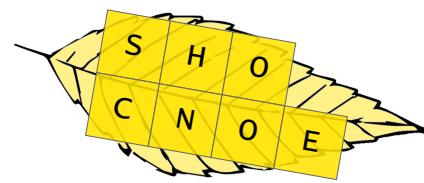
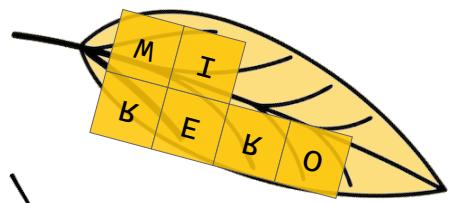
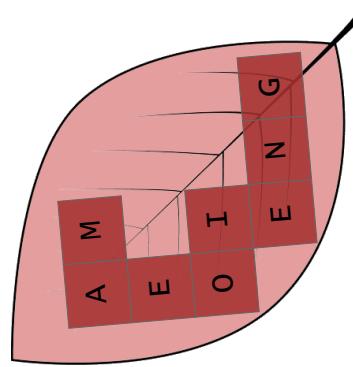
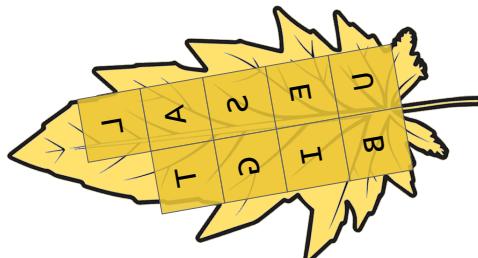
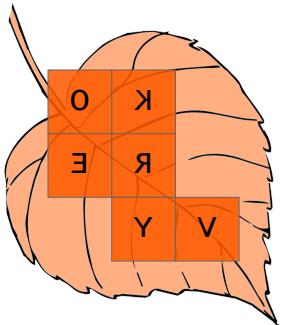
Cumberland Gap National Historical Park → _____ → _____ → _____

Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site → _____ → _____ → _____

Shenandoah National Park → _____ → _____ → _____

Autumn

The parks in Longview are gorgeous in autumn. One by one, the leaves come down, drifting gently in the wind, rotating, flipping, then covering part of the ground below.



P	U	M	W	E
P	K	I	N	C
R	V	B	O	M
C	E	M	N	G
O	G	B	E	R

Biomes Of The World

Find 9 biomes of the world. Then find a question and answer it.

W	T	G	F	R	E	S	H	W	T
T	R	H	R	E	R	A	E	A	E
R	E	W	A	A	R	S	A	T	M
O	S	T	H	D	S	N	A	E	P
P	E	E	N	B	N	S	G	R	E
I	D	U	I	A	L	G	I	G	R
C	T	E	V	A	S	T	A	E	A
A	A	A	N	R	T	H	T	Q	T
L	S	D	T	S	E	R	O	F	E
R	A	I	N	F	O	R	E	S	T
U	A	E	N	I	R	A	M	K	E

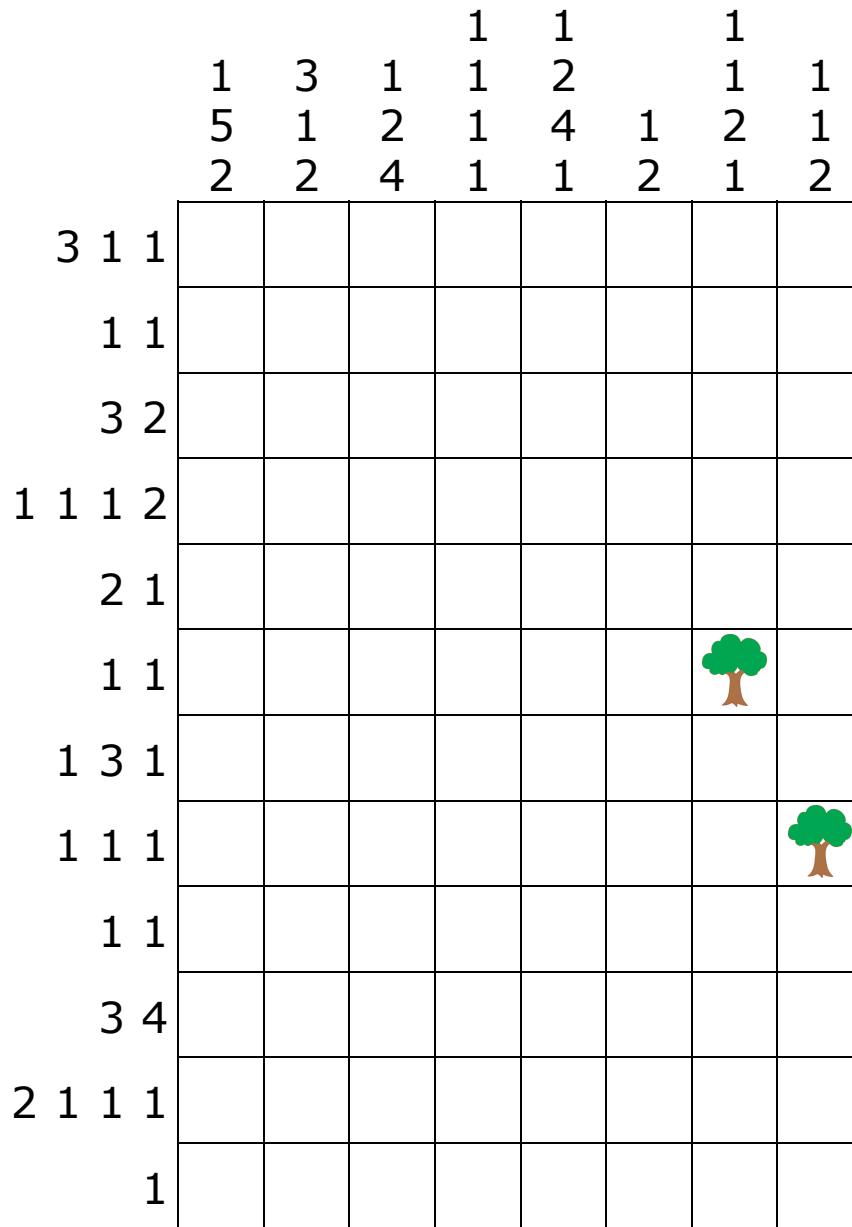


Cartography

You decide to visit your local National Forest, but when you get there, you find that they've run out of maps! You'll need to make your own before you set out.

Thankfully, the forest rangers provide you with the numbers from their most recent survey, which list the distribution of trees in each row and column. (If you are unfamiliar with nonograms, check out <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nonogram> for tips and solving techniques.)

Two of the trees have already been filled in for you. Now it's up to you to draw the rest!



If you can't see the forest for the trees, you'll have to get a feel for your surroundings...

Disney and the Great Outdoors

In my tour of Disney World, I saw so many familiar characters from nature. They were identified in coded text, and I guess the person who wrote their names was so lazy that they forgot exactly one letter for each word in each character's name....



EHSQ



KLSK



EQOZE HXF



XPCIAGP XL



PSQ



AXFPN SQHP



JAOAP DI BQQ



ASKL

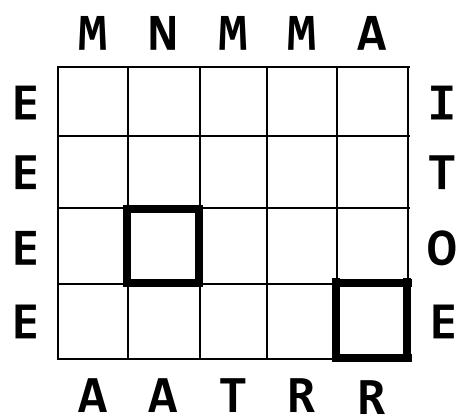
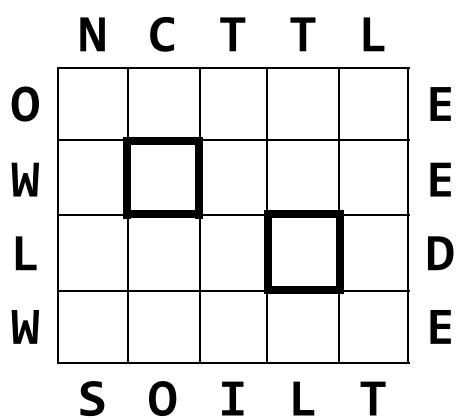
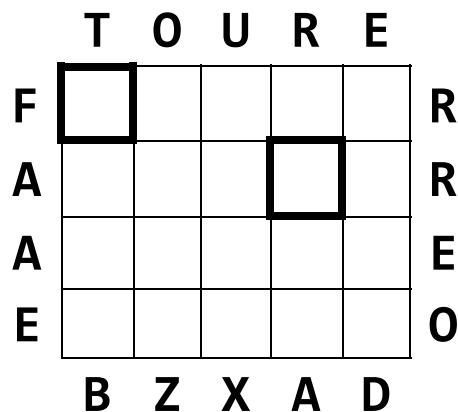
Down Under

Everything's backwards here, but that shouldn't matter when things are shortened.

eneulotirt =	<input type="text"/>
duol hgual =	<input type="text"/>
sliaN eniN =	<input type="text"/>
eot-cit =	<input type="text"/>
rebmun ton =	<input type="text"/>
retnuH retnuH =	<input type="text"/>
srekaL soL =	<input type="text"/>
gnitekram-itlum =	<input type="text"/>
hsiugnitxe dna ecarbme =	<input type="text"/>
kcehc cilcyc =	<input type="text"/>
erooM yraM =	<input type="text"/>
elbatroP yalP =	<input type="text"/>
senoJ semaJ =	<input type="text"/>
kcab eb =	<input type="text"/>
 <input type="text"/> 	

