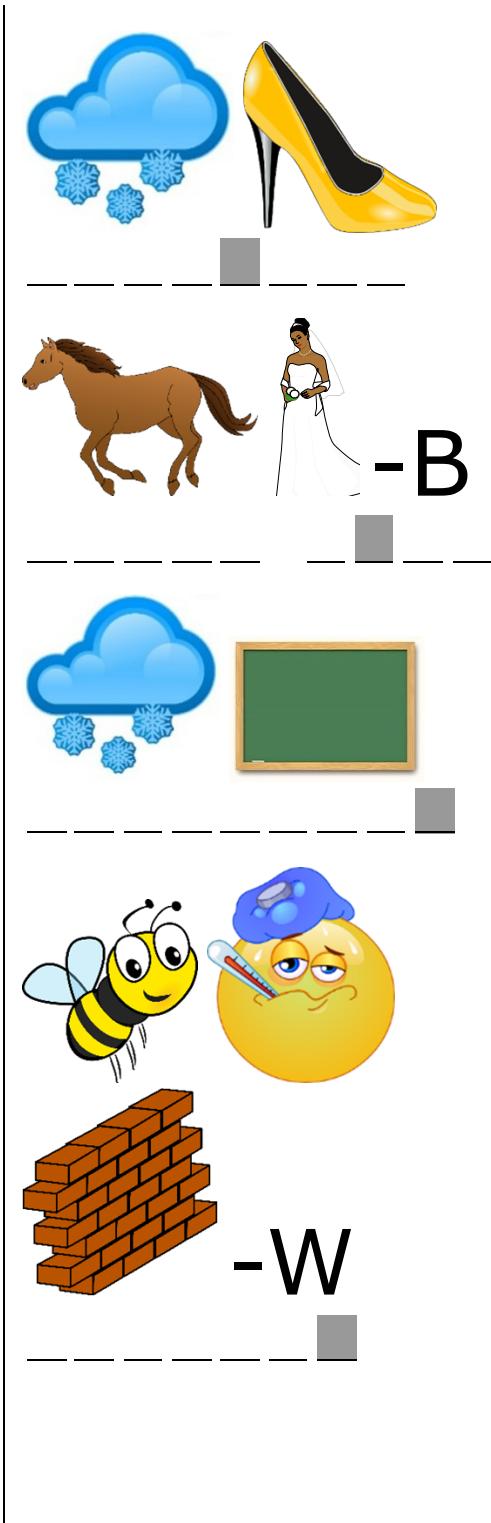
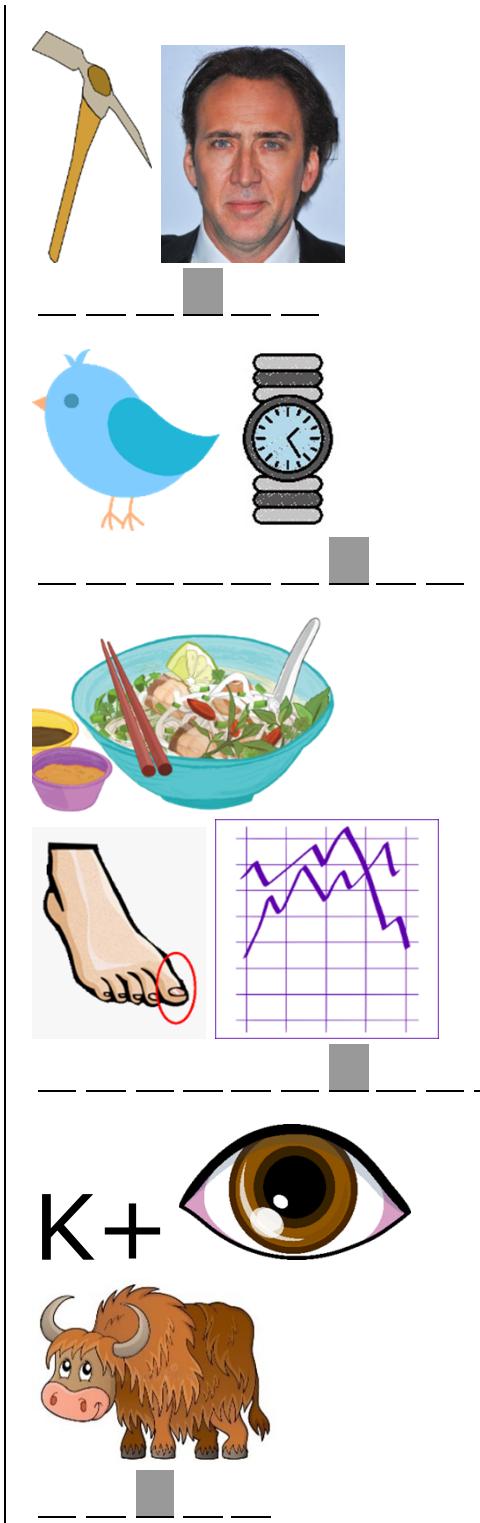
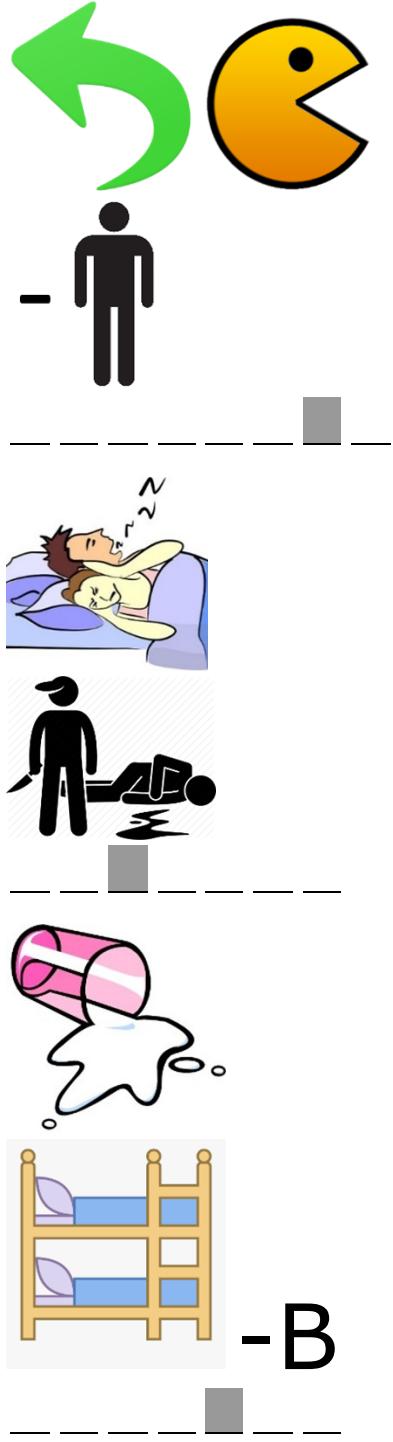