Down, Across, And All Around

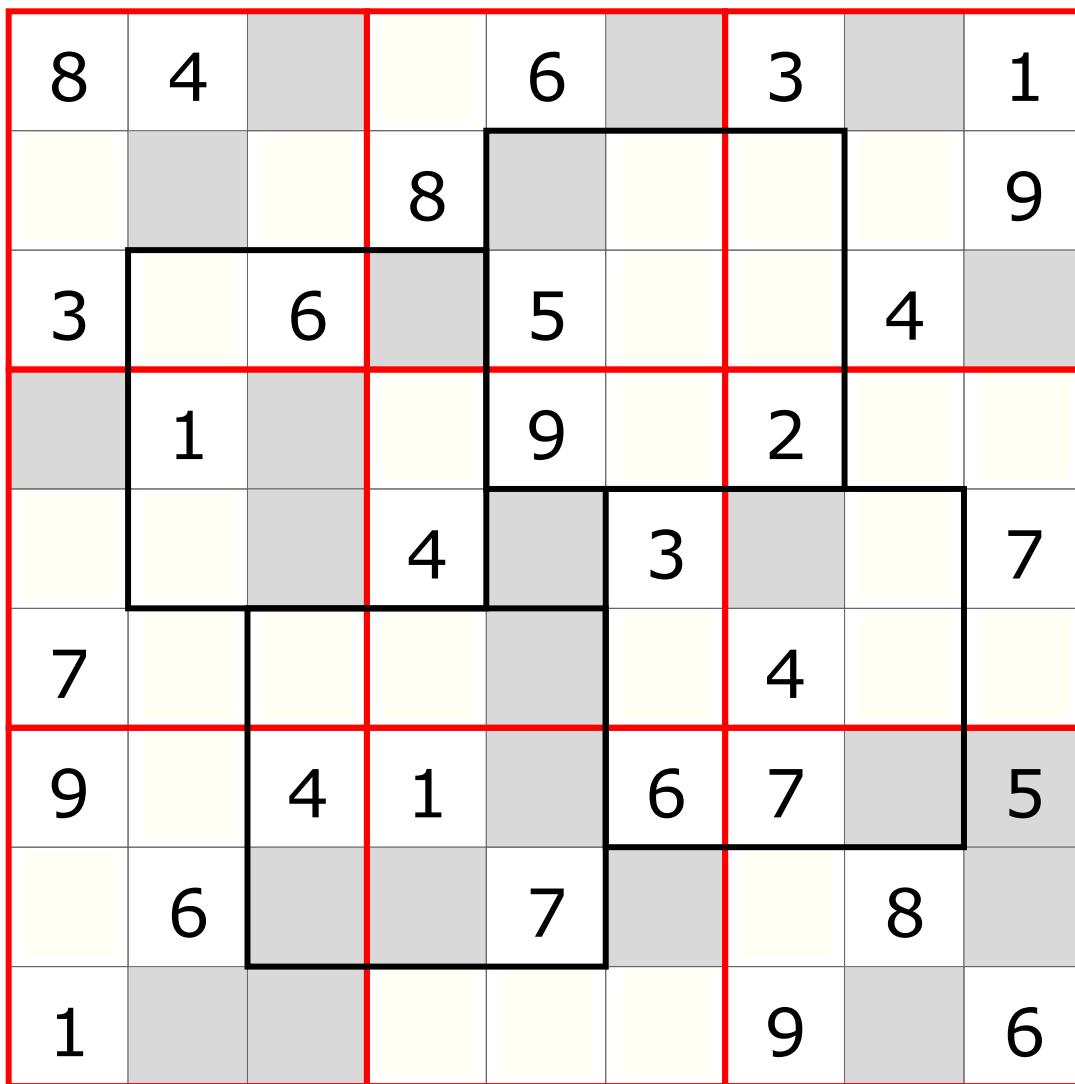
Oh no! We had three word rectangles (with five 4-letter words reading down in each grid and four 5-letter words reading across in each grid), but then the imprisoned letters decided they wanted to escape their cells! Can you put them back? Clues for the words are given on the right (in alphabetical order by word). Every letter outside the grid must either stay in its row or stay in its column. Six letters managed to escape to the great outdoors (from their outlined original cells); what kind of leftover junk are they?



- 43,560 square feet
- Japanese cartoons
- Part of a molecule
- A shade of blue; or, a cloud computing service
- What Muhammad Ali did in the past
- Black bird that caws
- An eon has several of these
- "And others", in Latin (2 words)
- "___ pas" (a mistake in etiquette)
- Part of an inventory
- Captioned images shared on social media
- Insignificant or minor; descriptor for "mortals"
- Back of the neck
- Related to a point on a graph
- Group of eight; or, one of four in an IP address
- A sung play; or, a web browser
- Pasta that looks like large rice
- Possesses; or, dominates someone on Xbox Live
- What a clarinet has but a flute doesn't
- "The story ___" (Recap introduction, 2 words)
- Thrust a knife; or, make a guess
- Engorge with liquid; or "Groovy!"
- "___ tots" (Ore-Ida fried cylindrical snacks)
- Swiss archer folk hero who shot an apple
- Brand of (poisonous) detergent pods
- Copy by hand on semi-transparent paper
- Put words to paper

Fences

This grid works like Sudoku but with stacked layers. Each large 3×3 square that is outlined red or black must contain each of the digits 1-9 once. There may be no repeated digits in any column or row. Ignore the light grey squares until you have solved the grid.

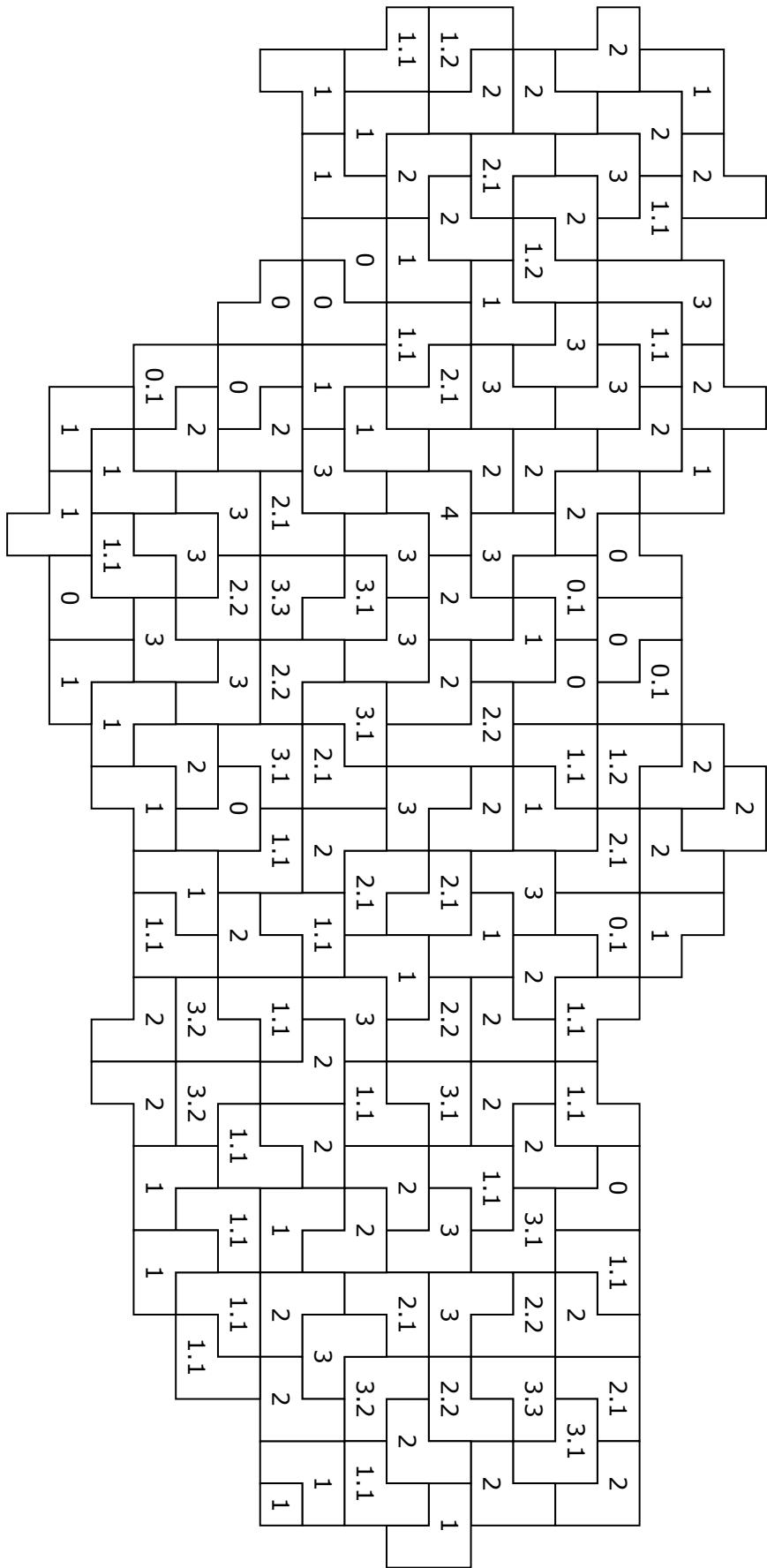


Once you have completed the puzzle, sum the light grey shaded digits in each of the nine rows, and convert those numbers to letters. Read off in order, top to bottom.

Answer:

Gardens

The gardeners at a local farm have been concocting some fun for this fall. They've already divided up the property into discreet planting beds. But then they lost the plans. Luckily, in each bed, they wrote down how many adjacent beds should be planted. A nearby bed touching only by the corner counts as one tenth adjacent. All unplanted beds are left open as paths.



Grab Crass In The Great Doubt Oars

I was spoon-fed these clues that seem to be for various plants...

Clue 1	Clue 2	Answer
dogs do this with their tails when they're happy	to peruse or skim an article or book, e.g.	→ _____ 2
British slang for bathroom	"the ___ of the iceberg"	→ _____ 7
tit for ___	also called leaf cabbage	→ _____ 6
Cher's ex: _____ Bono	Tom Sawyer's friend _____berry Finn	→ _____ 1
used to fasten a paper to a corkboard; not a pushpin, but instead a thumb___	to curse; it rhymes with "fuss"	→ _____ 4
a basketball hoop has this metal circular frame	not poetry	→ _____ 3
Coleman of Diff'rent Strokes	mildew partner	→ _____ 5
→ _____		Final Answer

Hippocampus

I have a strange way of remembering things; I only remember when the 'obvious' thing is wrong.

Here's the obvious answer, and why it's wrong:

A B C D E F

- Exactly one letter is in the right place already – the other five are in the wrong place.
- If I write down the number of 'ends' in each letter, then this should be symmetric from left to right (at the moment, it's 2-0-2-0-3-3).
- If I ignore the first letter in the true answer, the same is true for the 'holes' in the other five (at the moment, it's [1]-2-0-1-0-0).
- Two letters are rotated by 90 degrees, in opposite directions.
- The resulting 6-letter string is actually only a rough homophone of the real 7-letter answer – you'll have to change the 'F' to a 'TH'.

— — — — — — —

Jokes Around The Campfire

My wife said she hates the puns I make about her yellow oven glove.

However, I wasn't expecting to wake up one morning and find her

gone, I _____ mitt.

Astronomers got tired watching the moon go around the earth for 24 hours. They decided to call it a _____.

I'm addicted to collecting vintage Beatles albums. I need _____.

Why do submarine talent shows have so much stage fright? It's just too much _____.

Why did the judge deny the ghost bail? Too much of a _____ risk.

What did the starship captain say when he peed his pants?
_____ alert, number one.

70% of dishes are under seasoned according to a recent survey by the seasoning manufacturer's association. Take it with a grain of _____.

Why can't a bicycle stand on its own? Because it's two _____.

Does anyone want to buy my old vacuum cleaner?

It's _____ dust.

Did you hear about the guy who was addicted to salt?

Don't worry, he was _____.

How do crabs get around town every day? They use the _____.

I didn't think orthopedic shoes would help with my posture, but I _____ corrected.

What is the difference between a well-dressed man and a dog? The man wears a suit, the dog just _____.

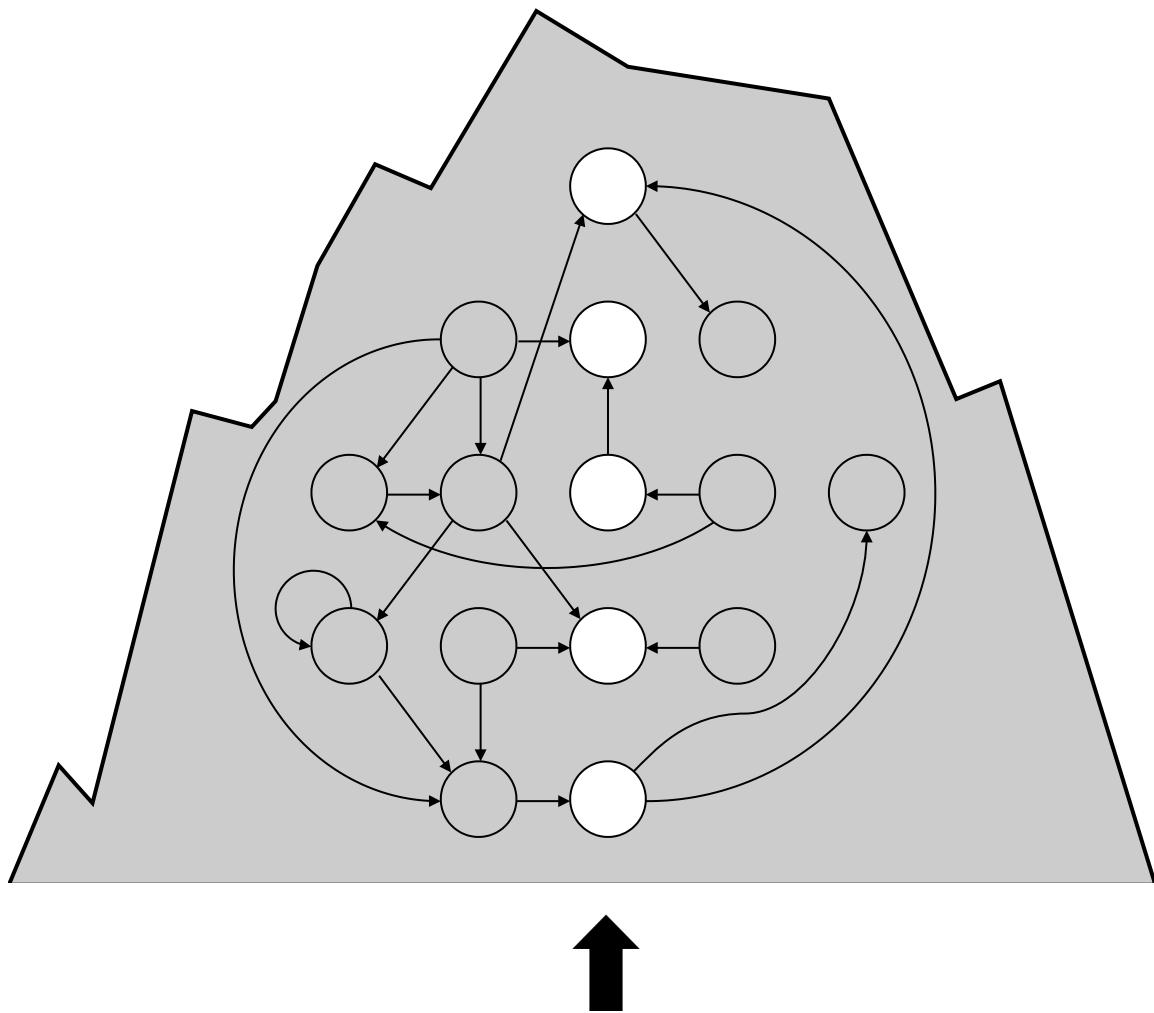
What do you give the violent criminal who cured cancer? The no _____ prize.

Was asked in an interview if I could perform under pressure. I said I'm not sure, but I can perform "Another One Bites the _____".

Grandpa survived a mustard gas attack during the war and came back a _____ veteran.

Two fleas walk out of a bar and are on the sidewalk. One turns to the other and says, "you want to walk or take a _____?"