Active Lifestyle

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 → _____ → _____ → _____

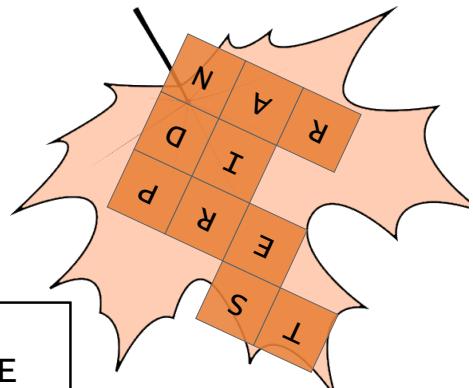
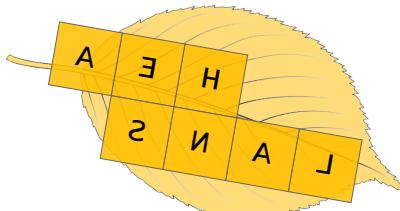
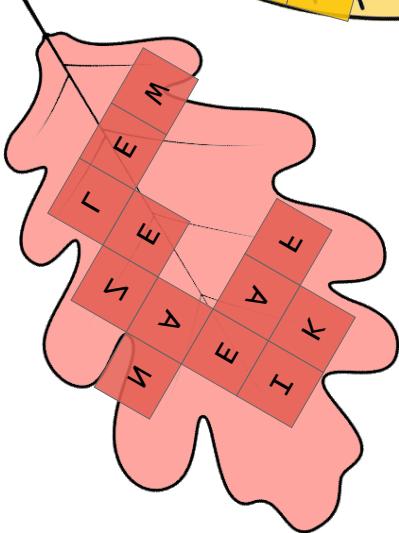
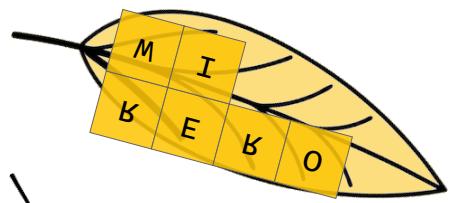
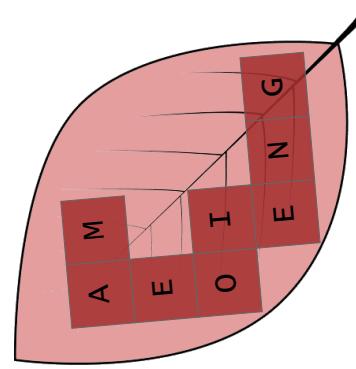
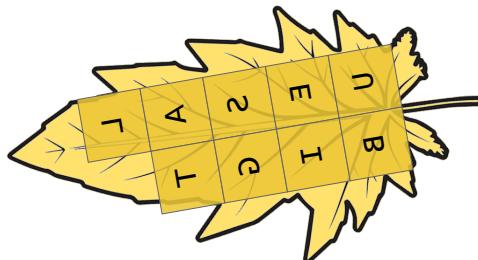
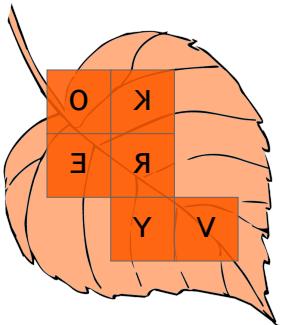
Cumberland Gap National Historical Park → _____ → _____ → _____

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

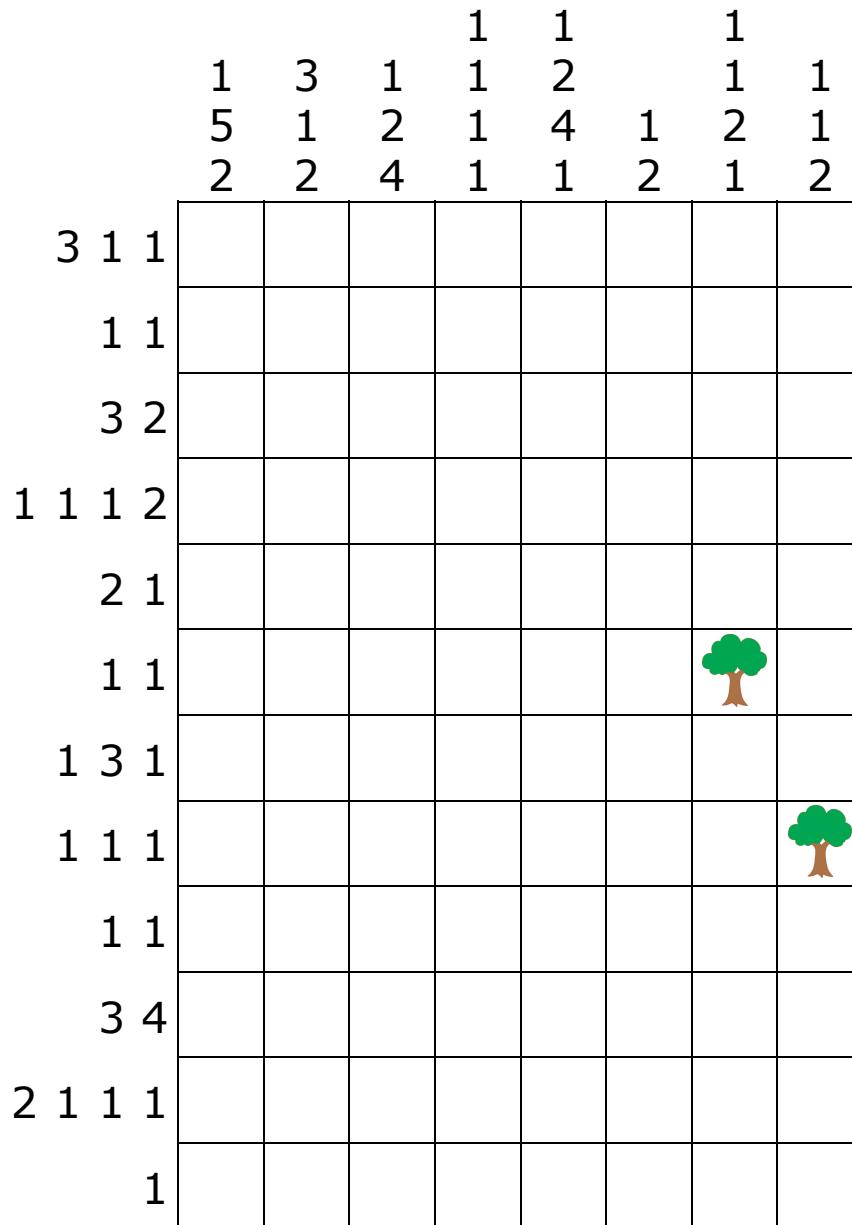


Cartography

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

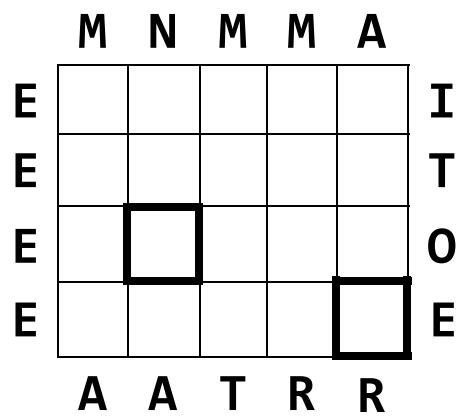
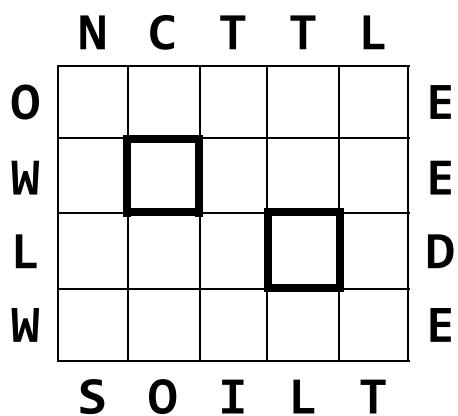
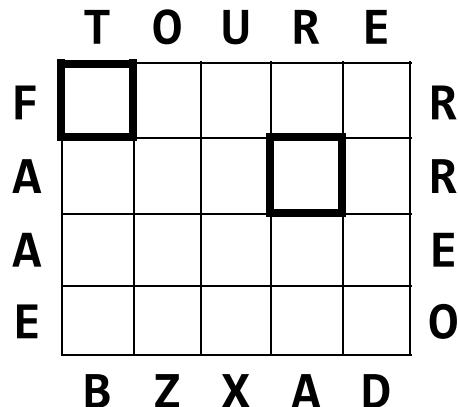
Down Under

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

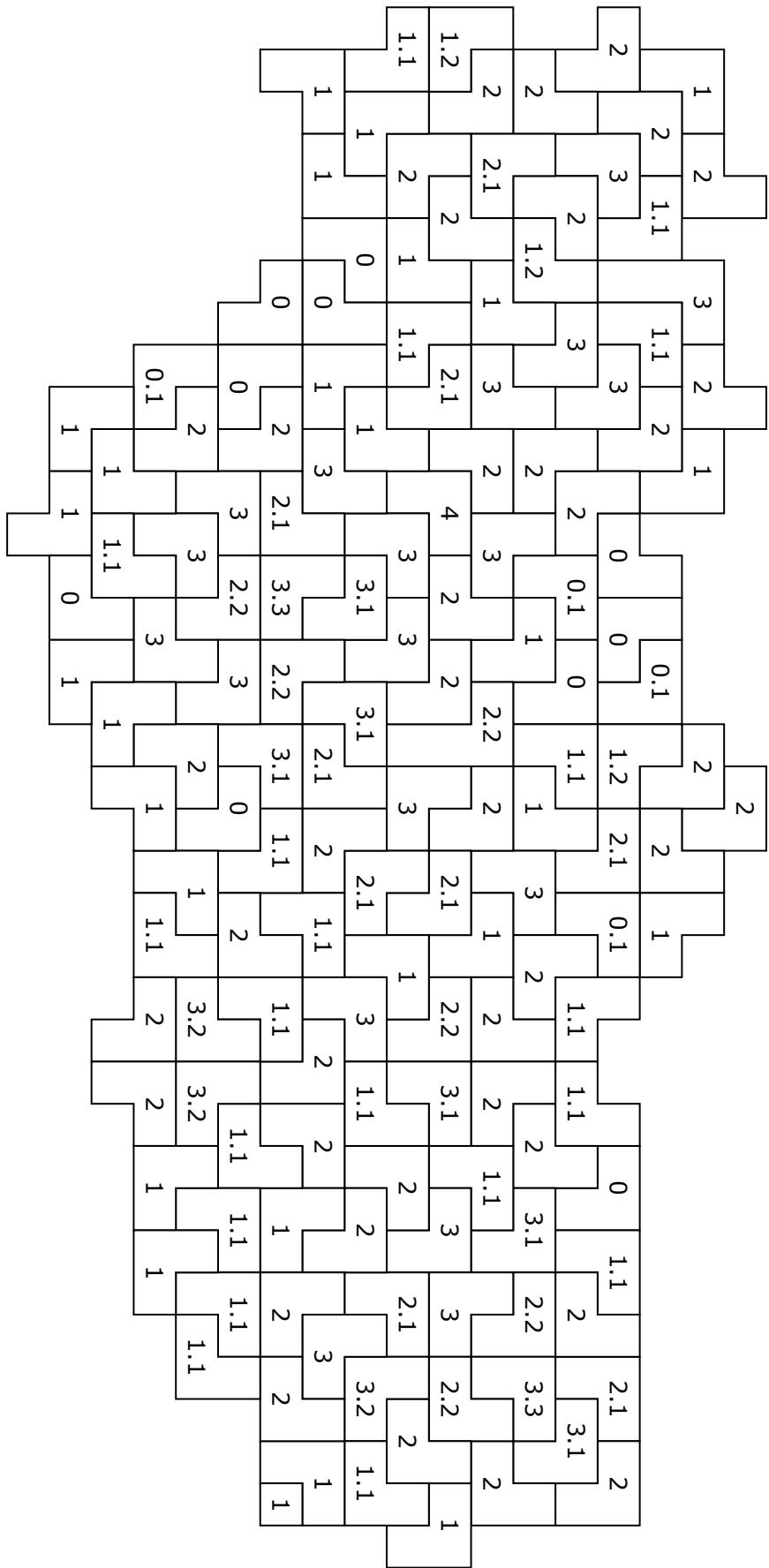
Oh no! We had three word rectangles (with five 4-letter words reading down in each grid and four 5-letter words reading across in each grid), but then the imprisoned letters decided they wanted to escape their cells! Can you put them back? Clues for the words are given on the right (in alphabetical order 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

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 _____.