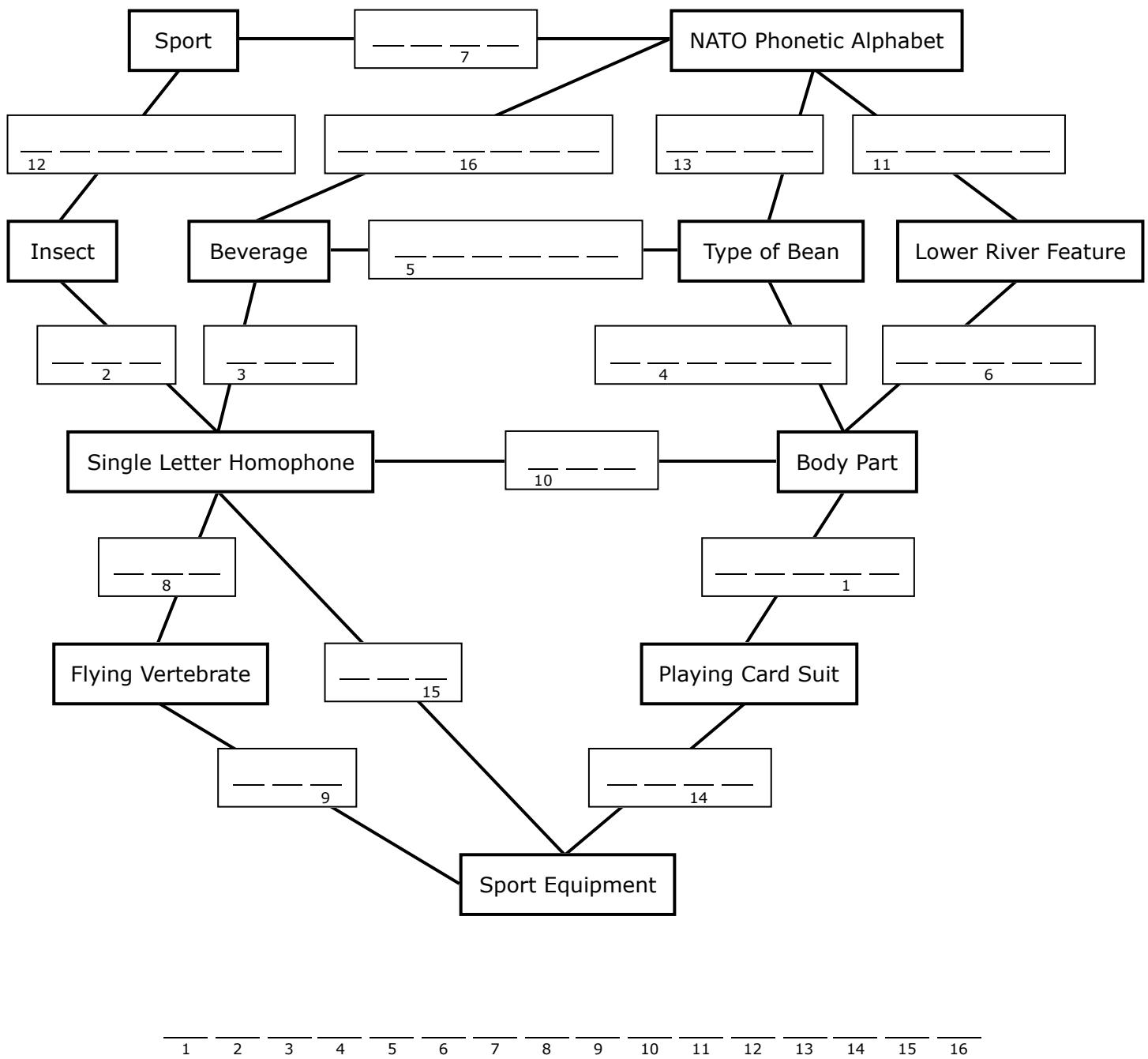
K2



Mythological horse-man	Non-native or alien
Rot	First sword of Braavos, Syrio _____
The return portion of a mountain climb	Have a vision of the future
Pokémon with the most evolutions	Covered in frost
Talk show host DeGeneres	Motivate by offering a reward
Deadly sin	Preposition (or slang for "passionate about")
Short written work on a given subject	Prestigious league of universities
Spreadsheet application	Shabby or disreputable
Leftover portion	Nau'Jour Lazier Grainger's stage name
Expedition	Ballerina's skirt



Networked Hints



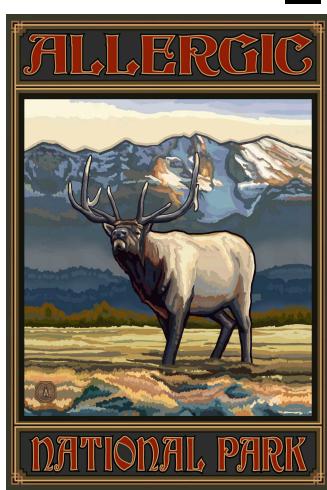
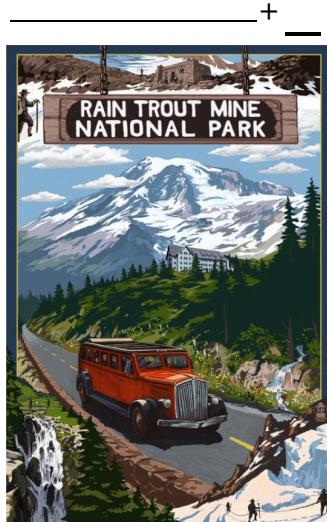
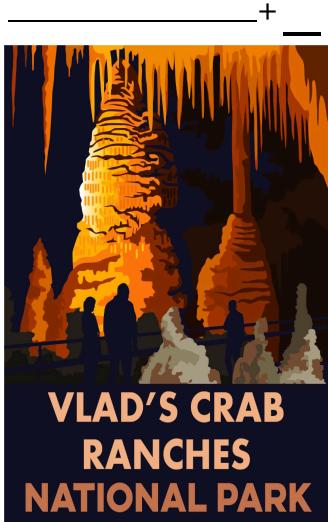
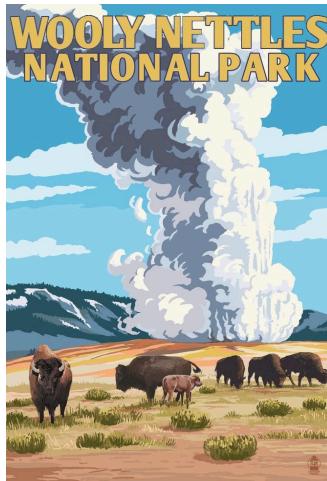
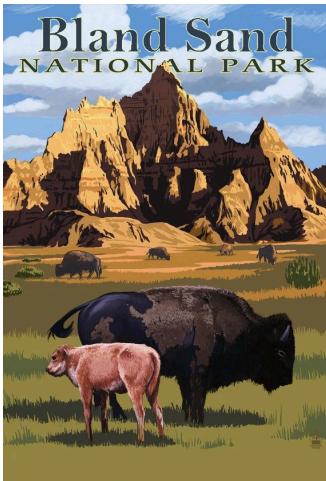
Outdoor Action!

The government has decided to subsidise movie production that emphasizes the beauty of nature. So we've decided to produce sequels to a classic outdoor movies. The problem is our marketing department says that outdoor movies are dull. So we've decided to mix a great action movie into each one to make that boring landscape more interesting. What are our new movies called?

Description	Movie
In 1963, Ennis and Jack kindle their forbidden love in the beautiful Wyoming mountains, but their relationship is interrupted when alien siblings Sara and Seth arrive and need help getting to an enchanted peak to get their spaceship and save the world for the 3rd time.	----- ----- ----- 14 ----- 6 ----- ----- 3 -----
Lucy and George find romance and scenic vistas among the splendour of Florence and love reignites when they return to London. However, George's friend James works at a London spy agency and they must all travel to Paris and then San Francisco with Stacey to save the market for Silicon Chips.	----- ----- ----- 9 ----- ----- 16 ----- 10 ----- ----- -----
John is a lieutenant in the civil war who befriends Lakota Americans. They name him after he befriends a wild animal. He returns to the city and starts a financial firm. He is initially successful, but he and his partners Jordan and Donny's wild parties lead to too many lies and too many drugs to allow long term success.	----- ----- ----- 13 ----- ----- 2 ----- ----- ----- 4 -----
Alex is a mountain climber who wants to be the first to climb El Capitan alone and unaided by people or ropes. He loses his grip and thinks he has died, but discovers he is a video game character whose real name is Buddy and who comes back to life when he dies. With his best friend, they use their knowledge to free all the game characters and save Millie and Keys.	----- 18 ----- 8 ----- ----- -----
Christopher abandons his family and education to live as a supertramp in the wild on a magic bus and ends up in Alaska. There he becomes an old style cowboy and teams up with Artemus and James, who are tracking down an inventive killer called Arliss who has built a giant mechanical spider to defend himself.	----- ----- ----- 7 ----- ----- ----- ----- 1 ----- ----- 12 -----
Biologist Robert is a lone human in a world of monsters trying to find a cure for the vampires, but he loses his life trying. Escaping the city for spectacular Montana, brothers Tristan and Alfred form a love triangle with Susannah and, in a story spanning 60 years, tear the family apart.	----- ----- ----- 15 ----- ----- ----- ----- 17 -----
A school party visits an outdoor landmark in Australia for a picnic, but students Miranda, Irma and Marion go missing, as well as a teacher. The FBI send their agent John and scientist Stanley to the abandoned island location to rescue the missing girls before their captor can blow up San Francisco with missiles.	----- 11 ----- ----- 5 ----- ----- -----

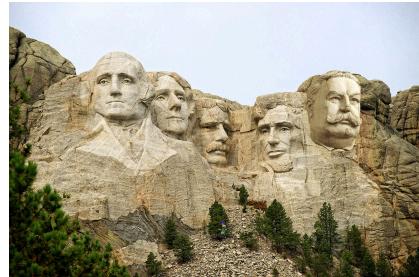
Posters

I was so excited when I got the POSTERS back from the printers. Imagine my disappointment when I spread them out at the REST STOP. Look how jumbled they got! They even added a letter to each!



Rushmore

Many recommendations have been made to add to Mount Rushmore. But the mountain remains today with just George, Tom, Ted, Abe, and Bill, pictured here...



Travelling around the USA, we spotted eight other collections. And yet, something is amiss with each...

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antelope• Bryce• Hells• Waimea• Yosemite <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chihuahuan• Great Basin• Mojave• Oaxaca• Sonoran <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bluegrass• Evergreen• Garden• Magnolia• Tulip <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AquaSox• Kraken• Reign• Seawolves• Sturgeon <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carolina• Hampshire• Jersey• Mexico• York <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dover• Frankfort• Memphis• Montpelier• Pierre <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cochiti• Grand Coulee• Hoover• Oroville• Peach Bottom <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lopez• Orcas• San Juan• Shaw• Sidney <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>

Shouldn't That Rhyme?

The English language has travelled all over the world, importing into it words and usage from everywhere. As a result, things are a lot more complicated than you might hope.

The answers to the clues on the left are in alphabetical order. Pair them up. When writing pairs, write the alphabetically first item on the left of the pair, and the alphabetically later item on the right. The pairs are also sorted alphabetically by the left item in the pair.