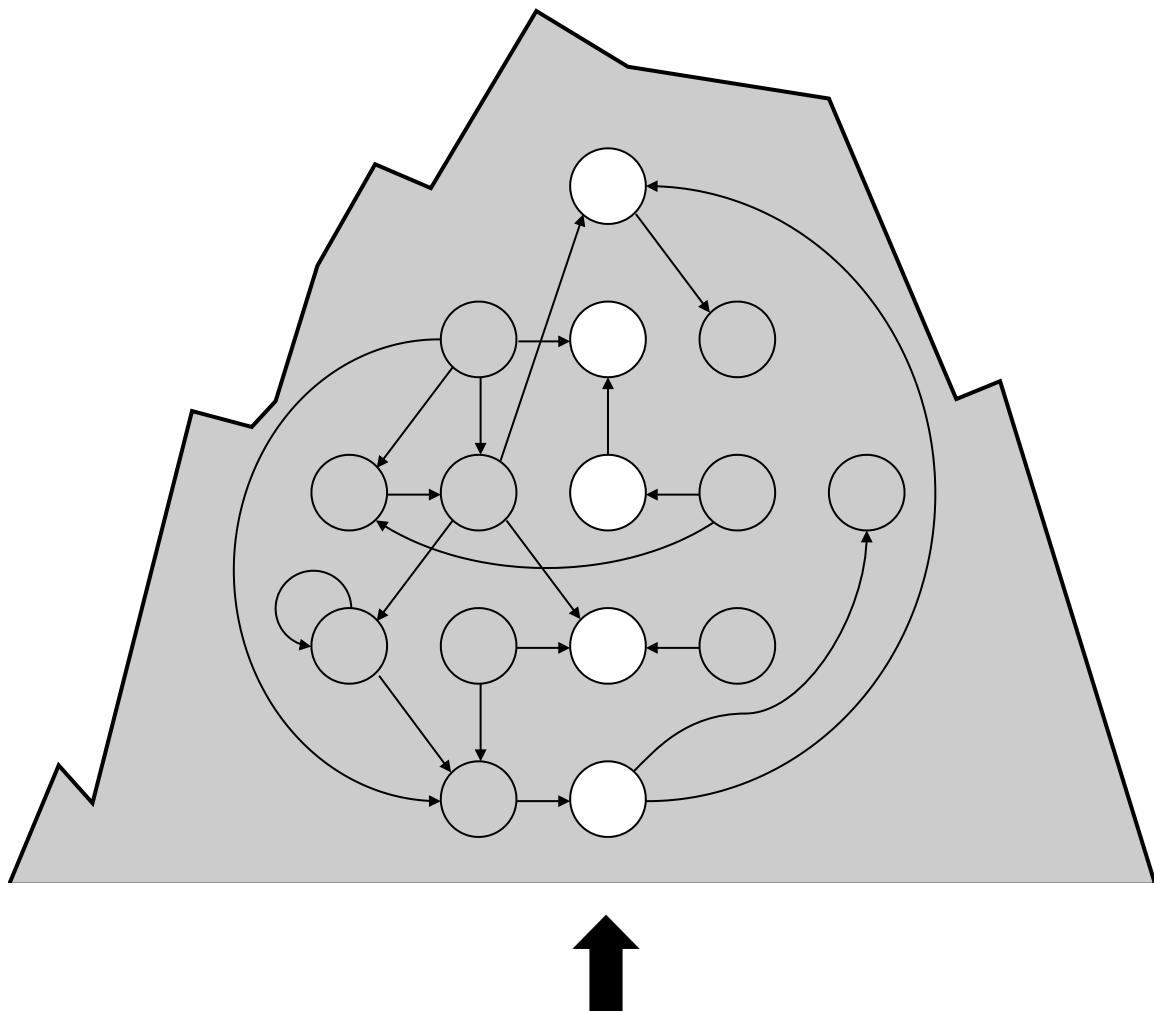
What do you give the violent criminal who cured cancer? The no _____ prize.

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 _____?"

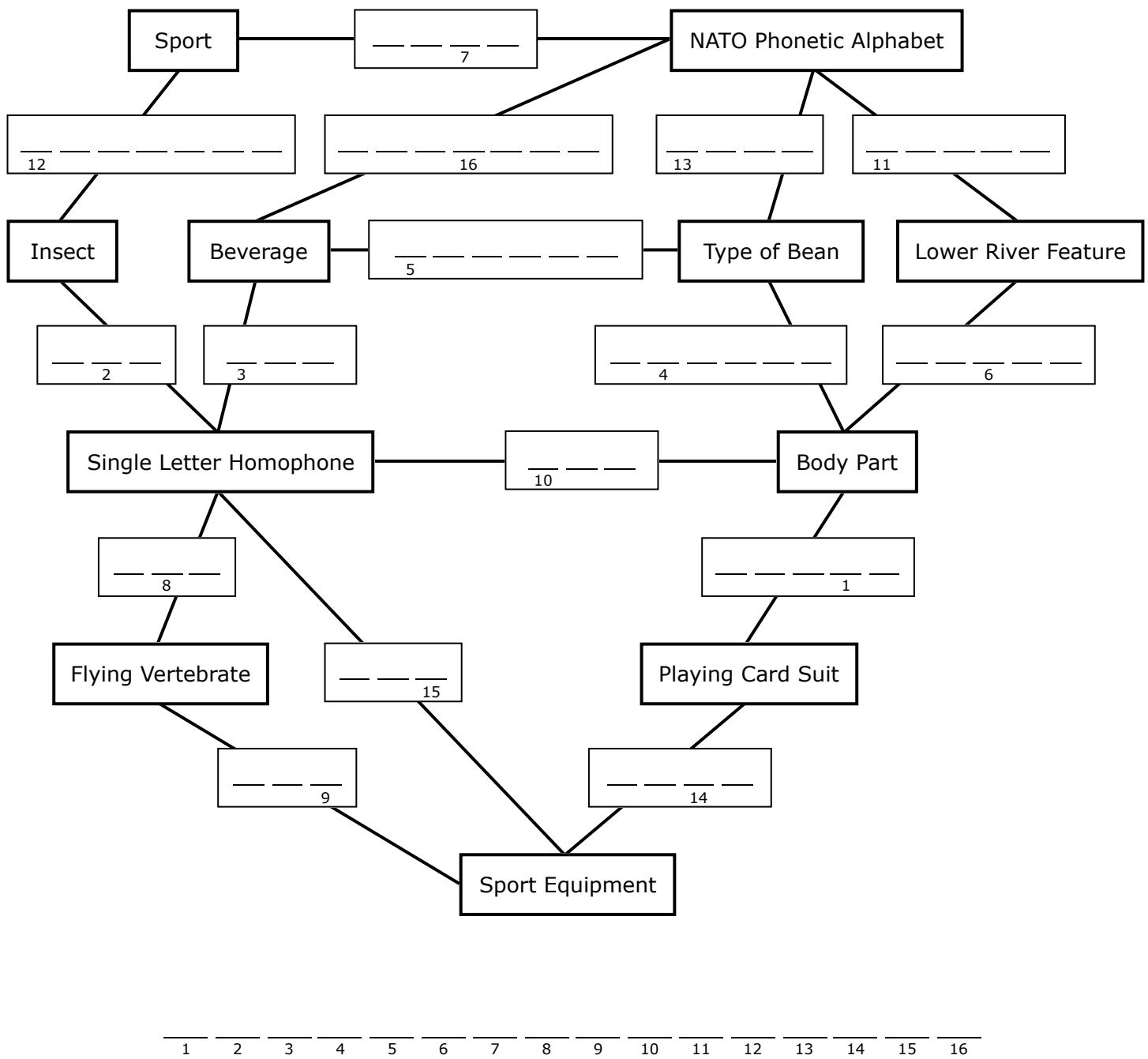
K2



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

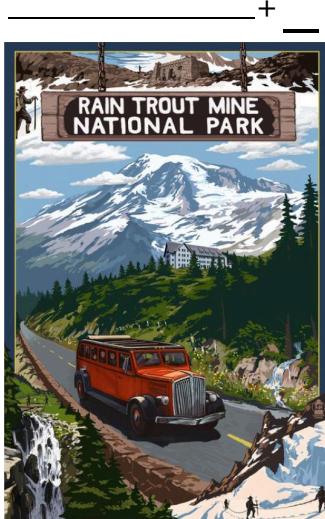
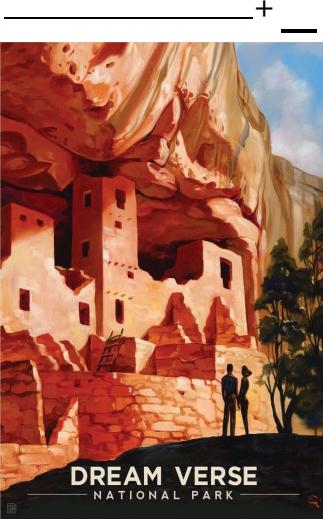
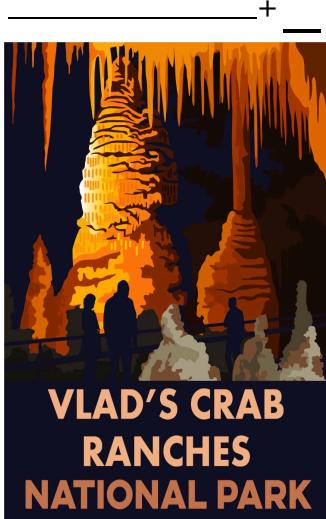
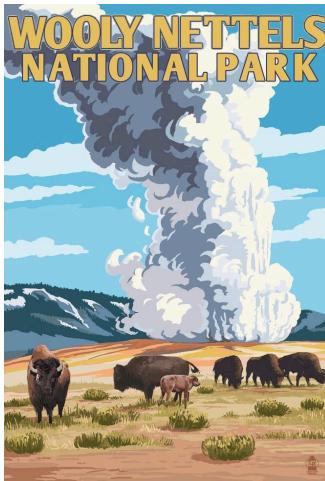
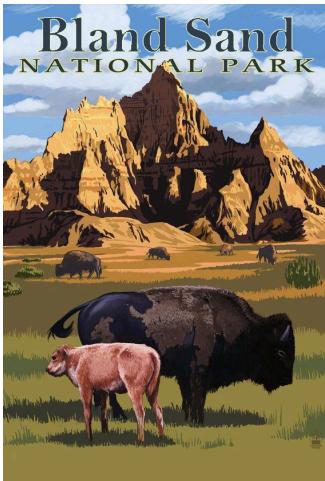