Clues

- Pose a challenging, confusing problem [6]
- Drizzle liquid on roasting food (especially meat) [5]
- Living creature that moves on two legs [5]
- Hereditary social class that restricts occupation and association in some cultures [5]
- Stop doing something [5]
- Approach a particular person or place [4]
- Person who travels under a body of water [5]
- Medical symptom of having a high temperature [5]
- Document with blank spaces to fill in information to submit to an organisation [4]
- Be in possession of [4]
- Person's primary place of residence [4]
- Partner in intense romantic or sexual relationship [5]
- At no time [5]
- Device held with two hands that has one or two blades and is used to propel a boat, often a canoe [6]
- Speak very enthusiastically about, or a large party with dance, drink and often drugs [4]
- Flow of water that travels over land [5]
- Vehicle sent to space, especially Mars [5]
- Playfully make fun of a person [5]
- Walking motion of goose, duck, or old human [6]
- Crisp batter cake baked in an iron and eaten with butter and syrup [6]
- Erased completely (e.g. a hard disc) [5]
- Invertebrate animal with soft body and no limbs often found in earth [4]

Answers

- 3 -----
- 4 -----
- 5 -----
- 10 -----
- 1 -----
- 9 -----
- 6 -----
- 11 -----
- 2 -----
- 7 -----
- 8 -----

Final Answer: _____
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Signposts

Follow the signposts to traverse the distance between word pairs. Then zip on over to the destination.

Collaborator of butcher and
candlestick maker

Dehydrated meat

00099

David's weapon
against Goliath

Funny circus employee

01044

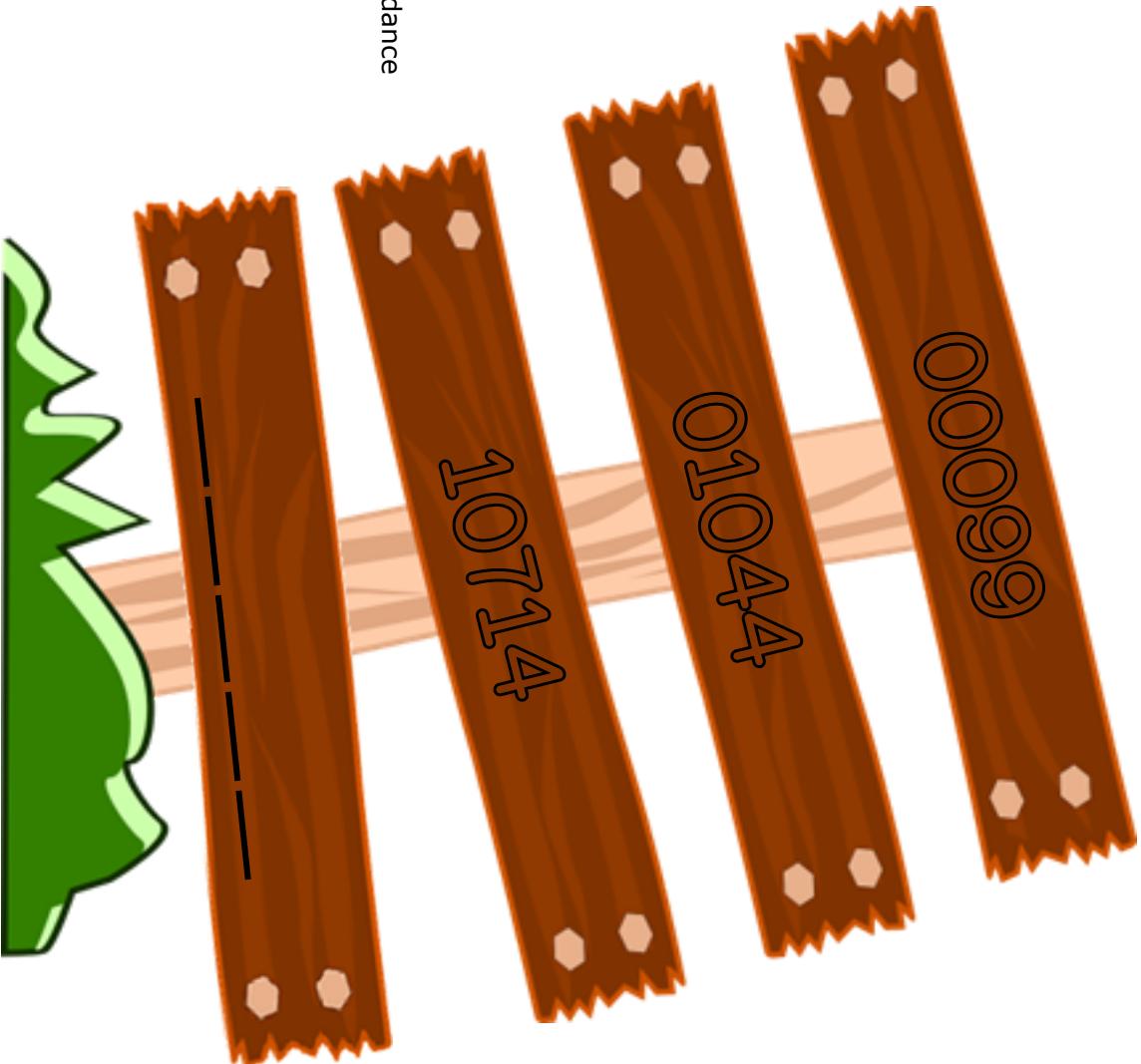
Genetic duplicate

Slight smile

10714

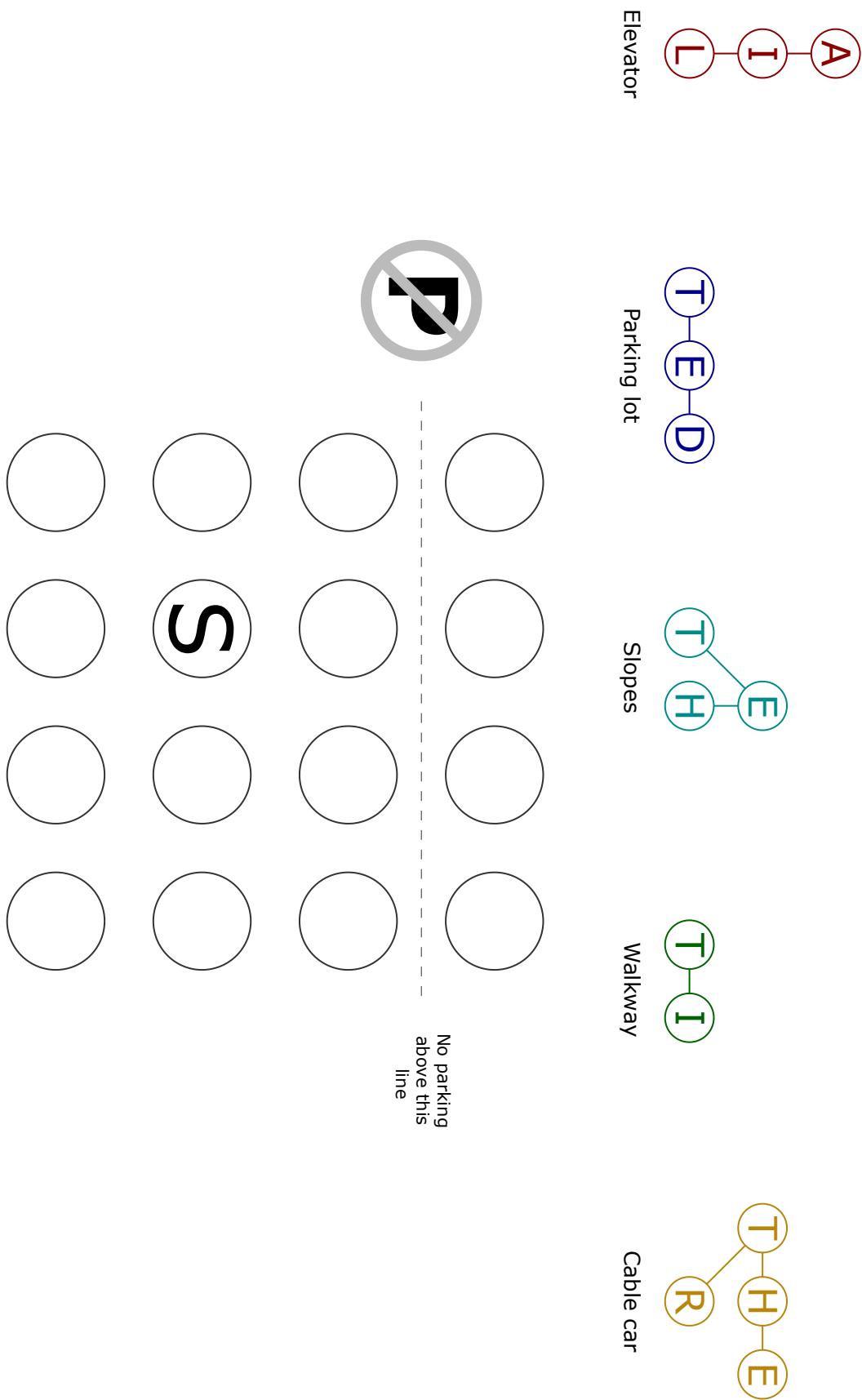
Spicy condiment or style of dance

Tongue's sense



Ski Resort

It may be summer on the Microsoft campus, but our friends in New Zealand are ready to go skiing. Let's try to map out this ski resort and figure out why.