Networked Hints



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>

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

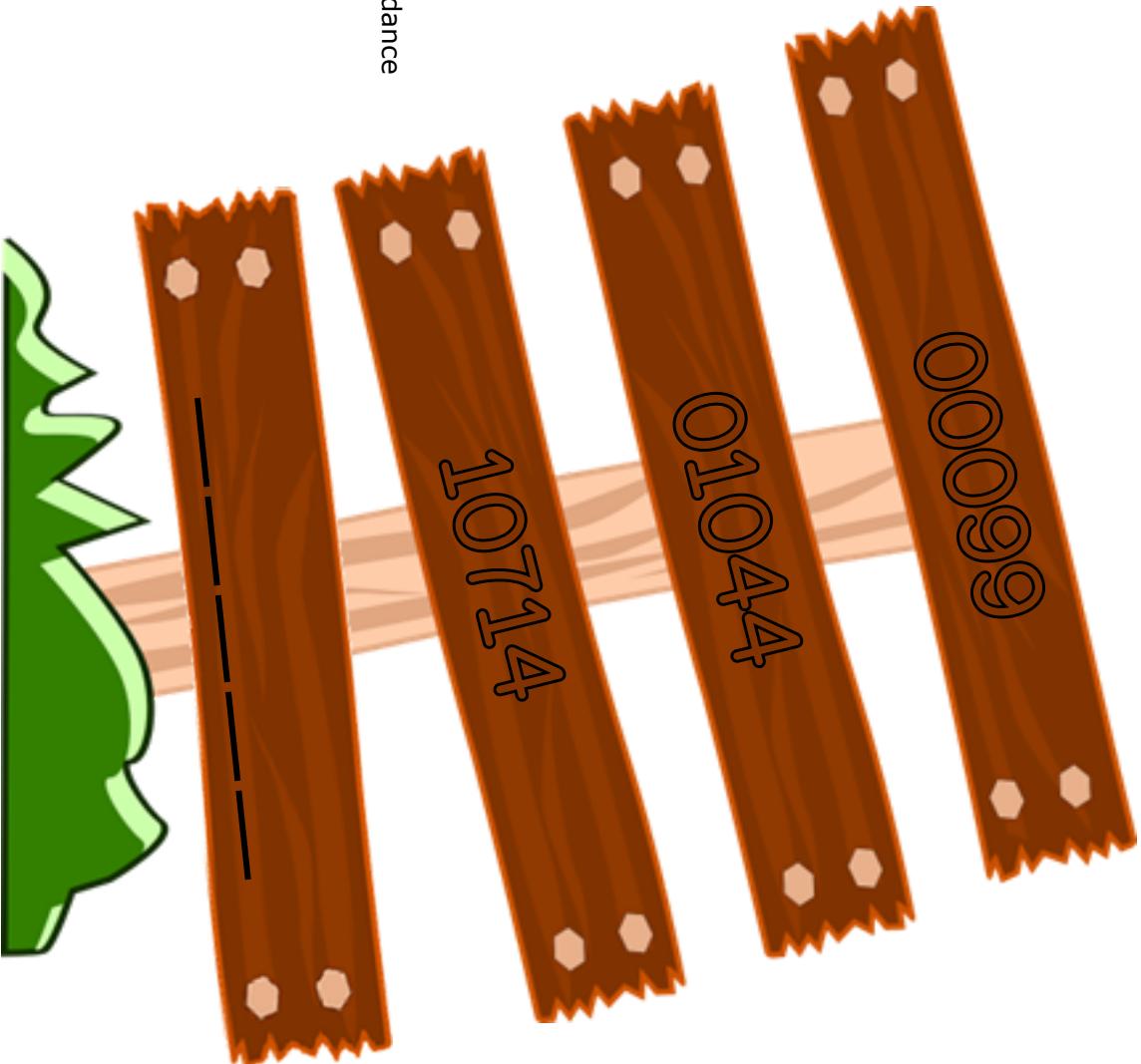
Genetic duplicate

Slight smile

10714

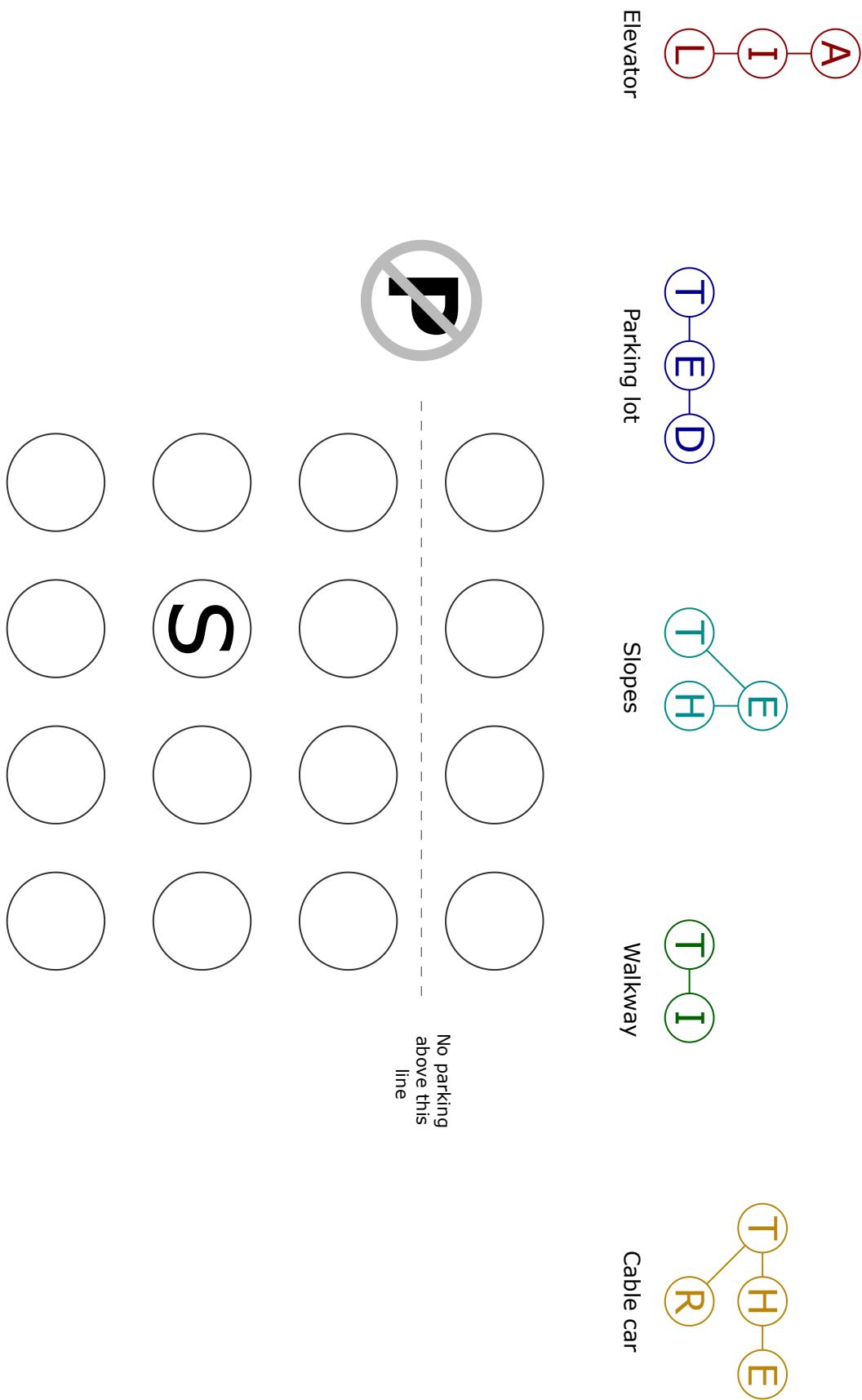
Spicy condiment or style of dance

Tongue's sense



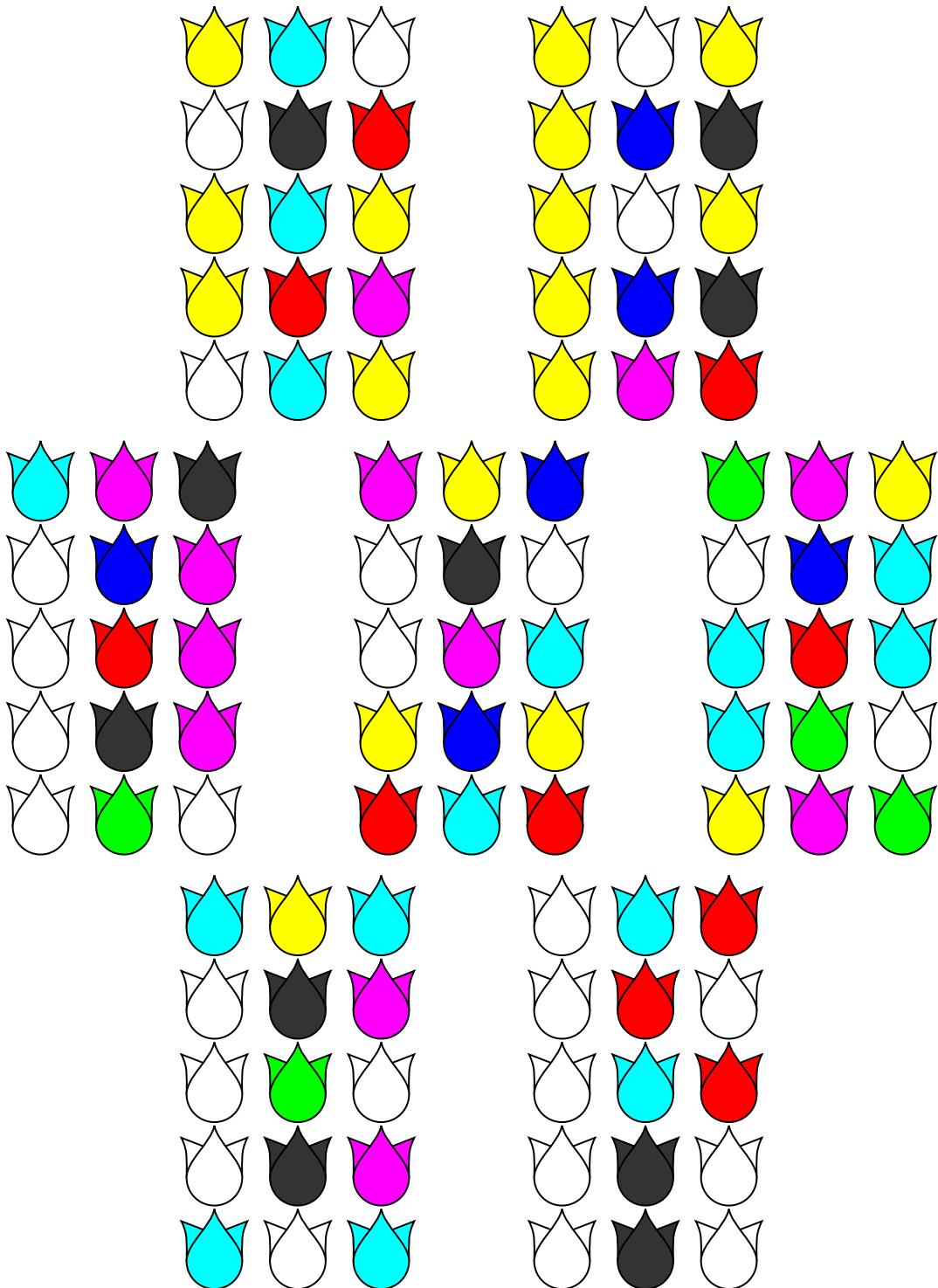
Ski Resort

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.



Spring

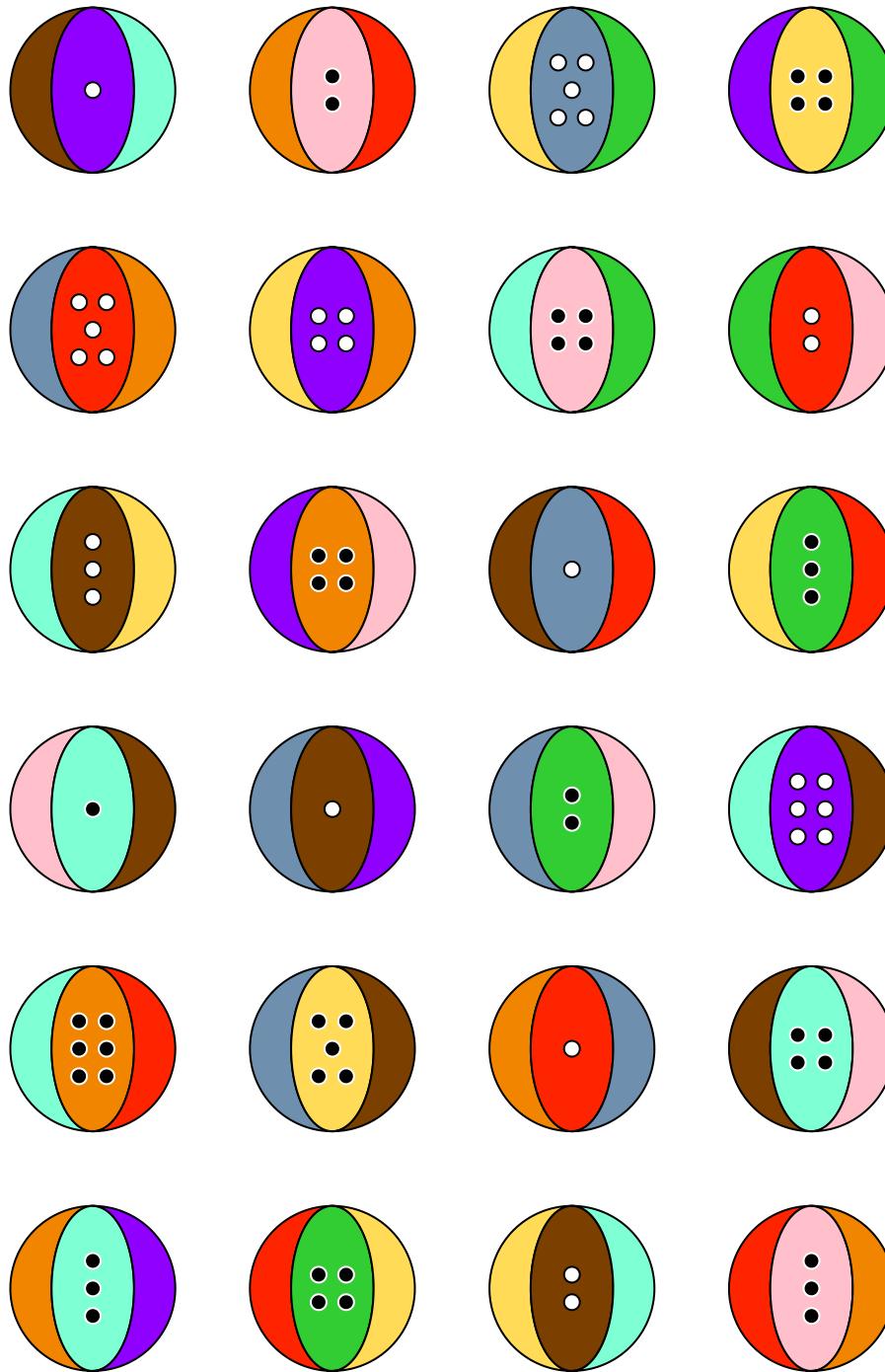
This spring's tulip festival in Mount Vernon featured tulips that were white, red, green, blue, cyan, magenta, yellow, and black. It made me wonder what they'd look like in a dark room under the different primary colors of light.



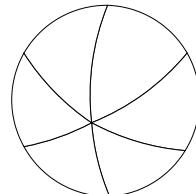
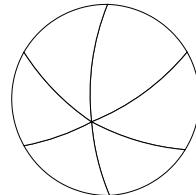
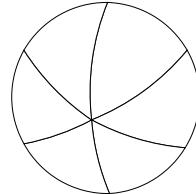
Summer

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

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.