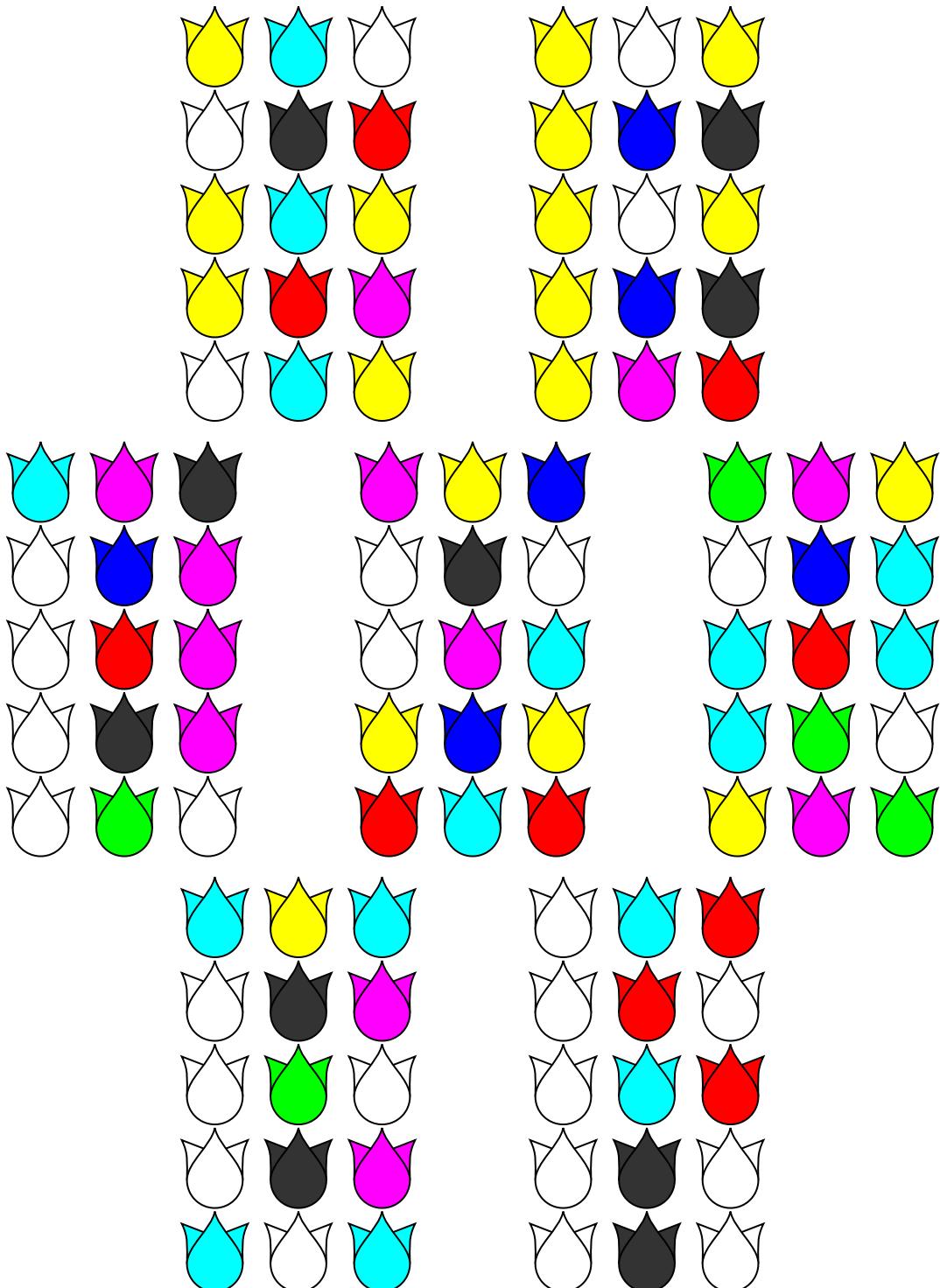
Slow Down!

*Many puzzlers read right past the flavor text—often to their detriment. The answer to this puzzle is the letter from the alphabet that's **missing** in the paragraph below.*

A book known as "Gadsby" has a curious trait. It fails in using a singular thing—a thing that you should quickly submit for points (hint: it's not a consonant). Solving this is all about knowing just what to do in this puzzling mix.... (Want a hint? Look up at what's in italics....)

Spring

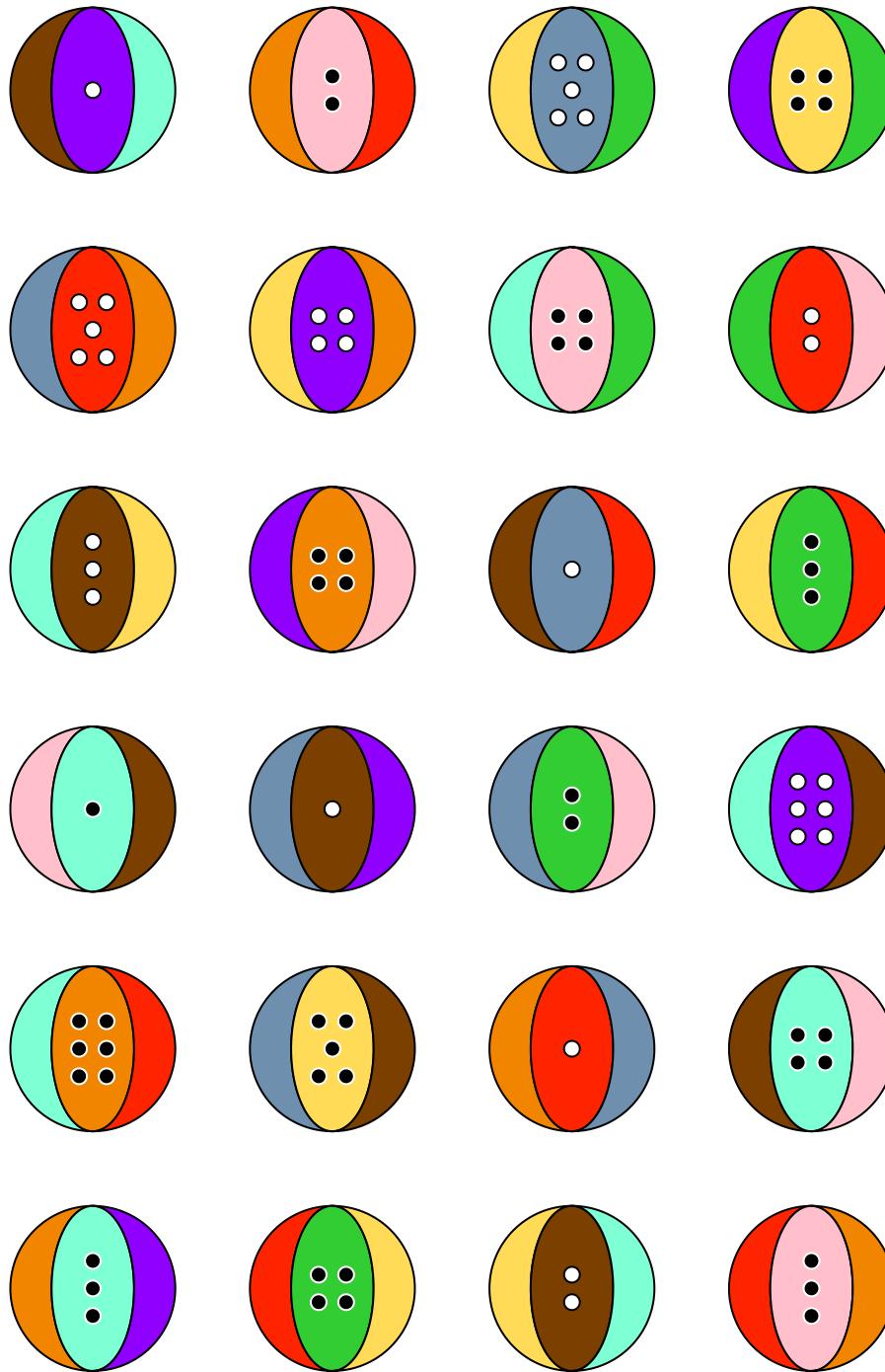
This spring's tulip festival in Mount Vernon featured tulips that were white, red, green, blue, cyan, magenta, yellow, and black. It made me wonder what they'd look like in a dark room under the different primary colors of light.



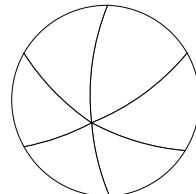
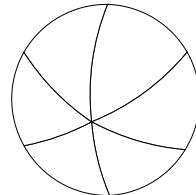
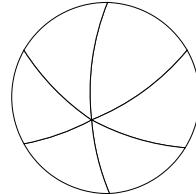
Summer

At Ocean Shores this summer, a local toy store had an odd beach ball display with this note:

"Each of these 24 beach balls has 1 out of 3 possible color patterns. Each pattern has 6 different colors drawn from a pool of 9 possible colors named below. Each color is used in 2 patterns and not the 3rd. There's no way to tell up from down on a beach ball, so the pattern used may go around the beach ball in either direction. Dots have been added to one slice of each of these beach balls, but the dots are only useful in conjunction with the opposite (unseen) slices. Can you figure out the secret password?"



Pattern worksheet



Colors in alphabetic order
(not pattern order)

AQUAMARINE

CHOCOLATE

DENIM

FLAMINGO

LIME

MUSTARD

SCARLET

TANGERINE

VIOLET

Erase

The Hunt

The answer is hiding in the grid. In fact, the question – every word of it – is hiding in the grid.

What was leader hopeful we would get to see while on safari, besides elephants and giraffes?