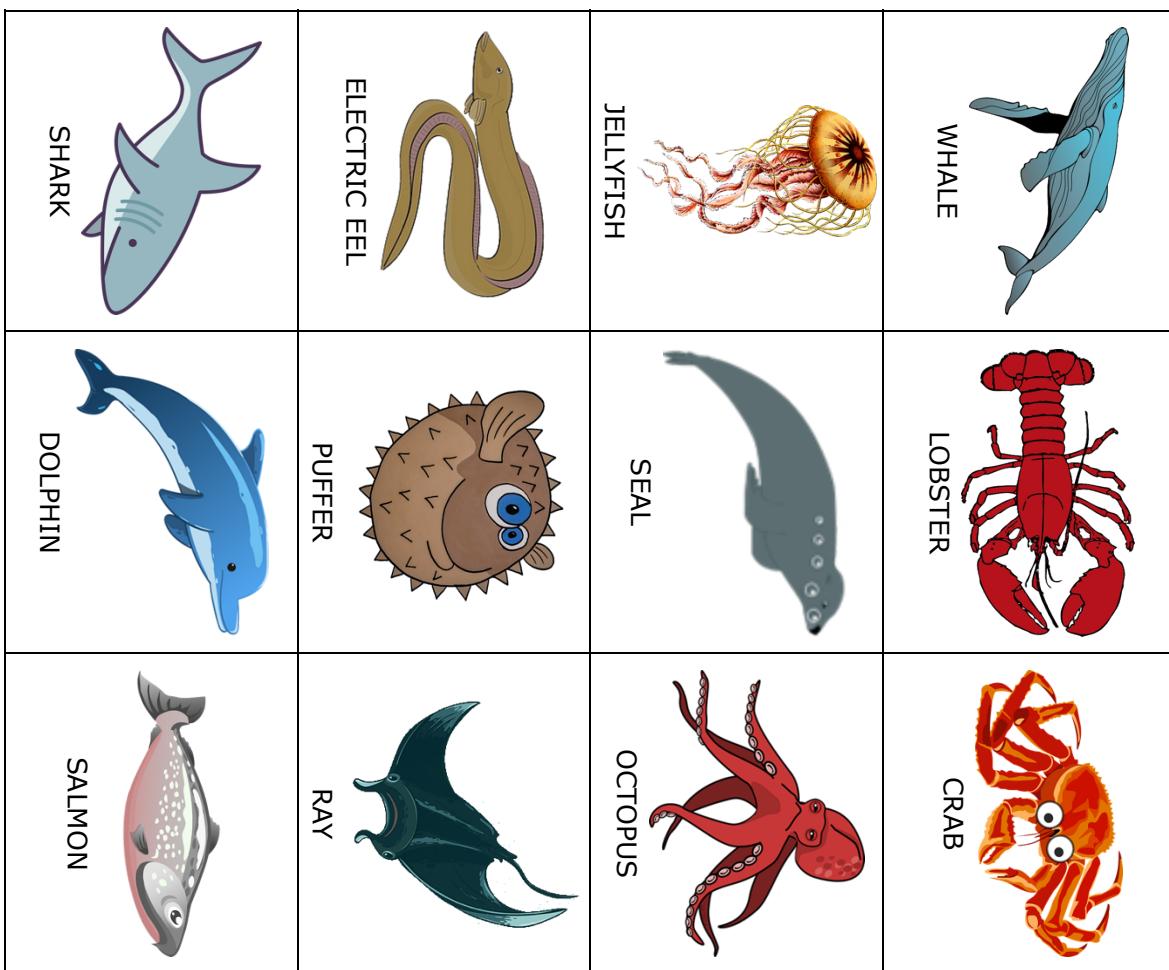
With this knowledge, your ability to see our country's wide EXPANSES will be EXPANDED!

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.

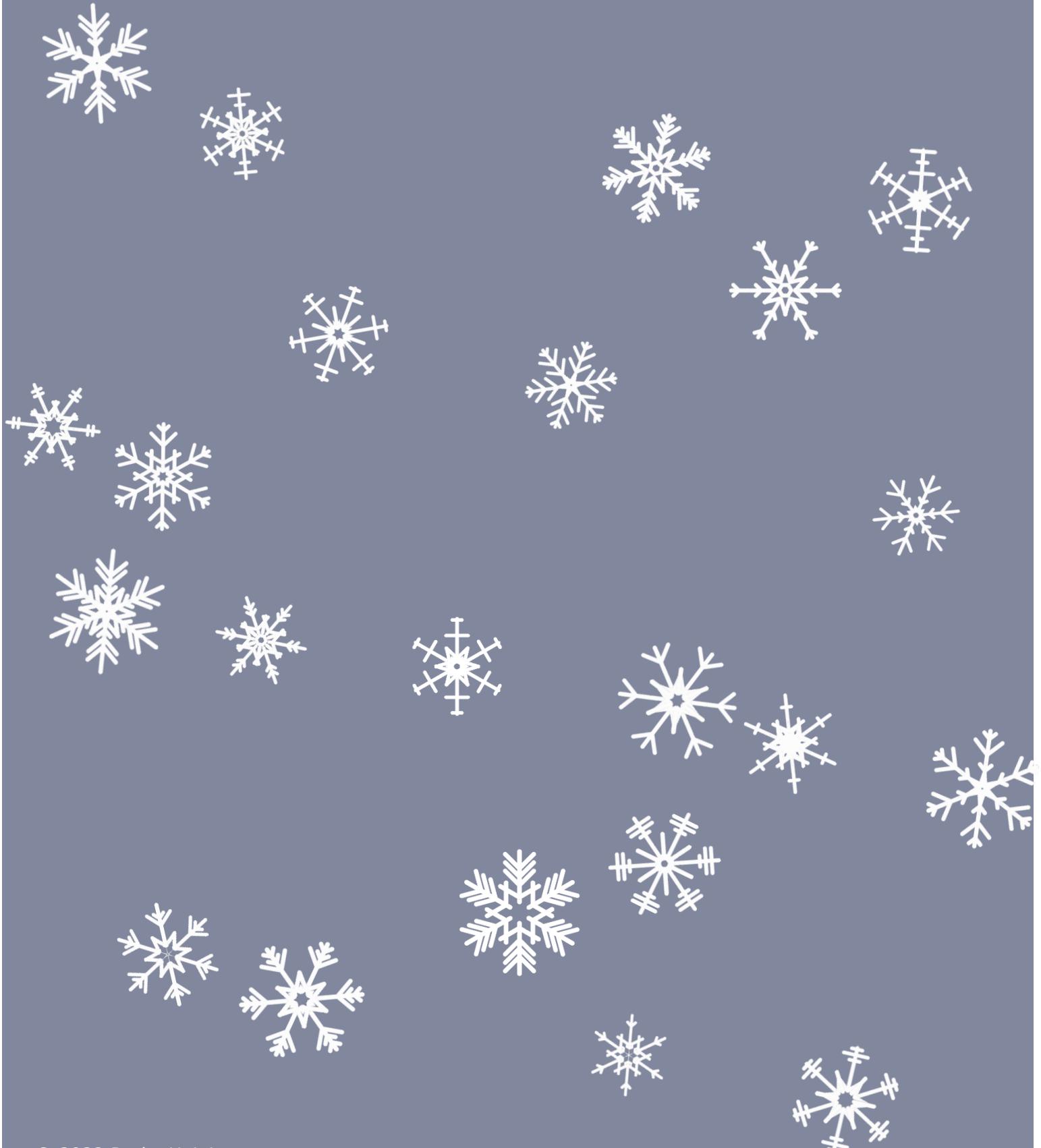


Marine Animal	Letter
Can be anagrammed into words meaning “pub drinks” or “transaction”	1st
Has 3 neighbors that start with the same letter as one another	1st
Can be split into 2 parts which anagram into a piece of portable furniture and a course	4th
Can form a word meaning “strengthen” when you swap 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: _____

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.