R	F	Z	U	Y	J	W	Q	M	B	M	Y	Q	M	J	W	L	V	F	R	S	L	L	J	
B	L	J	D	L	T	I	W	H	I	L	E	F	E	A	N	D	G	U	S	N	C	A	B	T
R	E	K	O	Q	K	B	A	Z	H	G	A	F	L	A	P	Y	I	N	A	I	S	B	E	L
Z	A	B	X	G	D	C	Q	S	O	Z	T	I	E	G	N	Q	R	J	F	D	T	S	S	N
F	D	Y	Y	P	B	Y	T	S	P	P	W	N	P	N	Q	J	A	V	A	G	K	M	I	R
M	E	G	W	H	D	L	N	B	E	G	H	T	H	S	E	L	F	M	R	N	E	X	D	V
U	R	L	T	V	V	I	D	G	F	X	J	Z	A	A	V	I	F	N	I	N	I	T	E	Z
A	W	N	L	S	S	V	K	T	U	U	S	J	N	E	Q	B	E	K	W	U	L	G	S	J
A	E	Q	S	N	L	R	H	W	L	N	W	M	T	H	F	Q	S	D	A	U	M	Z	O	M
Y	T	O	S	E	E	R	W	O	U	L	D	X	S	W	H	A	T	D	S	O	G	F	N	B
I	R	B	R	T	S	D	A	K	V	J	P	K	B	M	M	F	V	G	Y	Q	J	F	S	K

There's Air in the Something Tonight

I was playing golf with my millionaire friend in Scotland. He is the Laird of the estate. We played against another debonnaire pair who were so good they left us in despair.

1	Scammer who falsely claims to use the supernatural to see the future	— — ~ — — — 
2	Device for riding up to a high point to ski	— — ~ — — 
3	Place where flying machines take off and land	~ — — — 
4	Tube shaped dessert normally made from chou pastry, filled with cream and topped with chocolate	—  — ~
5	Type of rodent called “_ dog”, and a great place to put a little house	—  ~ —
6	Part of a golf course that leads to the green	— ~ — 
7	You need 15 pieces of this to work at Chotchkie’s, according to its manager. But that’s just the bare minimum!	 — ~
8	Single person game, often involving cards or Windows	— — — —  ~ —
9	Stack of rocks in Scotland used as trail or burial marker	 ~ —
10	Children’s story often about magical or fantastic beings and places	— ~ — — 
11	Outdoor area containing rides, stalls, food and recreation, often temporary or mobile	— ~ — 
12	Fix something that is broken	 — — ~
13	Diminish or weaken a person, device or organisation	 — — ~
14	Soldier in part of French army, especially of non-French origin	— — — — — — — ~ 
15	Person who styles, colours, trims or shaves your locks	— ~ — 
16	Route to heaven according to the Zeppelin song	 — ~ — — —

Final Answer: _____

Tire Change

If you're going on a long road trip, it is essential you know how to change your vehicle's tires. To do so effectively, simply replace all instances of a repeated letter with a new repeated letter.

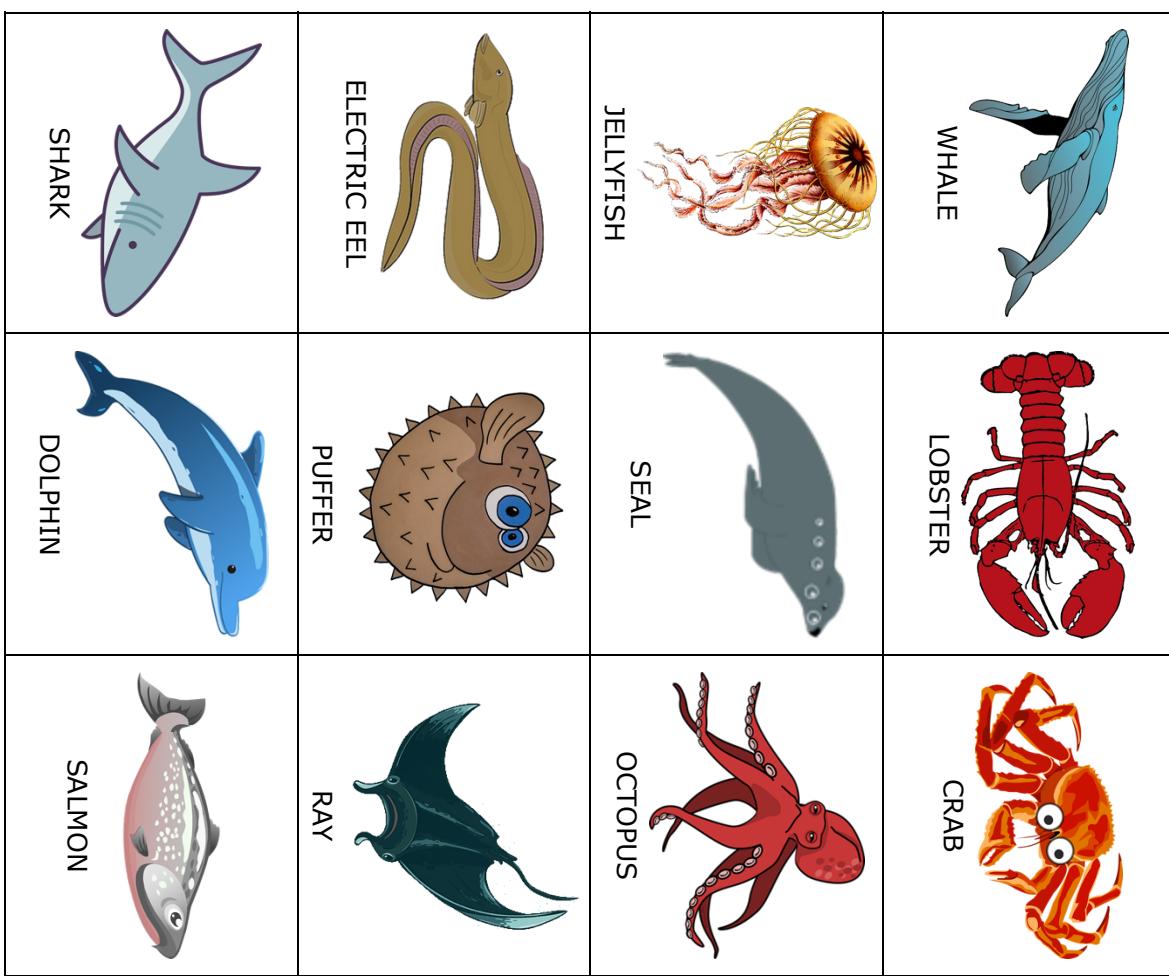
With this knowledge, your ability to see our country's wide EXPANSES will be EXPANDED!

TIGHT	— — — — —	—
TAIGA	— — — — —	—
DEAREST	— — — — — — —	—
CROCHET	— — — — — — —	—
DIGNIFIED	— — — — — — — —	—
PORPOISE	— — — — — — — —	—
ANGINA	— — — — — — —	—
MOTOR	— — — — —	—
COLONEL	— — — — — — —	—
SQUATS	— — — — — —	—
LEVELED	— — — — — — —	—
MESQUITE	— — — — — — — —	—
CUTLET	— — — — — — —	—
TORTE	— — — — —	—
BURBS	— — — — —	—
DIZZYING	— — — — — — — —	—
SLATS	— — — — —	—
MONOCLE	— — — — — — —	—
COMICAL	— — — — — — —	—
PREPS	— — — — —	—
CORRODE	— — — — — — —	—
TORSO	— — — — —	—

Up For Air

I went scuba diving with a marine biologist the other day. It was awesome! He managed to train a group of animals to communicate a secret password. One at a time, 10 of them contributed a letter then moved away, leaving 2 behind.

Note: animals are *neighbors* if they share an edge or a corner.



Marine Animal Letter

Can be anagrammed into words meaning “pub drinks” or “transaction”

1st _____

Has 3 neighbors that start with the same letter as one another

1st _____

Can be split into 2 parts which anagram into a piece of portable furniture and a course

4th _____

Can form a word meaning “strengthen” when you swap the positions of its first 2 consonants

2nd _____

Sounds like a fish feature on a child’s toy?

7th _____

Has a vowel which is present in every neighbor and not present in any non-neighbor

2nd _____

Can be typed with one hand on a QWERTY keyboard

2nd _____

Has more syllables than the other animals

7th _____

Can form new words if you replace its last letter with the first letters of any of its neighbors

1st _____

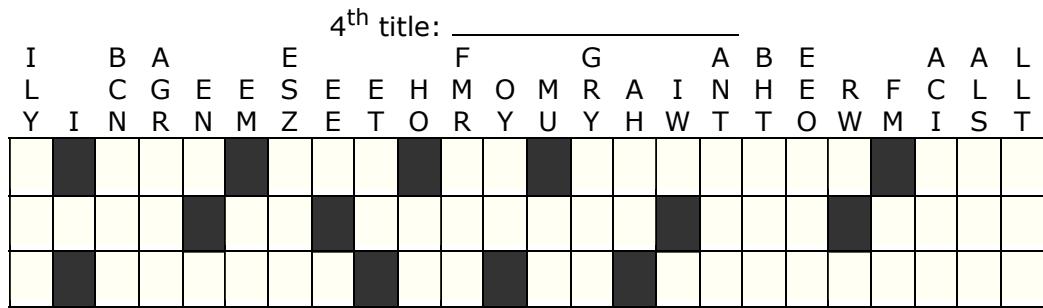
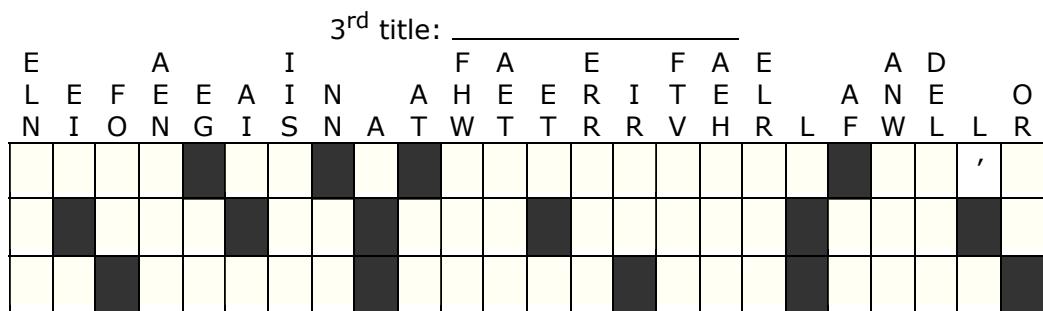
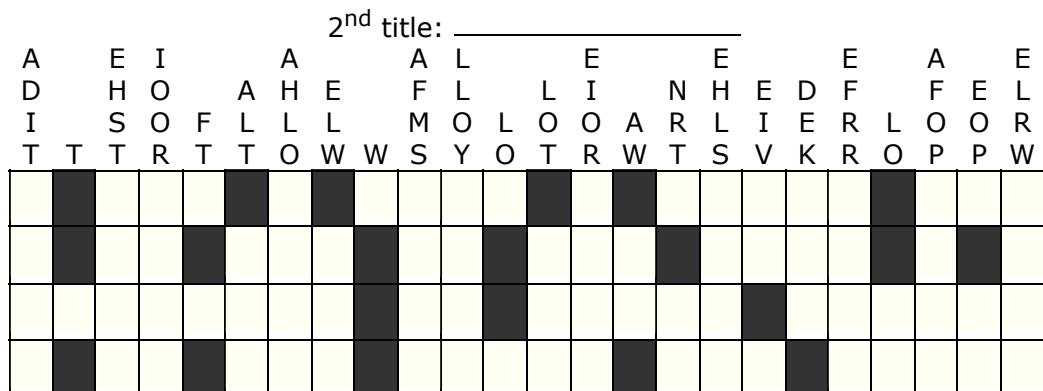
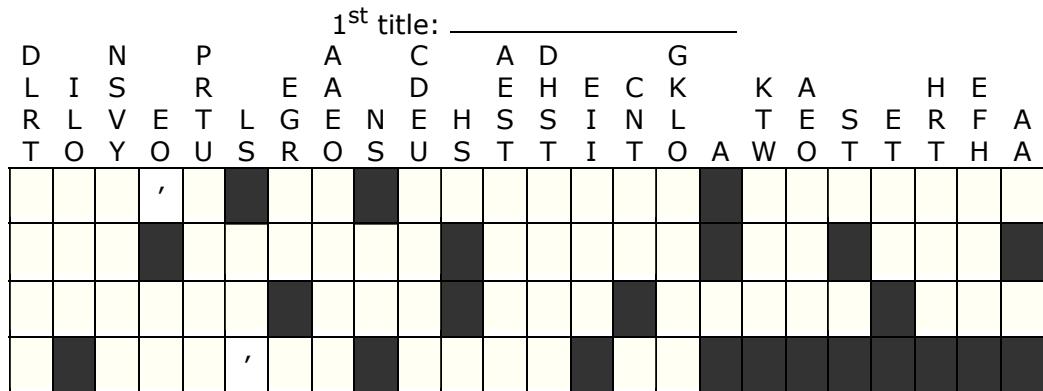
Can form a new word when you swap its first letter for the one to the right on a QWERTY keyboard and move that new letter to the end

4th _____

Final answer: _____

Waterfalls

Some thoughts on the subject...

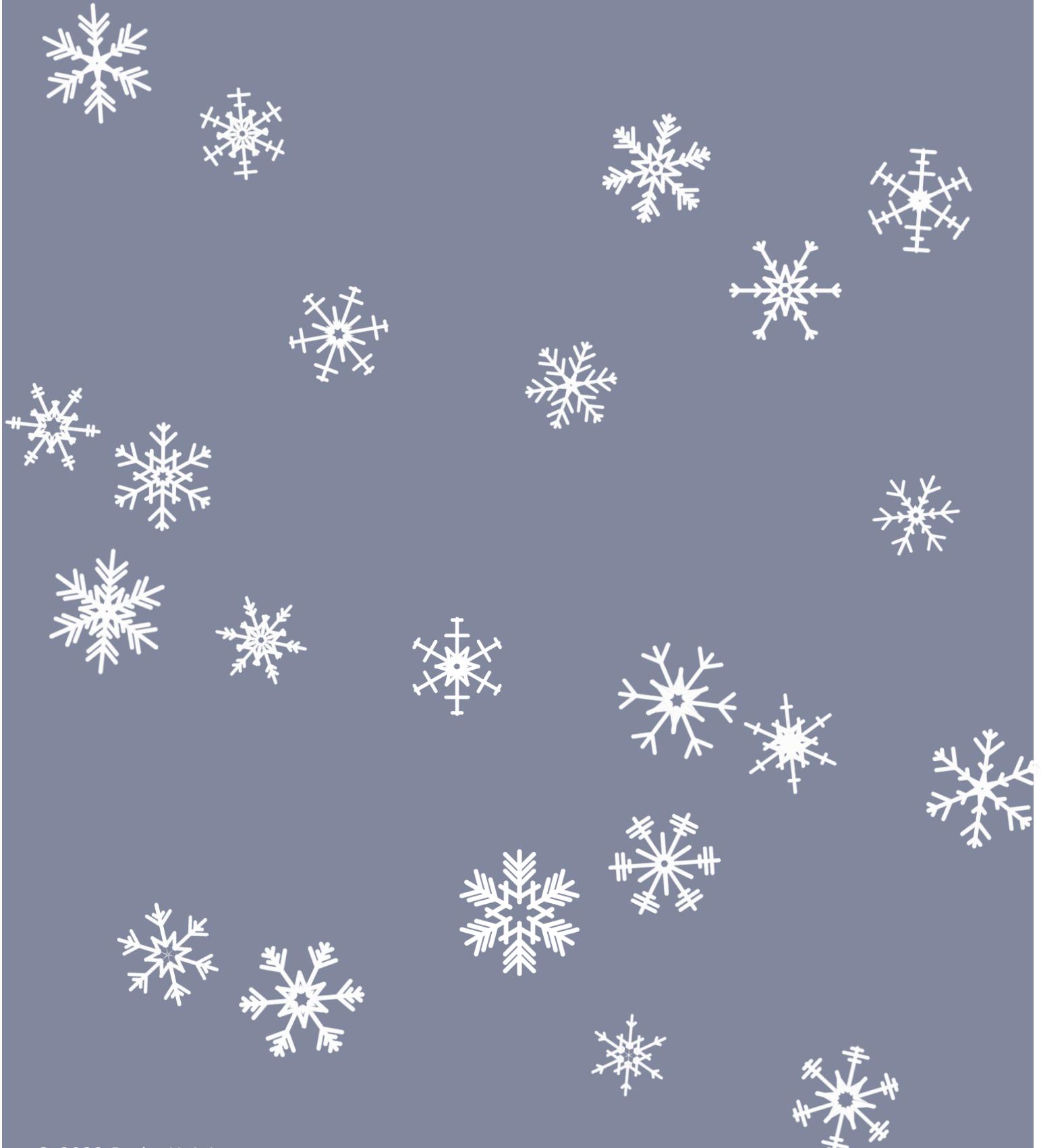


Boxes below are labeled <title number>. <letter index>, where spaces don't count among letters.

3.2	4.12	1.4	2.12	4.3	???	3.4	1.10	4.2	(1.3	2.7	4.13)	1.1	4.11	3.3	2.4)
-----	------	-----	------	-----	-----	-----	------	-----	---	-----	-----	------	---	-----	------	-----	-----	---

Winter

The long and short of it: Leavenworth is particularly breathtaking in winter.



Annual Anthem

This is a metapuzzle. Find and solve the four related feeder puzzles. For each feeder puzzle, enter its name and result on the same row across both grids, filling rows 2-5. Then, use these entries to solve these two Wordle-inspired puzzles. Cells that would normally be colored yellow by classic Wordle rules have been split into two logical sub-groups colored blue and red. (When you have nothing left to fill, you'll be on the right track!) You may submit the 1st green answer, the 2nd green answer, or both together for additional hints.

P	U	Z	Z	L	E

Hint: this green answer is a word related to the 4 above it.

R	E	S	U	L	T

Hint: this green answer is not a word at all.

Coastal Erosion

This puzzle is a metapuzzle. To solve it you must first have completed four feeder puzzles.

After solving each puzzle, the solution system will give you four numbered groups, each containing four letters. Insert the letters at the top or left of the grid where the numbers show, ensuring to put the first letter at the top for vertical groups.

Letters slide into the grid horizontally or vertically without changing order within a group leaving one letter in each cell. Thick lines represent all the word breaks, but letters will slide past them as needed. Ignore the shaded boxes until you have inserted the letters.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	...							
10	...							
11	...							
12	...							
13	...							
14	...							
15	...							
16	...							

After you have inserted all the letters, extract those that are shaded to form the final answer. Extract the **first** word from the light blue squares in row order **top to bottom**, using the column numbers shown under the answer blanks. Extract the **second** word from the light red squares in row order **bottom to top**, again using the column numbers shown.

This will get a two word answer telling you about our activity and what we saw at the coast.

Final Answer:
Column: