

Here are some statistics, common wrong answers, and more commentary than you ever wanted to the puzzle The Answer To This Puzzle Is...

(If you were looking for the solution, you should go [there](#). This page will contain many spoilers! It will also assume prior knowledge of the solution. Consider this an extended “author notes”.)

For most of the data used to compile these statistics, see [this spreadsheet](#).

The Teams

A perfect “completionist” runthrough of this puzzle would incur 89 guesses - 84 answers that are edges, and 5 sink answers that contribute to the cluephrase. Some teams were able to solve the puzzle with fewer than 89 guesses, which is quite impressive:

| Team | Incorrect guesses ▾ | Unlock time (EDT) | Time to solve | Solve time (EDT) |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| The Elite | 61 | Mar 18, 00:25 | 1h33m | Mar 18, 01:58 |
| The Magpie | 61 | Mar 20, 11:27 | 20h1m | Mar 21, 07:29 |
| Jack Is da Bomb | 67 | Mar 22, 15:14 | 11h21m | Mar 23, 02:35 |
| The Judean GNUs | 71 | Mar 19, 01:53 | 1h40m | Mar 19, 03:33 |
| Team Runpeng | 73 | Mar 19, 00:37 | 2h40m | Mar 19, 03:18 |
| Bake/Stay Night | 74 | Mar 19, 03:47 | 2h59m | Mar 19, 06:46 |
| The Logicians | 75 | Mar 22, 15:14 | 82h31m | Mar 26, 01:45 |
| Ducky Charms | 78 | Mar 18, 19:44 | 50m15s | Mar 18, 20:34 |
| Flower Power | 78 | Mar 19, 11:18 | 2h12m | Mar 19, 13:31 |
| SREENIGNE | 80 | Mar 22, 15:14 | 5h4m | Mar 22, 20:18 |
| Snickerdoodles | 81 | Mar 18, 17:37 | 2h57m | Mar 18, 20:35 |
| Pusheen Appreciation Society | 82 | Mar 18, 07:21 | 12h13m | Mar 18, 19:35 |
| Killer Chicken Bones | 84 | Mar 17, 12:08 | 8h46m | Mar 17, 20:54 |
| Win Mints | 86 | Mar 22, 15:14 | 28h19m | Mar 23, 19:33 |
| Synod | 87 | Mar 20, 19:48 | 1h22m | Mar 20, 21:11 |
| WIT | 88 | Mar 21, 21:32 | 4h21m | Mar 22, 01:54 |
| Words and Numbers | 88 | Mar 19, 18:27 | 2h5m | Mar 19, 20:32 |
| Hailfire Spotters | 89 | Mar 19, 00:25 | 10h38m | Mar 19, 11:03 |

In fact, let's take a look at some of these teams' exploration graphs (all times in UTC):

The Elite (61 guesses)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|--|------------|------------|
| | 5:28:27 AM | | 5:27:57 AM | | 5:27:21 AM | | 5:27:02 AM | | 5:33:10 AM | | 5:33:43 AM | |
| 5:30:15 AM | | 5:41:52 AM | | 5:38:55 AM | | 5:25:21 AM | | 5:37:41 AM | | | | 5:21:48 AM |
| 5:38:07 AM | | 5:41:11 AM | | | | 5:24:28 AM | | | 5:39:08 AM | | | 5:18:01 AM |
| 5:46:29 AM | | | 5:31:37 AM | | 5:26:19 AM | | 5:25:27 AM | 5:27:51 AM | | | 5:22:44 AM | |
| | | | | | | 5:23:13 AM | | | | | | 5:16:35 AM |
| | 5:46:56 AM | | 5:44:46 AM | | 5:42:26 AM | | 4:59:13 AM | | 5:01:11 AM | | 5:02:07 AM | |
| 5:49:34 AM | | 5:45:41 AM | | | | 5:05:48 AM | | | | | | 5:02:27 AM |
| | 5:50:31 AM | | | 5:28:21 AM | 5:14:36 AM | | 5:10:57 AM | | 5:03:53 AM | | 5:03:36 AM | |
| | | 5:46:55 AM | | | | 5:13:05 AM | | | | | | 5:31:17 AM |
| 5:48:58 AM | | | | 5:41:36 AM | | 5:19:59 AM | | 5:21:46 AM | 5:48:51 AM | | 5:35:17 AM | |
| | 5:47:17 AM | | 5:42:35 AM | | 5:27:35 AM | | 5:26:23 AM | | 5:34:10 AM | | 5:35:39 AM | 5:36:48 AM |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 5:58:29 AM | | | | | |

The Magpie (61 guesses)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | | | 11:13:30 AM | | 11:12:19 AM | | | | | |
| | | 10:54:34 AM | | | | 10:57:06 AM | | | | 11:05:38 AM | | 11:07:10 AM |
| | | | 11:22:07 AM | | 10:56:02 AM | | 11:08:52 AM | | | | | |
| | | 9:51:10 AM | | | | 10:05:16 AM | | | | 10:59:18 AM | | 11:04:18 AM |
| | 9:50:08 AM | | | | 9:43:02 AM | | | 8:05:53 AM | | | | |
| | | 9:41:03 AM | | | | 8:51:04 AM | | 8:04:29 AM | | 10:23:03 AM | | 11:00:30 AM |
| | 10:18:37 AM | | 9:35:10 AM | | 8:48:44 AM | | 8:00:00 AM | | 10:00:14 AM | | 10:22:42 AM | |
| | | | | 9:38:25 AM | | 7:51:13 AM | | 8:05:01 AM | | 10:19:17 AM | | 10:37:42 AM |
| | 10:46:33 AM | | | 8:00:57 AM | 7:59:40 AM | | | 8:08:12 AM | | 9:58:32 AM | | |
| 10:41:19 AM | | | | | | 9:46:43 AM | | | | | | |
| | 10:42:09 AM | | | | | | | | | | 8:15:21 AM | |
| 10:35:08 AM | | | | 10:07:08 AM | | 9:54:18 AM | | 8:10:41 AM | | 8:12:15 AM | | 8:16:07 AM |
| | 10:28:49 AM | | 10:09:39 AM | | 9:56:55 AM | | | | 8:11:43 AM | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 11:29:26 AM | | | | | |

Jack Is da Bomb (67 guesses)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 6:14:15 AM | | 6:12:15 AM | | 6:12:03 AM | | 6:17:27 AM | | 6:17:50 AM | | 6:18:08 AM | 6:24:08 AM |
| 6:15:29 AM | | | | | | 6:11:45 AM | | | | | | 6:19:58 AM |
| | 6:16:38 AM | | | | 6:10:14 AM | | 6:11:08 AM | | 6:18:31 AM | | 6:19:12 AM | |
| | | | | | | 6:09:15 AM | | | | | | |
| 5:38:25 AM | 5:37:30 AM | | 6:07:36 AM | | | | 6:08:56 AM | 5:44:04 AM | | | | |
| | | 5:00:09 AM | | 6:06:04 AM | | 6:07:58 AM | | 5:42:58 AM | | 6:20:21 AM | | 6:21:02 AM |
| | 6:00:12 AM | | 4:59:50 AM | | 4:59:27 AM | | 5:41:23 AM | | 6:20:06 AM | | 6:20:53 AM | |
| 6:00:38 AM | | | | | | 5:39:39 AM | | 5:44:22 AM | | | | 6:21:55 AM |
| | 6:02:01 AM | | 6:02:44 AM | 6:03:05 AM | | | | | 5:47:43 AM | | | |
| | | 6:03:29 AM | | | | 5:57:30 AM | | 5:46:09 AM | | 5:47:13 AM | | |
| | 6:05:26 AM | | | | | | | 5:46:50 AM | | 5:48:20 AM | | |
| 6:05:07 AM | | 6:03:49 AM | | 6:05:44 AM | | 5:58:19 AM | | 5:49:47 AM | | 5:53:54 AM | | 5:48:42 AM |
| | 6:04:21 AM | | | | 5:58:33 AM | | | | 5:50:25 AM | | 5:53:58 AM | 5:49:25 AM |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 6:35:04 AM | | | | | |

The Judean GNUs (71 guesses)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 7:07:17 AM | | | | 7:12:24 AM | | 7:13:44 AM | | | | 7:05:24 AM | 7:06:23 AM |
| 7:08:12 AM | | 7:05:56 AM | | 7:13:01 AM | | 7:11:50 AM | | 7:14:46 AM | | 7:04:40 AM | | |
| | 7:08:52 AM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7:30:05 AM | | 7:05:24 AM | | | | 7:09:44 AM | | | | 7:02:03 AM | | 7:09:04 AM |
| 6:38:04 AM | | | 6:51:58 AM | | 6:49:27 AM | | | 6:59:57 AM | 7:01:51 AM | | 7:08:56 AM | |
| 6:29:33 AM | | 6:52:29 AM | | | | 6:14:44 AM | | 6:58:07 AM | | 7:00:36 AM | | 7:07:56 AM |
| | 6:23:11 AM | | 6:21:05 AM | | 6:14:28 AM | | 6:13:46 AM | | 7:00:14 AM | | 7:07:11 AM | |
| 6:34:19 AM | | 6:53:03 AM | | 6:56:15 AM | | 6:57:44 AM | | | | | | 7:08:23 AM |
| | 6:36:30 AM | | 7:04:06 AM | 6:41:16 AM | | 6:59:17 AM | | | 7:12:31 AM | | 7:12:22 AM | |
| 6:47:21 AM | | 6:38:10 AM | | 6:40:38 AM | | 6:57:54 AM | | 6:02:28 AM | | | | |
| | 6:47:01 AM | | 6:39:57 AM | | | | | | 6:53:51 AM | | 6:59:00 AM | |
| 6:46:07 AM | | 6:43:21 AM | | | | 7:15:55 AM | | 7:00:06 AM | | | | 6:07:36 AM |
| | 6:44:28 AM | | | | 7:16:49 AM | | | | 7:01:13 AM | | 7:01:56 AM | 6:09:14 AM |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 7:33:06 AM | | | | | |

Team Runpeng (73 guesses)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| | 5:08:21 AM | | 5:08:27 AM | | 5:05:44 AM | | 5:05:36 AM | | 5:06:07 AM | | 5:06:47 AM | |
| 5:09:16 AM | | | | | 5:05:25 AM | | 5:13:50 AM | | | | | |
| 5:10:22 AM | | 5:17:13 AM | 8:02:02 AM | | 8:04:44 AM | 5:03:53 AM | | | 5:11:50 AM | | 5:13:15 AM | |
| | | | 5:02:39 AM | | 5:02:26 AM | | 4:44:12 AM | | 5:11:25 AM | | 5:12:57 AM | |
| | 5:20:42 AM | | 5:19:50 AM | | 5:03:43 AM | 5:01:31 AM | 4:39:33 AM | 4:43:24 AM | 5:10:59 AM | | 5:11:19 AM | |
| | | 5:20:54 AM | | 5:19:42 AM | | 4:48:35 AM | | | | | 5:11:37 AM | |
| | | | 5:32:37 AM | 5:02:09 AM | 5:02:01 AM | | 4:47:50 AM | | 4:54:37 AM | | | |
| 5:21:16 AM | | | | | 4:49:31 AM | | 5:28:37 AM | | 4:52:55 AM | | 5:21:04 AM | |
| | 5:21:17 AM | | | | 4:52:06 AM | | 4:50:34 AM | | | 5:50:28 AM | | |
| 5:20:04 AM | | | | | | 4:50:48 AM | | 4:51:04 AM | | 4:52:36 AM | | |
| | 5:17:52 AM | | 5:16:11 AM | | 5:14:18 AM | | 5:14:55 AM | | 4:52:27 AM | | 5:18:28 AM | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Answer attained | 7:18:02 AM | | | | | | |

Bake/Stay Night (74 guesses)

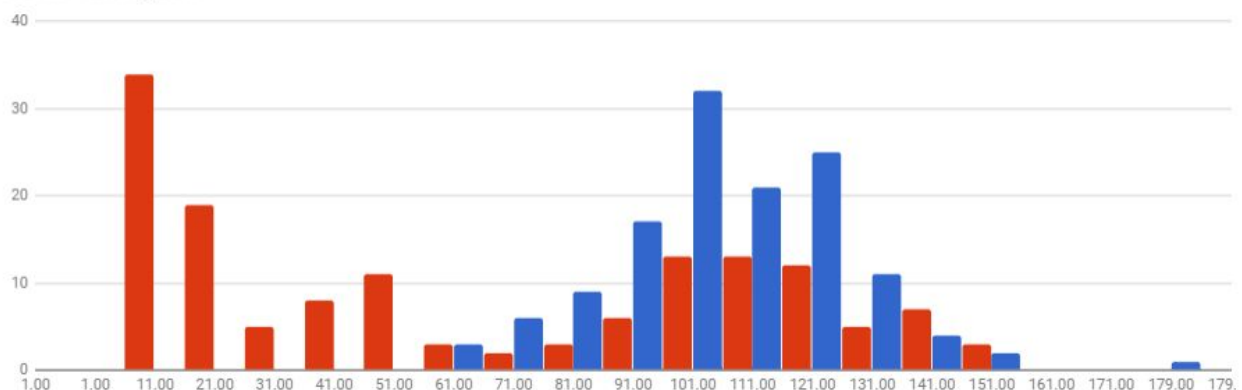
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | 9:30:07 AM | | | | 10:10:39 AM | | 10:09:49 AM | | 10:12:46 AM | | | 10:48:52 AM |
| 9:31:12 AM | | 9:28:05 AM | | | | 10:08:44 AM | | 10:12:36 AM | | 9:31:33 AM | | 9:13:10 AM |
| | | | 9:32:05 AM | | | | 10:08:18 AM | | | | 9:31:11 AM | |
| | | 9:25:32 AM | | | | 10:06:25 AM | | | | 9:12:20 AM | | 9:07:34 AM |
| 10:43:00 AM | 9:24:23 AM | | | | 10:05:51 AM | | 10:08:47 AM | 10:40:31 AM | | | | |
| | | 9:10:53 AM | | 9:09:28 AM | | 10:03:54 AM | | 8:18:01 AM | | 8:51:14 AM | | 8:56:29 AM |
| | 9:11:32 AM | | 9:08:10 AM | | 8:46:16 AM | | 8:04:50 AM | | 8:49:14 AM | | 8:51:57 AM | |
| | | 9:11:09 AM | | | | 8:46:34 AM | | 8:22:48 AM | | 8:54:03 AM | | 8:56:51 AM |
| | | | | 10:40:50 AM | 9:06:48 AM | | | | | | 9:03:29 AM | |
| 9:42:44 AM | | 9:17:44 AM | | | | 9:05:45 AM | | 8:31:21 AM | | 9:00:09 AM | | 9:03:36 AM |
| | 9:42:41 AM | | | | 9:21:28 AM | | | | 8:38:23 AM | | 9:00:58 AM | |
| 9:40:04 AM | | | | 9:19:26 AM | | 9:13:24 AM | | 8:32:32 AM | | 8:37:50 AM | | 9:05:37 AM |
| | 9:36:46 AM | | 9:21:49 AM | | 9:16:52 AM | | | | 8:37:01 AM | | 8:45:40 AM | 10:41:14 AM |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Answer attained | 10:48:32 AM | | | | | | |

The Logicians (75 guesses)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| | 1:39:13 AM | | | | 1:47:48 AM | | 1:48:51 AM | | 1:50:05 AM | | 1:51:01 AM | 2:01:37 AM |
| 1:40:05 AM | | 1:36:57 AM | | | | 1:47:04 AM | | | | | | 1:56:11 AM |
| | | | 1:34:30 AM | | | | 1:53:12 AM | | 1:53:53 AM | | 1:55:08 AM | |
| | | 1:33:29 AM | | 1:35:30 AM | | 1:45:20 AM | | | | 2:00:59 AM | | |
| 1:31:00 AM | | | | | | | 1:58:37 AM | 1:58:14 AM | 2:00:55 AM | | | |
| 1:28:47 AM | | 1:32:26 AM | | | | 1:44:24 AM | | | | 1:59:22 AM | | 2:03:12 AM |
| | 1:27:48 AM | | 1:26:50 AM | | 1:25:07 AM | | 12:22:18 AM | | 12:28:02 AM | | 2:02:36 AM | |
| | | | | | | 12:54:31 AM | | | | 12:37:52 AM | | 2:04:18 AM |
| | 1:20:19 AM | | | 1:13:07 AM | 2:32:09 AM | | 2:33:21 AM | | 12:28:16 AM | | | |
| 1:19:12 AM | | 1:21:40 AM | | 1:12:15 AM | | 12:56:18 AM | | 12:46:41 AM | | 12:49:50 AM | | |
| | | | | | 2:44:38 AM | | 12:58:26 AM | | 12:48:41 AM | | 2:06:07 AM | |
| 1:18:08 AM | | | | 1:11:33 AM | | 1:08:39 AM | | 12:59:00 AM | | 2:08:23 AM | | |
| | 1:16:12 AM | | 1:15:26 AM | | 1:09:44 AM | | | | 1:02:05 AM | | 1:02:56 AM | 1:31:24 AM |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Answer attained | 5:45:24 AM | | | | | | |

Despite giving 150 guesses on this puzzle, 3 teams asked and got additional guesses on this puzzle. But they solved the puzzle in the end! **Clueberry Jam (178 guesses)**, **PictureGame (159 guesses)**, **Ruben (154 guesses)**. Here is a histogram of # of guesses teams needed:

Guess Histogram



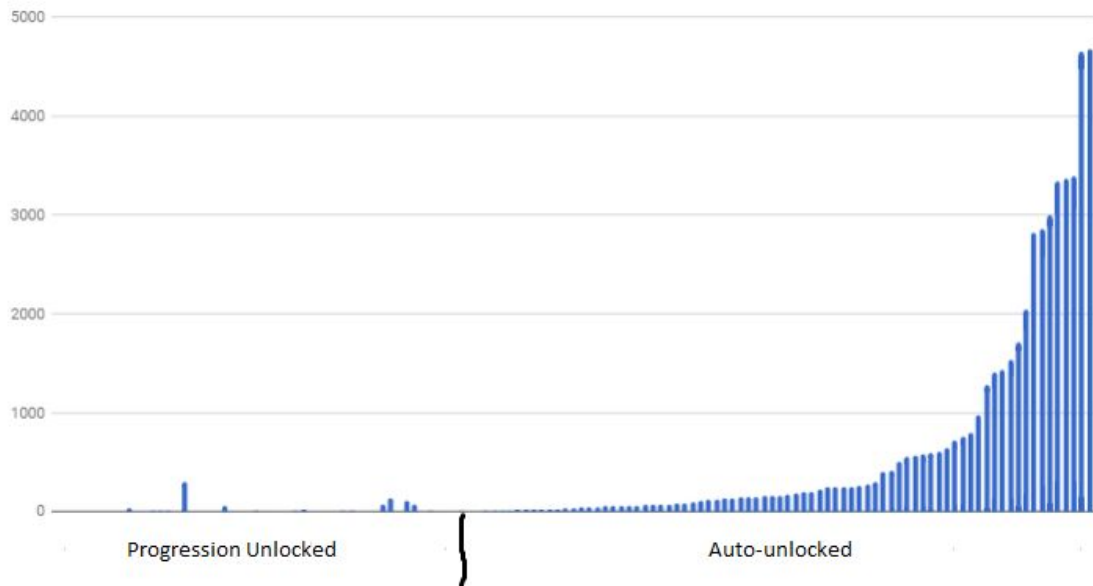
Legend: Blue = teams that solved, red = teams that didn't solve

Unlike in many other puzzles, where it's basically impossible to figure out when a team starts working on a puzzle, rendering the "solve time from unlock" potentially inaccurate, here we essentially do have this information - when a team submits their first guess! (There's very little you can do on this puzzle without guessing. Maybe you could prep up all four guesses. If you're crazy, you could potentially even intuit the N/S/E/W from just the first question. Did any team do that?)

| Team | First Submit | Last Submit | Total Time |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Ducky Charms | 3/18/2018 23:45:31 | 3/19/2018 0:34:16 | 0:48:45 |
| The Elite | 3/18/2018 4:59:13 | 3/18/2018 5:58:29 | 0:59:16 |
| Tasty Samoas, Please Ingest | 3/17/2018 23:38:05 | 3/18/2018 0:51:30 | 1:13:25 |
| Cardinality | 3/18/2018 8:02:25 | 3/18/2018 9:20:00 | 1:17:35 |
| Tantalizing Snickerdoodles Produced Incrementally | 3/18/2018 21:02:14 | 3/18/2018 22:20:39 | 1:18:25 |
| Synod | 3/20/2018 23:51:46 | 3/21/2018 1:11:20 | 1:19:34 |
| Misremembered Apple | 3/18/2018 16:08:58 | 3/18/2018 17:42:52 | 1:33:54 |
| ✈️ Aviation Laws ✈️ | 3/18/2018 1:40:26 | 3/18/2018 3:15:19 | 1:34:53 |
| The Judean GNUs | 3/19/2018 5:57:44 | 3/19/2018 7:33:08 | 1:35:24 |
| Jack Is da Bomb | 3/23/2018 4:59:27 | 3/23/2018 6:35:04 | 1:35:37 |
| ET Phone in Answer | 3/19/2018 19:45:52 | 3/19/2018 21:22:54 | 1:37:02 |
| Words and Numbers | 3/19/2018 22:35:11 | 3/20/2018 0:32:24 | 1:57:13 |
| Flower Power | 3/19/2018 15:23:09 | 3/19/2018 17:31:08 | 2:07:59 |
| Time Zones Are Hard | 3/18/2018 4:26:53 | 3/18/2018 6:35:13 | 2:08:20 |
| oATMEal raisin | 3/20/2018 6:49:46 | 3/20/2018 8:58:39 | 2:08:53 |
| [Redacted] | 3/18/2018 2:26:56 | 3/18/2018 4:37:44 | 2:10:48 |
| Hobnoblins | 3/19/2018 22:09:50 | 3/20/2018 0:39:01 | 2:29:11 |
| Phlogiston | 3/18/2018 16:17:26 | 3/18/2018 18:51:51 | 2:34:25 |
| Team Runpeng | 3/19/2018 4:39:15 | 3/19/2018 7:18:02 | 2:38:47 |
| Bake/Stay Night | 3/19/2018 8:04:50 | 3/19/2018 10:46:32 | 2:41:42 |
| Wonderslam | 3/22/2018 21:54:23 | 3/23/2018 0:36:31 | 2:42:08 |
| Portugal. The man. The plan. The canal. | 3/20/2018 0:44:26 | 3/20/2018 3:34:43 | 2:50:17 |
| Snickerdoodles | 3/18/2018 21:42:08 | 3/19/2018 0:35:33 | 2:53:25 |

A table of teams that had a total solve time of <3 hours

This leaderboard seems very similar to the actual leaderboard with some differences. This is because most teams (but not all - The Elite took a 30 minute break, and many teams who had this puzzle open due to automatic unlocks started to look into this puzzle much later) submitted something very close to when they unlocked the puzzle.



As we can see here, almost all teams that progression-unlocked this puzzle promptly started working on this puzzle, although there are a few outliers (notably **Pusheen Appreciation Society** who took 305 minutes before starting). For the auto-unlocked, it seems that there is a mix - 2/3rds of these teams started working on the puzzle very shortly after they noticed it open, while the other 1/3rd of the teams were likely working on their own pace.

This may be because its interactive nature allows for progress to be readily made. Teams may have also been stuck on the other previous puzzles (particularly Destructive Interference, Adventure, Third Rail, and Pride and Accomplishment), so this puzzle may have provided a form of respite.

Perhaps we might want to look at some of the fastest teams' graphs too (The Elite's graph was shown previously):

Ducky Charms (48:45 total time, 78 guesses)

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 12:26:17 AM | | 12:22:07 AM | | 12:21:23 AM | | 12:23:00 AM | | | | 12:23:20 AM |
| 12:27:07 AM | | | | | 12:21:10 AM | | 12:24:24 AM | | 12:21:28 AM | | 12:22:16 AM |
| | 12:27:35 AM | | 12:27:53 AM | | 12:20:33 AM | | 12:20:50 AM | | 12:24:32 AM | | 12:21:56 AM |
| | | | | | 12:19:50 AM | | | | 12:19:59 AM | | |
| 12:11:33 AM | | | | | 12:19:40 AM | | 12:00:17 AM | 12:02:41 AM | | | |
| 11:53:42 PM | | 11:50:58 PM | | 12:16:48 AM | | 11:46:45 PM | | 11:46:04 PM | | 12:18:32 AM | 12:30:52 AM |
| | 11:51:57 PM | 11:50:09 PM | | | 11:46:02 PM | | 11:45:31 PM | | 12:18:10 AM | | 12:18:56 AM |
| 11:54:27 PM | | 11:51:33 PM | | 12:02:32 AM | | 11:46:31 PM | | 12:01:21 AM | | 12:19:30 AM | 12:19:07 AM |
| | 12:14:00 AM | | 12:15:15 AM | | 11:49:53 PM | 11:49:41 PM | 11:49:00 PM | | | | |
| 12:17:16 AM | | 12:15:37 AM | | 12:07:22 AM | | 11:49:29 PM | | 12:32:41 AM | | | 12:30:51 AM |
| | 12:17:13 AM | | 12:16:28 AM | | 11:53:23 PM | | 11:52:24 PM | | 12:11:13 AM | | |
| 12:16:23 AM | | 12:16:36 AM | | 12:11:04 AM | | 11:52:51 PM | | | | | 12:31:40 AM |
| | 12:12:31 AM | | 12:10:43 AM | | 12:09:18 AM | | 12:07:53 AM | | 12:12:59 AM | | 12:18:57 AM |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 12:34:16 AM | | | | |

Tasty Samoas, Please Ingest (1:13:25 total time, 99 guesses)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 12:14:53 AM | | 12:13:27 AM | | 12:11:48 AM | | 12:12:02 AM | | 12:13:09 AM | | 12:16:58 AM | 12:42:34 AM |
| 12:15:26 AM | | | | | | 12:11:05 AM | | | | | | 12:47:33 AM |
| | | | 11:47:29 PM | | | | 12:09:48 AM | | | | 12:38:15 AM | |
| | | 11:48:38 PM | 11:48:09 PM | | | 12:00:51 AM | | 12:27:58 AM | | 12:37:45 AM | | 12:34:49 AM |
| 12:45:47 AM | 11:44:10 PM | | | | 12:45:06 AM | | | 12:42:41 AM | 12:42:30 AM | | 12:36:54 AM | |
| 12:23:05 AM | | 11:43:26 PM | | | | 11:52:29 PM | | | | | | 12:34:20 AM |
| | 12:22:09 AM | | 11:43:04 PM | | 11:42:38 PM | | 12:31:57 AM | | 12:33:07 AM | | 12:33:33 AM | |
| | | 11:43:43 PM | | | | 11:38:12 PM | | | | 12:33:59 AM | | 12:33:46 AM |
| | 12:26:59 AM | | 11:45:14 PM | 11:41:18 PM | 11:40:14 PM | | 11:56:57 PM | | 12:34:58 AM | | | |
| 12:20:27 AM | | 11:44:55 PM | | 11:48:27 PM | | 11:39:22 PM | | 12:28:21 AM | | | | 12:49:55 AM |
| | 12:21:41 AM | | 11:47:42 PM | | | | | | | | 12:24:24 AM | |
| 12:19:47 AM | | 11:47:25 PM | | | | 12:02:21 AM | | | | 12:06:12 AM | | 12:25:14 AM |
| | 12:19:03 AM | | 12:20:15 AM | | 12:02:46 AM | | 12:03:13 AM | | 12:04:34 AM | | 12:05:34 AM | 12:39:18 AM |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 12:51:30 AM | | | | | |

Cardinality (1:17:35 total time, 109 guesses)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 8:48:16 AM | | 8:51:30 AM | | 8:51:19 AM | | 8:51:53 AM | | 8:52:23 AM | | 8:34:44 AM | 8:36:11 AM |
| 8:48:30 AM | | 8:47:34 AM | | 8:51:40 AM | | 8:51:07 AM | | 8:52:04 AM | | 8:34:10 AM | | 8:37:07 AM |
| | 8:49:28 AM | | 8:47:18 AM | | 8:42:54 AM | | 8:50:14 AM | | 8:50:38 AM | | 8:39:31 AM | |
| 9:02:34 AM | | 8:46:51 AM | | 8:43:34 AM | | 8:41:01 AM | | 8:50:59 AM | | 8:33:12 AM | | 8:37:21 AM |
| 8:46:37 AM | 8:44:51 AM | | 8:44:04 AM | | 8:52:41 AM | | 8:40:44 AM | | 8:30:34 AM | 8:33:07 AM | | 8:32:27 AM |
| 8:55:03 AM | | 8:55:34 AM | | 8:56:22 AM | | | 8:39:39 AM | | 8:29:56 AM | | 8:39:29 AM | 8:31:43 AM |
| | 8:54:01 AM | | 8:53:45 AM | | 8:53:58 AM | | 8:28:50 AM | | 8:31:03 AM | | 8:31:24 AM | |
| 8:55:11 AM | | 8:55:54 AM | | 8:53:36 AM | | 8:52:34 AM | | 8:30:49 AM | | 8:31:15 AM | | 8:37:36 AM |
| | 8:26:36 AM | | 8:27:39 AM | 8:06:46 AM | 8:04:15 AM | | 8:28:29 AM | | 8:15:37 AM | | 8:36:40 AM | |
| 8:25:54 AM | | 8:27:23 AM | | 8:21:53 AM | | 8:08:28 AM | | 8:17:50 AM | | 8:11:54 AM | | 8:38:29 AM |
| | 8:24:20 AM | | 8:25:40 AM | | 8:28:11 AM | | 8:08:51 AM | | 8:11:01 AM | | 8:12:01 AM | |
| 8:23:45 AM | | 8:25:23 AM | | 8:21:39 AM | | 8:20:09 AM | | 8:18:11 AM | | 8:19:28 AM | | 8:12:43 AM |
| | 8:23:07 AM | | 8:22:01 AM | | 8:20:29 AM | | 8:27:52 AM | | 8:18:39 AM | | 8:19:12 AM | 8:15:07 AM |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 9:20:00 AM | | | | | |

Tantalizing Snickerdoodles Produced Incrementally (1:18:25 total time, 97 guesses)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | 9:47:46 PM | | | | 10:09:24 PM | | 10:09:40 PM | | | | 10:07:08 PM | |
| 9:49:57 PM | | 9:30:25 PM | | | | 10:08:42 PM | | | | 10:04:63 PM | | 9:29:07 PM |
| | 10:14:45 PM | | 9:30:30 PM | | | | 10:04:39 PM | | 10:06:24 PM | | | |
| 10:14:15 PM | | 9:20:47 PM | | 9:40:20 PM | | 10:02:54 PM | | 10:06:45 PM | | 9:52:44 PM | | 9:17:17 PM |
| 9:26:27 PM | 9:20:38 PM | | 10:12:03 PM | | 9:37:28 PM | | | 10:05:46 PM | 10:13:43 PM | | 9:18:38 PM | |
| 9:23:44 PM | | 9:19:09 PM | | 9:16:11 PM | | 9:10:25 PM | | 9:12:31 PM | | 9:11:52 PM | | 9:15:20 PM |
| | 9:19:17 PM | | 9:15:50 PM | | 9:09:33 PM | | 9:02:14 PM | | 9:07:31 PM | | 9:08:37 PM | |
| 9:22:56 PM | | 9:19:25 PM | | 9:16:03 PM | | 9:08:19 PM | | | | 9:11:38 PM | | 9:15:04 PM |
| | 9:47:41 PM | | 9:25:01 PM | 9:17:47 PM | | | 9:53:13 PM | | 9:25:25 PM | | 9:21:16 PM | |
| 9:28:36 PM | | 9:22:51 PM | | 9:50:51 PM | | | 9:53:18 PM | | | | | 9:21:49 PM |
| | 9:28:21 PM | | 9:50:31 PM | | | | 9:54:44 PM | | 9:56:44 PM | | 10:13:58 PM | |
| 9:27:56 PM | | 9:23:45 PM | | 10:02:21 PM | | 9:55:01 PM | | 9:56:32 PM | | 9:59:21 PM | | 9:22:39 PM |
| | 9:27:20 PM | | 10:02:51 PM | | 10:01:22 PM | | 10:00:23 PM | | 9:58:47 PM | | 9:59:24 PM | 9:24:04 PM |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 10:20:39 PM | | | | | |

Synod (1:19:34 total time, 87 guesses)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 12:52:10 AM | | 12:18:21 AM | | 12:09:37 AM | | 12:09:28 AM | | 12:21:36 AM | | 12:30:38 AM | 12:39:33 AM |
| 12:53:34 AM | | 12:34:22 AM | | 12:25:12 AM | | 12:08:03 AM | | 12:27:20 AM | | 12:27:56 AM | | |
| | 12:53:58 AM | | 12:34:36 AM | | 12:08:26 AM | | 12:08:12 AM | | | | | |
| 12:54:38 AM | | 12:30:46 AM | | 12:55:37 AM | | 12:03:27 AM | | | | 12:55:22 AM | | 12:51:41 AM |
| 12:42:01 AM | 12:29:12 AM | | 12:01:57 AM | | 12:03:06 AM | | 12:03:18 AM | 12:10:55 AM | 12:55:10 AM | | 12:51:50 AM | |
| | | | 11:58:43 PM | | 11:58:04 PM | | 11:57:12 PM | | 12:06:07 AM | | | 12:24:46 AM |
| | 1:04:37 AM | | 11:59:07 PM | | 11:58:42 PM | | 11:58:03 PM | | 11:58:16 PM | | 12:05:59 AM | |
| | | 12:43:02 AM | | 11:59:29 PM | | 11:54:45 PM | | 11:57:55 PM | | 12:05:43 AM | | 12:24:26 AM |
| | 1:01:53 AM | | 12:46:26 AM | | 12:03:00 AM | 11:59:53 PM | 11:59:23 PM | | 12:33:05 AM | | 12:25:32 AM | |
| 12:59:28 AM | | 12:44:04 AM | | 12:50:31 AM | | 12:45:27 AM | | 12:45:00 AM | | 12:36:38 AM | | 12:25:54 AM |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 12:41:27 AM | |
| 12:50:34 AM | | 12:45:33 AM | | 12:49:22 AM | | 12:44:32 AM | | 12:37:04 AM | | | | 12:31:48 AM |
| | 12:49:53 AM | | 12:49:39 AM | | 12:47:54 AM | | 12:47:40 AM | | 12:56:44 AM | | | 12:32:54 AM |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 1:11:20 AM | | | | | |

The sudden breaks in the coloration of many of these graphs is probably when these teams realize that all of the answers begin in N/S/E/W, and have to refactor their mapping.

Finally, perhaps we might want to look at how the top teams for the full hunt did (Tasty Samoas, Please Ingest's graph was shown previously):

have you tried random anagramming (1st)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 10:18:59 PM | | 10:17:45 PM | | 10:16:26 PM | | 10:16:44 PM | | 10:22:18 PM | | 10:23:04 PM | 10:51:18 PM |
| 10:53:27 PM | | 11:18:32 PM | | 10:17:16 PM | | 10:11:16 PM | | 11:06:37 PM | | 11:19:49 PM | | 11:22:22 PM |
| | 10:54:28 PM | | 11:18:25 PM | | 10:11:40 PM | | 10:11:29 PM | | 10:21:16 PM | | 11:19:39 PM | |
| 10:44:16 PM | 10:15:29 PM | | 9:57:47 PM | | 9:51:58 PM | | 9:51:43 PM | | 10:21:12 PM | | 11:27:36 PM | 10:26:43 PM |
| 10:38:25 PM | | 10:02:09 PM | | 9:49:02 PM | | 9:46:24 PM | | 9:49:01 PM | | 10:06:17 PM | | 10:25:18 PM |
| | 10:02:20 PM | | 9:48:41 PM | | 9:42:49 PM | | 9:43:45 PM | | 9:49:59 PM | | 10:08:08 PM | |
| 11:25:34 PM | | 10:02:37 PM | | 9:48:17 PM | | 9:44:00 PM | | 9:49:28 PM | | 10:05:51 PM | | 10:25:08 PM |
| | 11:23:54 PM | | 10:29:19 PM | 9:54:14 PM | 9:47:29 PM | | 9:47:00 PM | | 11:08:24 PM | | 11:07:53 PM | |
| 10:37:05 PM | | 10:28:36 PM | | 10:30:49 PM | | 9:50:21 PM | | 10:00:35 PM | | | | |
| | 10:37:23 PM | | 10:30:18 PM | | | | 10:09:10 PM | | 10:45:04 PM | | 10:46:18 PM | |
| 10:33:55 PM | | 10:31:20 PM | | | | 10:55:40 PM | | 10:57:49 PM | | 11:25:18 PM | | 10:47:37 PM |
| | 10:33:03 PM | | | | 11:00:52 PM | | 10:56:46 PM | | 10:58:25 PM | | | 10:50:28 PM |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 2:25:05 AM | | | | | |

Killer Chicken Bones (3rd)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 6:40:31 PM | | 6:29:15 PM | | 6:24:08 PM | | 6:27:03 PM | | | | 6:22:38 PM | |
| 6:41:40 PM | | | | 6:29:07 PM | | 6:19:03 PM | | | | 6:08:29 PM | | 6:13:30 PM |
| | 6:42:17 PM | | | | 6:17:55 PM | | 6:18:35 PM | | 6:22:50 PM | 6:22:25 PM | 6:08:00 PM | |
| | | | | | | 6:13:52 PM | | 6:22:50 PM | | 5:58:50 PM | | |
| 4:56:51 PM | 4:55:31 PM | | 4:55:12 PM | | 4:54:17 PM | | | 6:38:11 PM | 6:04:58 PM | | | |
| | | 4:51:25 PM | | 5:01:32 PM | | 4:13:43 PM | | | | 5:49:57 PM | | 6:30:05 PM |
| | 6:43:28 PM | | 4:49:47 PM | | 4:13:24 PM | | 4:12:08 PM | | 5:03:54 PM | | 5:49:15 PM | |
| | | 6:30:04 PM | | 6:30:46 PM | | 4:13:10 PM | | | | 5:40:12 PM | | 5:51:49 PM |
| | | 6:31:01 PM | 6:36:28 PM | | 5:46:51 PM | | 5:47:01 PM | | 5:36:06 PM | | 5:56:34 PM | |
| 6:43:59 PM | | 6:33:26 PM | | | | 5:23:52 PM | | 5:48:26 PM | | 5:34:27 PM | | 5:57:07 PM |
| | | | 6:45:41 PM | | | | 5:26:43 PM | | 5:32:23 PM | | | |
| 6:42:23 PM | | 6:35:14 PM | | | | 6:47:40 PM | | 5:54:20 PM | | | | 5:59:29 PM |
| | 6:41:08 PM | | | | 6:48:27 PM | | | | 6:48:35 PM | | 6:52:02 PM | 6:11:01 PM |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 12:54:46 AM | | | | | |

Plugholate chip cookies (4th)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2:55:20 AM | | 2:57:51 AM | | 2:56:35 AM | | 2:57:02 AM | | 3:02:48 AM | | 3:03:30 AM | 3:16:43 AM |
| 2:56:57 AM | | 2:49:41 AM | | 2:57:55 AM | | 2:51:31 AM | | 3:02:26 AM | | 3:09:48 AM | | 3:11:22 AM |
| | 3:00:07 AM | | 2:50:10 AM | | 2:53:01 AM | | 2:52:37 AM | | 2:59:02 AM | | 3:10:25 AM | |
| 2:57:15 AM | | 2:40:25 AM | | 2:56:05 AM | | 2:45:01 AM | | 2:56:49 AM | | 3:32:21 AM | | 3:27:16 AM |
| 2:49:35 AM | 2:42:26 AM | | 2:34:11 AM | | 2:45:19 AM | | 2:45:51 AM | 2:31:52 AM | 3:31:54 AM | | 3:27:52 AM | |
| 2:47:51 AM | | 2:37:17 AM | | 2:33:33 AM | | 2:36:27 AM | | 2:29:50 AM | 3:25:06 AM | | 3:25:46 AM | |
| | 2:38:35 AM | | 2:33:07 AM | | 2:28:15 AM | | 2:24:03 AM | | 3:24:32 AM | | 3:25:14 AM | |
| 2:48:03 AM | | 2:37:49 AM | | 2:32:42 AM | | 2:35:42 AM | | 2:40:21 AM | | 3:25:08 AM | | 3:26:04 AM |
| | 2:52:49 AM | | 2:41:55 AM | 2:34:43 AM | 2:37:41 AM | | 2:37:21 AM | | 3:06:45 AM | | 3:28:17 AM | |
| 3:12:16 AM | | 2:41:24 AM | | 2:46:24 AM | | 2:38:28 AM | | 2:42:47 AM | | 2:57:39 AM | | 3:28:49 AM |
| | 3:11:02 AM | | 2:44:14 AM | | 6:09:49 AM | | 2:45:41 AM | | 2:50:41 AM | | 2:58:39 AM | |
| 3:10:10 AM | | 11:24:26 AM | | 3:03:13 AM | | 2:46:28 AM | | 2:51:15 AM | | 2:54:20 AM | | 3:04:32 AM |
| | 3:06:26 AM | | 3:04:52 AM | | 2:54:21 AM | | 2:54:03 AM | | 2:52:14 AM | | 2:54:47 AM | 2:59:34 AM |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 11:27:56 AM | | | | | |

Just for the Halibut (5th)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 9:51:32 PM | | 9:43:30 PM | | 9:33:38 PM | | 9:33:16 PM | | 9:42:22 PM | | 9:51:15 PM | 9:53:56 PM |
| 9:54:32 PM | | 9:56:44 PM | | 9:43:09 PM | | 9:23:50 PM | | 9:42:43 PM | | 9:39:52 PM | | 9:50:25 PM |
| | 9:55:43 PM | | 9:56:29 PM | | 9:24:42 PM | | 9:24:17 PM | | 9:34:06 PM | | 9:39:26 PM | |
| 9:56:07 PM | | 10:54:21 PM | | 9:34:56 PM | | 9:11:56 PM | | 9:34:33 PM | | 9:29:36 PM | | 9:38:54 PM |
| 9:40:38 PM | 9:30:43 PM | | 9:16:42 PM | | 9:12:12 PM | | 9:12:26 PM | | 9:20:36 PM | 9:29:56 PM | 9:38:26 PM | |
| 9:32:01 PM | | 9:22:34 PM | | 9:11:43 PM | | 8:59:20 PM | | 9:10:53 PM | | 9:22:16 PM | | 9:27:45 PM |
| | 9:23:21 PM | | 9:11:11 PM | | 8:58:28 PM | | 8:53:32 PM | | 9:12:22 PM | | 9:21:50 PM | |
| 9:32:49 PM | | 9:23:01 PM | | 9:11:29 PM | | 8:54:59 PM | | 9:11:29 PM | | 9:21:03 PM | | 9:27:26 PM |
| | 9:41:45 PM | | 9:31:10 PM | | 9:13:07 PM | 9:04:04 PM | 9:04:40 PM | | 9:26:45 PM | | 9:37:31 PM | |
| 9:54:49 PM | | 9:31:37 PM | | 9:25:54 PM | | 9:03:34 PM | | 9:09:12 PM | | 9:49:30 PM | | 9:37:54 PM |
| | 9:55:16 PM | | 9:40:57 PM | | 9:12:28 PM | | 9:11:43 PM | | 10:32:23 PM | | 9:48:50 PM | |
| 9:52:23 PM | | 9:41:21 PM | | 9:35:26 PM | | 9:12:09 PM | | 9:17:55 PM | | 9:37:10 PM | | 9:49:55 PM |
| | 9:43:54 PM | | 9:36:04 PM | | 9:25:33 PM | | 9:25:08 PM | | 9:26:22 PM | | 9:36:22 PM | 9:48:23 PM |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 3:50:19 AM | | | | | |

Also, we can try to normalize the answers by progression into the puzzle. So, for example, if a team takes 1 hour to solve the puzzle, and they submit a particular answer at 30 minutes, it would be submitted at 50% of their puzzle finish. This lets us aggregate comparable data from different teams. We get the following graphs:

All teams



Teams that finished the puzzle



(Caveat: in the first image, “1” is defined to be the last submission, regardless of its correctness, so it’s a bit less useful than the next picture. However the discrepancies between the two maps may be interesting to investigate. Also it’s worth noting that the extraction to this puzzle was non-trivial, so the graphs of many teams that didn’t solve the puzzle are still quite filled.)

From these graphs, we can sort of say how “obvious” certain options are compared to the others - although perhaps some of the discrepancy in the earlier nodes comes from teams performing a depth-first search. Some of the larger discrepancies include:

ENGLAND (7.24%) > WALES (12.93%) > SCOTLAND (13.41%) > NORTHERNIRELAND (20.05%)

NEWS (21.65%) > SEWN (28.69%) > WENS (33.51%)

WESTWING (19.48%) > NEWSROOM (25.39%) > SPORTSNIGHT (28.83%)

EVERTON (28.11%) > SOUTHAMPTON (31.95%) > WESTBROMWICHALBION (33.77%)

WALCOTT (25.69%) > NAIPAUL (40.12%)

STUDEBAKER (36.96%) > EDSEL (47.05%)

ELSA (33.37%) > SALVADOR (42.80%)

WAKANDA (29.43%) > SOKOVIA (37.04%)

EXPLORER (40.17%) > NAVIGATOR (46.20%)

SIMBA (27.29%) > NALA (32.59%)

SUPEREGO (23.80%) > EGO (28.06%)

Another method of normalizing this data is to simply consider the order of guesses, and to average that. We get the following:

Guess order among all guesses

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 69.4615 | | 69.7521 | | 83.4580 | | 65.2061 | | 72.5042 | | 64.9835 | 79.0000 |
| 72.3843 | | 77.4907 | | 73.1088 | | 56.1756 | | 79.5243 | | 68.0804 | | 64.5246 |
| | 84.6607 | | 72.5378 | | 56.3814 | | 55.9449 | | 68.4298 | | 69.9204 | |
| 80.1981 | | 65.9009 | | 58.3097 | | 43.1221 | | 69.4955 | | 63.7480 | | 67.2687 |
| 49.8016 | 39.1694 | | 36.2080 | | 45.4878 | | 59.7407 | | 32.0775 | | 66.5752 | |
| 69.3970 | | 30.2049 | | 42.3333 | | 24.6336 | | 22.0720 | | 44.5906 | | 57.1240 |
| | 58.2692 | | 23.1985 | | 11.6585 | | 5.4935 | | 31.7692 | | 40.1231 | |
| 72.6545 | | 46.3058 | | 43.8752 | | 10.8197 | | 28.9746 | | 38.8279 | | 49.1231 |
| | 67.2759 | | 57.3190 | | 36.5794 | | 30.0894 | | 28.5082 | | 38.2903 | |
| 74.9244 | | 52.4882 | | 50.7913 | | 26.6489 | | 37.9370 | | 55.6000 | | 70.2069 |
| | 76.2477 | | 63.1429 | | 64.0381 | | 45.4444 | | 44.2720 | | 59.7083 | |
| 70.4615 | | 74.0370 | | 72.8911 | | 51.8789 | | 37.0317 | | 53.6198 | | 54.2381 |
| | 66.7634 | | 71.0459 | | 65.2636 | | 63.7545 | | 44.2901 | | 57.4655 | 52.2578 |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 111.0763 | | | | | |

Guess order among correct guesses

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 54.8923 | | 55.6364 | | 50.2366 | | 51.7099 | | 57.4622 | | 51.6612 | 62.5447 |
| 57.1628 | | 60.6852 | | 57.6990 | | 43.9771 | | 63.2524 | | 54.5804 | | 51.3852 |
| | 66.6429 | | 56.7731 | | 43.7966 | | 43.8583 | | 54.1316 | | 55.2566 | |
| 63.0849 | | 50.8018 | | 45.8938 | | 33.0940 | | 54.0541 | | 50.1626 | | 52.7667 |
| 39.2698 | 30.6694 | | 27.7380 | | 34.7154 | | 45.6111 | | 24.6047 | | 51.6549 | |
| 54.3211 | | 22.8443 | | 31.4188 | | 18.4427 | | 16.0080 | | 34.3543 | | 44.7054 |
| | 45.5538 | | 16.8473 | | 7.7634 | | 3.6412 | | 23.8000 | | 30.6462 | |
| 56.8364 | | 38.0000 | | 32.3333 | | 7.3740 | | 21.6964 | | 29.4016 | | 38.4308 |
| | 52.8276 | | 44.3017 | | 27.6908 | | 22.1626 | | 20.8525 | | 29.8306 | |
| 59.0756 | | 41.0866 | | 39.1652 | | 19.6280 | | 30.1811 | | 43.2333 | | 47.7009 |
| | 59.9541 | | 49.0336 | | 48.9143 | | 34.7949 | | 34.1520 | | 47.2417 | |
| 55.4538 | | 57.4537 | | 56.3889 | | 39.6385 | | 29.4385 | | 42.4298 | | 42.9683 |
| | 52.5038 | | 55.7431 | | 50.6202 | | 48.9636 | | 35.7481 | | 46.3190 | 42.1719 |
| | | | | | | Answer attained | 83.0229 | | | | | |

We can make pretty similar conclusions, although interestingly here SCOTLAND is an earlier guess than WALES by a bit.

The Guesses

A total of 22951 guesses were submitted, spanning 1964 unique guesses. I tried to identify most of the wrong guesses to the questions I think they were intended for, but some certainly could've been split, and I've omitted about 600 of the ones I couldn't cleanly identify (all of these were guessed at most 4 times). (Many of these are probably wild guesses.) So the get rates as shown may be slightly higher than they really are.

For the sake of conciseness the "wrong answers" list may have been truncated.

Question 1: ...the surname of the character who invites Superintendent Chalmers over for "steamed hams"

SKINNER (185), PRINCIPALSKINNER (5), TAMZARIAN (5), SIMPSON (4), SEYMOUR (2), SMITHERS (2)

185/206 = 89.8%

There were talks of creating a full-blown Steamed Hams puzzle, but alas, that puzzle never took off. It lives on in this clue, tucked in the northwest corner of the grid. Sure, maybe his real surname is Tamzarian, but come on.

Question 2: ...the Egyptian God Card whose name includes an actual Egyptian god (disregarding any leading article)

WINGEDDRAGONOFRA (188), RA (56), RASDISCIPLE (52), SLIFERTHESKYDRAGON (40), SUNDRAGONRA (15), THEWINGEDDRAGONOFRA (14), SKYDRAGONOFOSIRIS (13), SLIFER 913), OBELISKTHETORMENTOR (8), OBELISK (6)

188/466 = 40.3%

Incidentally, the Japanese version of Slifer the Sky Dragon actually translates to "Sky Dragon of Osiris". But in the English version, Osiris became Slifer, the Executive Producer of Yu-Gi-Oh!.

Question 3: ...the season with a solstice

WINTER (177), SUMMER (157), SPRING (15), AUTUMN (5), FALL (4), VERNAL (1)

334/359 = 93.0%

The optimist in me hopes that the disparity is because some clever teams determined that they could shortcut the puzzle by not having to traverse each edge. The pessimist in me thinks that it's because the phrase "winter solstice" is more common than "summer solstice".

Question 4: ...the Monopoly utility

WATERWORKS (188), ELECTRICCOMPANY (187), ELECTRICCOMPANT (2),
GASCOMPANY (2)
 $375/385 = 97.4\%$

The Gas Company is only found in Monopoly Mega Edition, I believe.

Question 5: ...the country that contains the Blue Nile

ETHIOPIA (171), SUDAN (148), EGYPT (29), ETHOPIA (3), NILE (2), SOUTHSUDAN (2),
ETHIPOIA (2), BOTSWANA (2), MALI (2)
 $319/365 = 87.4\%$

This get rate might be a little off, since there were two questions that asked for real countries (so some teams may have intended otherwise). So I categorized countries based on whether they seemed to plausibly contain the Blue Nile.

Question 6: ...the three-letter SI prefix

EXA (182), ETA (3), MOL (3), EXO (1), MPH (1), KPM (1), IN (1), KG (1)
 $182/193 = 94.3\%$

Incidentally, ETA used to be an answer elsewhere in the grid, in a previous version. The question was something like "A Greek letter, which when prepended some letters, can become another Greek letter." We didn't need nearly as many eastern edges in this grid, so that question got cut. It would sure be confusing for a team to possibly sequence break via a typo.

Question 7: ...the airline company that also appears in two other clues in this puzzle

UNITED (180), SOUTHWEST (35), DELTA (16), AMERICAN (14), UNITEDAIRLINES (10),
CARIBBEAN (7), SPIRIT (7), EGYPTIAN (6), EMIRATES (5), JETBLUE (5),
SOUTHWESTAIRLINES (4), BRITISHAIRWAYS (4), VIRGIN (4), EASYJET (4), UNIFIED (3),
BLUE (3), BLUEAIR (3)
 $180/377 = 47.7\%$

Whew. The self-referentiality of this question definitely drew a lot of alternates by teams who hadn't found all the questions yet. The two questions referred are Questions 25 (the starting point) and 38.

Question 8: ...the automobile brand mentioned in "We Didn't Start the Fire"

STUDEBAKER (153), EDSEL (150), STEUDEBAKER (1), EDSEI (1), STUDBAKER (1),
ESDEL (1)
 $303/307 = 98.7\%$

This one might have been harder to directly search for if you weren't as familiar with the lyrics, which could at the very least have contributed to the highly precise get rate, with misses only

coming from typos. Another possible theory is that it's particularly difficult to get to this node, requiring one to specifically go NNNWWWS, or (WWN)NNWS, with some variation possible on the first couple of steps.

Question 9: ...the second word in the name of the web browser with a majority market share in the late 1990s

EXPLORER (173), NAVIGATOR (147), NETSCAPE (30), SCAPE (10), MOSAIC (8),
NETSCAPENAVIGATOR (7), SAFARI (7), FIREFOX (6), CLASSIC (6)
 $320/411 = 77.9\%$

Mosaic had lost its market share to Netscape Navigator by 1995, so definitely not the late 1990's. As a result of the First Browser Wars, Internet Explorer would end up taking half of the market share by around 1998-1999. So both of these browsers fit. (1996-1997 is still sufficiently late 1990's.) Safari never really took off. Firefox would not take off until at least 2004, and Chrome is much later than that. Netscape Communicator, more precisely, embodies other applications that aren't directly for web browsing (for instance Netscape Messenger for e-mail). As far as I can tell, the Netscape Classic designation never really existed.

I had a good time finally understanding the "SCAPE" guess, taking the second "word" of "NET SCAPE".

Question 10: ...the character in the Super Smash Bros. franchise whose name starts and ends with the same letter

SAMUS (182), MEGAMAN (4), CAMUS (3), BAYONETTA (2)
Other Smash characters: NESS, MARIO, DEDEDE (1 each)
 $182/202 = 90.1\%$

NESS does have the interesting property that his name is entirely composed of compass directions. Also, shoutout to one team that submitted DEDEDE, which was creative thinking!

Question 11: ...the Boston T station between Newton Centre and Woodland

ELIOT (191), NEWTONHIGHLANDS (191), WABAN (183), WOODLAND (7),
NEWTONCENTRE (7), NEWTON (4)
 $565/592 = 95.4\%$

One old version of the puzzle had about 4 or 5 such North-East-West junctions. That was basically impossible to fill, and I have to thank Anderson for coming up with a more balanced grid. This is the North-East-West junction that we decided to keep. (The good thing about this idea is that at least between versions you can essentially reuse, mix and match the clues according to the requirements of your grid.)

Our definition of between is exclusive and does not contain the endpoints.

Question 12: ...the first name of the Supreme Court justice appointed by Barack Obama
ELENA (169), SONIA (169), SOTOMAYOR (17), MERRICK (11), SONYA (8), ELENAKAGAN (6), KAGAN (5), ELANA (3), SOTOMAYER (2), SONIASOTOMAYOR (2), SONYASOTOMAYOR (1), SONJA (1), NEIL (1)
 $338/395 = 85.6\%$

Merrick Garland is kind of wrong (I mean, he never actually became Supreme Court Justice). Neil Gorsuch is very wrong (although his first name does work with the N/S/E/W thing). SOTOMAYOR was likely a hair trigger response to the N/S/E/W + Supreme Court Justice (and hence why KAGAN was less frequent). I think their last names are more commonly used, at least.

There were a few Stephen's. I really hoped that they didn't mean Stephen Breyer. Fortunately, they didn't mean Stephen Breyer (I think). They meant *Stephen's Sausage Roll*.

Question 13: ...the restaurant that has topped Restaurant Magazine's list of best restaurants in the world at least 3 times
NOMA (171), ELBULLI (168), ELCELLERDECANROCA (8), ELEVENMADISONPARK (7), EBULLI (7), THEFRENCHLAUNDRY (3), FRENCHLAUNDRY (2), PIERREGAGNAIRE (2)
 $339/378 = 89.7\%$

I don't know enough about food to give substantial commentary, sorry. There are many restaurants, so I've probably missed a bunch of those as well.

Question 14: ...the country that won gold medals in both men's and women's speed skating events at the 2018 Olympics
NETHERLANDS (183), SOUTHKOREA (45), NORWAY (35), JAPAN (18), KOREA (12), SWEDEN (11), CANADA (9), UNITEDSTATES (8), DENMARK (6)
 $183/402 = 45.5\%$

This was the other country question. I'm confident that I miscategorized at least some of these, but the top few countries do seem like the set of countries that would stereotypically do pretty well in the Winter Olympics. (In a previous version of this puzzle, we did have a question between NORWAY/SWEDEN.)

At the very least, one team took enough of an issue on SOUTHKOREA to submit: SOUTHKOREAWONMENSANDWOMENSSPEEDSKATINGGOLDSTOOSHORTTRACKCOUNTS. To which we respond, short track speed skating is a different Olympics event from speed skating. Sorry.

Question 15: ...the first word of a Phil Collins album that is also the fifth word of a different Phil Collins album

GOING (203), LIVE (14), DANCE (13), SERIOUS (11), SERIOUSLY (10), NO (9), TESTIFY (9), HELLO (6), ELLIPSIS (6), I (5)
203/296 = 68.6%

We were very careful to word this question to disqualify single-word studio albums like *Testify*. Also, the fact that Serious begins a title and Seriously ends another is a very close miss! But a miss at any rate. We ended up clarifying that we only mean studio albums, so “live” is not a correct answer.

Question 16: ...the surname of the literature Nobelist born in a Caribbean country

WALCOTT (205), NAIPAUL (156), PERSE (86), LEGER (23), DEREKWALCOTT (18), SAINTJOHNPERSE (13), WALCOT (7), SAINT (7), ASTURIAS (6)
361/557 = 64.8%

By far the most common wrong answer was Saint-John Perse aka Alexis Leger. He was born in Guadeloupe, which is indeed Caribbean, but is a French department, not a country. Other people erroneously submitted included Miguel Angel Asturias (Guatemalan), W. Arthur Lewis (won the Nobel for Economics, not Literature), Pablo Neruda (Chilean), and Garcia Marquez (Colombian).

Question 17: ...the two-syllable D&D stat

WISDOM (212), STRENGTH (21), DEFENSE (20), CHARISMA (7), HITPOINTS (5), DEXTERITY (3)
212/272 = 77.9%

This question could probably have been written more specifically, since apparently Defense can sometimes be a standalone stat. I am not sure how all-encompassing the term D&D is. At the very least Wisdom/Strength/Charisma/Dexterity/Intelligence/Constitution seems like the canonical six attributes. (The last two were submitted once each.)

Question 18: ...the last Scrabble-playable word in the 2018 Oscar nominee for Best Picture whose title is at least 4 words long

NAME (199), WATER (195), EBBING (153), OUTSIDE (64), MISSOURI (29), THREAD (7), HOUR (5), CALLMEBYYOURNAME (5), SHAPE (5)
547/689 = 79.4%

Several places to mis-submit here. MISSOURI is not Scrabble-playable, it is a proper noun. However, Ebbing, while a proper noun in the context of the movie, is playable (ebbing as in ebb and flow of the tides). If you didn't think Ebbing was playable, then you would instead submit OUTSIDE. Some did submit the full names of the movies; others submitted the last word of 2018 nominees that weren't 4 or more words long, as in Darkest HOUR and Phantom THREAD.

This clue was indeed quite awkward and stilted, which is because three-way questions are hard! (We also wanted fairly fresh references as well, hence this plus the Winter Olympics question earlier.)

Question 19: ...the seven-letter preposition containing the letters A and W

TOWARDS (227), ATHWART (104), FORWARD (38), FROWARD (36), TOWARD (28), UPWARDS (11), BETWEEN (9), WHEREAS (9), WANTING (9), ATWEEN (7), INWARDS (7), ONWARDS (7)

$227/584 = 38.9\%$

While TOWARDS is certainly more common than ATHWART, the ambiguity is certainly quite unfortunate. I made this question by looking at a Wikipedia page of prepositions that I thought was exhaustive (evidently not). Then again, it seems pretty difficult to clue connective words like TOWARDS. It appears that ATHWART is the only other non-archaic preposition satisfying this property, though.

Question 20: ...the League of Legends character based on a canine

NASUS (179), WARWICK (170), AHRI (23), KINDRED (17), RENGAR (14), VOLIBEAR (6), GNAR (4), TEEMO (4), NASSUS (3), KLED (3), WOLF (3)

Other champions: UDYR (2), RENEKTON (2), LUX (2),

PUGMAW/COGMAW/TRISTANA/NAMI/KENNEN/POPPY/EVELYNN/HEIMERDINGER/TWITC
H/EKKO/EZREAL/CORKI/VLADIMIR/ZED (all 1)

$349/456 = 76.5\%$

Nasus is a dog, Warwick is a wolf. There were some close misses - Ahri is a fox, but we ultimately ruled that foxes were canids and not canines. Kindred does have a wolf component, but together they embody death itself, plus really when you play the champ you're really playing Lamb. Rengar is a cat... Volibear is a bear. I thought that was evident from his name. I really feel like the yordles are basically based off hamsters.

Other clever ideas:

- Lux?? Until you realize that just this Chinese New Year event, Lux got a skin for the year of the dog (as with Nasus and Warwick).
- Pug'maw - this is just a skin (and an April Fools' one, no less)
- One team submitted SOAZ, lol
- Nobody guessed AURELIONSOL. Zoe at least calls him a space doggy...

Question 21: ...the title character of a Pixar film released in the 2000s

NEMO (170), WALLE (154), DORY (33), RATATOUILLE (23), COCO (20), BOLT (9), MIKE (7), UP (5), FINDINGNEMO (5), SULLEY (5)

$324/472 = 68.4\%$

We had a fairly strict definition of “title character”, and the rat in Ratatouille is not named Ratatouille, even though they are indeed referred by the movie title (REMY got 4 guesses). Likewise, MIKE and SULLEY (from Monsters, Inc.) are indeed the referred monsters but are not named by the title. On the other hand, DORY and COCO are title characters from films made after 2010. BOLT fits the time period, but is a Disney animation, not a Pixar one.

Question 22: ...the surname of the man who directed a live-action movie starring Batman in this century

NOLAN (155), SNYDER (148), AYER (36), SCHUMACHER (14), SYNDER (7), BURTON (6), REEVES (5)

$303/381 = 79.5\%$

Ayer did direct Suicide Squad, although the film does not prominently feature Batman. Burton and Schumacher directed films before this century, and don't count. Reeves is apparently directing a Batman film in the future, although that's for the future. There were a couple of guesses of Affleck as well.

Question 23: ...the four-letter Scrabble-playable word using each of the four compass points exactly once

NEWS (205), WENS (179), SEWN (178), SWEN (6), SNEW (4), NSEW (2), WEENS (2)

$562/588 = 95.6\%$

I tried to come up with a more substantial triple anagram to fill up a North/West/South spot, but failed to come up with any. This could potentially give away the N/S/E/W gimmick early, so it was placed further away from the center. Although, it seemed that some teams actually appreciated the hint.

Question 24: ...the Aaron Sorkin TV series that ran for at least two seasons (disregarding any leading article)

WESTWING (218), NEWSROOM (192), SPORTSNIGHT (18), THENEWSROOM (24), THEWESTWING (21), STUDIOONTHESETSTRIP (17), STUDIOSIXTYONTHESETSTRIP (6), STUDIOSIXTY (5)

$590/675 = 87.4\%$

Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip only aired for one season.

Question 25: ...the country in the United Kingdom

ENGLAND (251), WALES (237), SCOTLAND (234), NORTHERNIRELAND (222), IRELAND (107), UNITEDKINGDOM (100), THECOUNTRYINTHEUNITEDKINGDOM (92), GREATBRITAIN (62), BRITAIN (32), REPUBLICOFIRELAND (26), THEANSWERTOTHISPUZZLEISTHECOUNTRYINTHEUNITEDKINGDOM (17), NORTHERNIRELAND (15), NIUE (14), THEUNITEDKINGDOM (10)

944/1554 = 60.7%

Halfway there! We're now at the starting node now. We take country here to refer to the constituent parts of the United Kingdom, which is often conflated with Great Britain (which doesn't include Northern Ireland). It's also not the British Isles, so Ireland is wrong. Niue is part of New Zealand. There were a whole host of crown dependencies also guessed, as well. (After some additional investigation, perhaps NIUE was guessed because it is can be formed by the letters of UNITED? It was almost always guessed as one of the earliest guesses.)

Question 26: ...the non-radioactive element whose atomic weight is between 142 and 152
NEODYMIUM (217), EUROPIUM (204), SAMARIUM (200), PROMETHIUM (57), NEODYNIUM (20), CERIUM (9), PRASEODYMIUM (7), GADOLINIUM (6), PROMETHEUM (5)
621/761 = 81.6%

Fairly straightforward elements question here. Promethium is unusually radioactive despite its lower proton count (the other element with this distinction is Technetium). Cerium, Praseodymium, Gadolinium, etc. are out of bounds. Perhaps this picture may be a more succinct representation of all of the guesses for this puzzle:

The Periodic Table of the Elements

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| <div>1</div> <div>H</div> <div>Hydrogen</div> <div>1.00794</div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | <div>2</div> <div>He</div> <div>Helium</div> <div>4.003</div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div>3</div> <div>Li</div> <div>Lithium</div> <div>6.941</div> | | <div>4</div> <div>Be</div> <div>Beryllium</div> <div>9.012182</div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | <div>5</div> <div>B</div> <div>Boron</div> <div>10.811</div> | | <div>6</div> <div>C</div> <div>Carbon</div> <div>12.0107</div> | | <div>7</div> <div>N</div> <div>Nitrogen</div> <div>14.00674</div> | | <div>8</div> <div>O</div> <div>Oxygen</div> <div>15.9994</div> | | <div>9</div> <div>F</div> <div>Fluorine</div> <div>18.9984032</div> | | <div>10</div> <div>Ne</div> <div>Neon</div> <div>20.1797</div> | | | | | |
| <div>11</div> <div>Na</div> <div>Sodium</div> <div>22.989770</div> | | <div>12</div> <div>Mg</div> <div>Magnesium</div> <div>24.3050</div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | <div>13</div> <div>Al</div> <div>Aluminum</div> <div>26.981538</div> | | <div>14</div> <div>Si</div> <div>Silicon</div> <div>28.0855</div> | | <div>15</div> <div>P</div> <div>Phosphorus</div> <div>30.973761</div> | | <div>16</div> <div>S</div> <div>Sulfur</div> <div>32.066</div> | | <div>17</div> <div>Cl</div> <div>Chlorine</div> <div>35.4527</div> | | <div>18</div> <div>Ar</div> <div>Argon</div> <div>39.948</div> | | | | | |
| <div>19</div> <div>K</div> <div>Potassium</div> <div>39.0983</div> | | <div>20</div> <div>Ca</div> <div>Calcium</div> <div>40.078</div> | | <div>21</div> <div>Sc</div> <div>Scandium</div> <div>44.955910</div> | | <div>22</div> <div>Ti</div> <div>Titanium</div> <div>47.867</div> | | <div>23</div> <div>V</div> <div>Vanadium</div> <div>50.9415</div> | | <div>24</div> <div>Cr</div> <div>Chromium</div> <div>51.9961</div> | | <div>25</div> <div>Mn</div> <div>Manganese</div> <div>54.938049</div> | | <div>26</div> <div>Fe</div> <div>Iron</div> <div>55.845</div> | | <div>27</div> <div>Co</div> <div>Cobalt</div> <div>58.933200</div> | | <div>28</div> <div>Ni</div> <div>Nickel</div> <div>58.6934</div> | | <div>29</div> <div>Cu</div> <div>Copper</div> <div>63.546</div> | | <div>30</div> <div>Zn</div> <div>Zinc</div> <div>65.39</div> | | <div>31</div> <div>Ga</div> <div>Gallium</div> <div>69.723</div> | | <div>32</div> <div>Ge</div> <div>Germanium</div> <div>72.61</div> | | <div>33</div> <div>As</div> <div>Arsenic</div> <div>74.92160</div> | | <div>34</div> <div>Se</div> <div>Selenium</div> <div>78.96</div> | | <div>35</div> <div>Br</div> <div>Bromine</div> <div>79.904</div> | | <div>36</div> <div>Kr</div> <div>Krypton</div> <div>83.80</div> | |
| <div>37</div> <div>Rb</div> <div>Rubidium</div> <div>85.4678</div> | | <div>38</div> <div>Sr</div> <div>Strontium</div> <div>87.62</div> | | <div>39</div> <div>Y</div> <div>Yttrium</div> <div>88.90585</div> | | <div>40</div> <div>Zr</div> <div>Zirconium</div> <div>91.224</div> | | <div>41</div> <div>Nb</div> <div>Niobium</div> <div>92.90638</div> | | <div>42</div> <div>Mo</div> <div>Molybdenum</div> <div>95.94</div> | | <div>43</div> <div>Tc</div> <div>Technetium</div> <div>(98)</div> | | <div>44</div> <div>Ru</div> <div>Ruthenium</div> <div>101.07</div> | | <div>45</div> <div>Rh</div> <div>Rhodium</div> <div>102.90550</div> | | <div>46</div> <div>Pd</div> <div>Palladium</div> <div>106.42</div> | | <div>47</div> <div>Ag</div> <div>Silver</div> <div>107.8682</div> | | <div>48</div> <div>Cd</div> <div>Cadmium</div> <div>112.411</div> | | <div>49</div> <div>In</div> <div>Indium</div> <div>114.818</div> | | <div>50</div> <div>Sn</div> <div>Tin</div> <div>118.710</div> | | <div>51</div> <div>Sb</div> <div>Antimony</div> <div>121.760</div> | | <div>52</div> <div>Te</div> <div>Tellurium</div> <div>127.60</div> | | <div>53</div> <div>I</div> <div>Iodine</div> <div>126.90447</div> | | <div>54</div> <div>Xe</div> <div>Xenon</div> <div>131.29</div> | |
| <div>55</div> <div>Cs</div> <div>Cesium</div> <div>132.90545</div> | | <div>56</div> <div>Ba</div> <div>Barium</div> <div>137.327</div> | | <div>57</div> <div>La</div> <div>Lanthanum</div> <div>138.9055</div> | | <div>72</div> <div>Hf</div> <div>Hafnium</div> <div>178.49</div> | | <div>73</div> <div>Ta</div> <div>Tantalum</div> <div>180.9479</div> | | <div>74</div> <div>W</div> <div>Tungsten</div> <div>183.84</div> | | <div>75</div> <div>Re</div> <div>Rhenium</div> <div>186.207</div> | | <div>76</div> <div>Os</div> <div>Osmium</div> <div>190.23</div> | | <div>77</div> <div>Ir</div> <div>Iridium</div> <div>192.217</div> | | <div>78</div> <div>Pt</div> <div>Platinum</div> <div>195.078</div> | | <div>79</div> <div>Au</div> <div>Gold</div> <div>196.96655</div> | | <div>80</div> <div>Hg</div> <div>Mercury</div> <div>200.59</div> | | <div>81</div> <div>Tl</div> <div>Thallium</div> <div>204.3833</div> | | <div>82</div> <div>Pb</div> <div>Lead</div> <div>207.2</div> | | <div>83</div> <div>Bi</div> <div>Bismuth</div> <div>208.98038</div> | | <div>84</div> <div>Po</div> <div>Polonium</div> <div>(209)</div> | | <div>85</div> <div>At</div> <div>Astatine</div> <div>(210)</div> | | <div>86</div> <div>Rn</div> <div>Radon</div> <div>(222)</div> | |
| <div>87</div> <div>Fr</div> <div>Francium</div> <div>(223)</div> | | <div>88</div> <div>Ra</div> <div>Radium</div> <div>(226)</div> | | <div>89</div> <div>Ac</div> <div>Actinium</div> <div>(227)</div> | | <div>104</div> <div>Rf</div> <div>Rutherfordium</div> <div>(261)</div> | | <div>105</div> <div>Db</div> <div>Dubnium</div> <div>(262)</div> | | <div>106</div> <div>Sg</div> <div>Seaborgium</div> <div>(263)</div> | | <div>107</div> <div>Bh</div> <div>Bohrium</div> <div>(262)</div> | | <div>108</div> <div>Hs</div> <div>Hassium</div> <div>(265)</div> | | <div>109</div> <div>Mt</div> <div>Meitnerium</div> <div>(266)</div> | | <div>110</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>(269)</div> | | <div>111</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>(272)</div> | | <div>112</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>(277)</div> | | <div>113</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> | | <div>114</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <div>58</div> <div>Ce</div> <div>Cerium</div> <div>140.116</div> | <div>59</div> <div>Pr</div> <div>Praseodymium</div> <div>140.90768</div> | <div>60</div> <div>Nd</div> <div>Neodymium</div> <div>144.24</div> | <div>61</div> <div>Pm</div> <div>Promethium</div> <div>(145)</div> | <div>62</div> <div>Sm</div> <div>Samarium</div> <div>150.36</div> | <div>63</div> <div>Eu</div> <div>Europium</div> <div>151.964</div> | <div>64</div> <div>Gd</div> <div>Gadolinium</div> <div>157.25</div> | <div>65</div> <div>Tb</div> <div>Terbium</div> <div>158.92534</div> | <div>66</div> <div>Dy</div> <div>Dysprosium</div> <div>162.50</div> | <div>67</div> <div>Ho</div> <div>Holmium</div> <div>164.93032</div> | <div>68</div> <div>Er</div> <div>Erbium</div> <div>167.26</div> | <div>69</div> <div>Tm</div> <div>Thulium</div> <div>168.93421</div> | <div>70</div> <div>Yb</div> <div>Ytterbium</div> <div>173.04</div> | <div>71</div> <div>Lu</div> <div>Lutetium</div> <div>174.967</div> |
| <div>90</div> <div>Th</div> <div>Thorium</div> <div>232.0381</div> | <div>91</div> <div>Pa</div> <div>Protactinium</div> <div>231.03588</div> | <div>92</div> <div>U</div> <div>Uranium</div> <div>238.0289</div> | <div>93</div> <div>Np</div> <div>Neptunium</div> <div>(237)</div> | <div>94</div> <div>Pu</div> <div>Plutonium</div> <div>(244)</div> | <div>95</div> <div>Am</div> <div>Americium</div> <div>(243)</div> | <div>96</div> <div>Cm</div> <div>Curium</div> <div>(247)</div> | <div>97</div> <div>Bk</div> <div>Berkelium</div> <div>(247)</div> | <div>98</div> <div>Cf</div> <div>Californium</div> <div>(251)</div> | <div>99</div> <div>Es</div> <div>Einsteinium</div> <div>(252)</div> | <div>100</div> <div>Fm</div> <div>Fermium</div> <div>(257)</div> | <div>101</div> <div>Md</div> <div>Mendelevium</div> <div>(258)</div> | <div>102</div> <div>No</div> <div>Nobelium</div> <div>(259)</div> | <div>103</div> <div>Lr</div> <div>Lawrencium</div> <div>(262)</div> |

Legend: Green = Correct, Red = Wrong (5+ guesses), Orange = Wrong (3 guesses), Gold = Wrong (2 guesses), Yellow = Wrong (1 guess)

Question 27: ...the digit in the top row of a standard numpad

EIGHT (199), NINE (195), SEVEN (190), ONE (24), THREE (15), TWO (12), ZERO (3), ELEVEN (2), FOUR (1), FIVE (1), SEVENEIGHT (1), DIGIT (1)

584/644 = 90.7%

I hope I am wrong in categorizing these numbers because eleven sure isn't a digit. Some of the THREE's could have conceivably been for the Oscar question instead. Maybe. ONE/TWO/THREE are indeed on the top row of a telephone keypad which for some reason has the numbers flipped. We couldn't use a telephone keypad for cluing this question (with top replaced with bottom) since 0 occupies a row lower than 7/8/9.

Question 28: ...the lion Zazu babysits at the beginning of The Lion King

SIMBA (197), NALA (181), SCAR (4), MUFASA (2), SIIMBA (1)

378/385 = 98.2%

I'm probably missing quite a few wrong answers since I don't know off the top of my head all of the characters from Lion King.

Question 29: ...the mountain (without Mount) that is the tallest in its continent and also shares the same first letter as that continent

ELBRUS (165), ACONCAGUA (33), EVEREST (17), EUROPE (3), ANNAPURNA (3), NEVADODETOLUCA (2)

165/228 = 72.4%

I suppose the argumentation goes - Aconcagua is the tallest in the combined Americas, Everest is the tallest in the combined Eur(afr)asia. Yeah I guess "continent" is a little vague but we chose succinctness over necessarily the least ambiguous wording, and "continent" is traditionally the seven. Annapurna and Nevado de Toluca are indeed tall mountains in Asia and North America respectively but are not nearly tall enough.

Question 30: ...the puzzle game commercially released by Increate Games

STEPHENSSAUSAGEROLL (184), ENGLISHCOUNTRYTUNE (174), QUIETCITY (54), STEPHENSAUSAGEROLL (4), WITNESS (3), SPACECHEM (3), THEWITNESS (3)

358/441 = 81.2%

We've decided that we're largely ok with calling QUIETCITY not a puzzle game. The Witness I suppose was released very close to SSR and thus their developers could have been conflated, or I guess some teams may have guessed games starting with N/S/E/W.

Question 31: ...the body part that could also appear as a button on your browser

BACK (198), HAND (17), EYE (15), HEART (10), HEAD (9), FINGER (9), THUMBNAIL (8), THUMB (8), FACE (7), EAR (6)
198/330 = 60.0%

The intention was that the button would be named (and not necessarily shaped) a certain thing. So while you might have a heart button to declare favorites, it's not called the heart button, probably (or you have a very informal browser). The back button at least is nearly universal, so we hope that it wasn't too ambiguous.

Question 32: ...the force unified by a Grand Unified Theory

ELECTROMAGNETIC (202), STRONG (198), WEAK (189), GRAVITY (98), ELECTROMAGNETISM (25), ELECTRIC (13), ELECTROWEAK (12), NUCLEAR (12), STRONGFORCE (11), WEAKFORCE (10), GRAVITATIONAL (9), STRONGNUCLEAR (9), MAGNETIC (8), ELECTRICITY (8), GRAVITATION (6), WEAKNUCLEAR (6), WEAKNUCLEARFORCE (5)
589/862 = 68.3%

There is a little bit of a confusion as to what to input, but it seems that most teams figured it out. GRAVITY is not unified under a Grand Unified Theory - you need a Theory of Everything for that instead.

Question 33: ...the zodiac constellation that contains another constellation as a substring

SAGITTARIUS (210), AQUARIUS (38), CAPRICORN (26), TAURUS (23), CAPRICORNUS (22), SCORPIO (17), LEO (17), SCORPIUS (16), SAGGITARIUS (15), GEMINI (14), ARIES (13), LIBRA (12), VIRGO (11), CANCER (11), PISCES (10), SAGITTA (9), OPHIUCHUS (8), LEOMINOR (6), ZODIAC (6), CHAMAELEON (4), ORION (4), NORMA (4)
210/523 = 40.2%

Every zodiac constellation was guessed, and then some. Leo Minor and Chamaeleon conversely are non-zodiac constellations that contain Leo, a zodiac constellation. Other constellations guessed: TRIANGULUMAUSTRALE (3), LYNX, CYGNUS, ARA (1 each). Sagittarius's subconstellation is, rather lamely, Sagitta.

Question 34: ...the day of the week that Lent starts on, in Roman Catholic tradition

WEDNESDAY (201), SUNDAY (48), SATURDAY (16), MONDAY (7), ASHWEDNESDAY (6), TUESDAY (3), THURSDAY (3), FRIDAY (2), EASTER (2)
201/288 = 69.8%

Likewise every day of the week got some love here too.

Question 35: ...the fictional country in the Marvel Cinematic Universe

WAKANDA (179), SOKOVIA (170), GENOSHA (17), LATVERIA (15), NIGANDA (14), COSTAVERDE (11), SYMKARIA (10), KUNLUN (8), MADRIPOOR (6)

349/464 = 75.2%

We specifically mentioned the Marvel Cinematic Universe, even though many other fictional countries have appeared in the comic books.

Question 36: ...the wind in Greek mythology whose name is 5 letters long

NOTUS (165), EURUS (159), AURAI (8), NORUS (3), EUROS (3), MESES (3), IAPYX (3), LIPS (3), NOTOS (2)

324/357 = 90.8%

Funnily enough, we edited the Wikipedia page on the classical winds so that the spelling would be consistent throughout the whole page. Also we intended to only involve the main winds, so sorry Aurai, Meses, and Iapyx. Finally, the other primary winds, BOREAS and ZEPHYR, got a guess apiece despite not being 5 letters long.

Question 37: ...the first name of the artist who helped design a "shoe hat" and a "lobster dress"

ELSA (176), SALVADOR (143), SCHIAPARELLI (45), DALI (20), ELSASCHIAPARELLI (10), SALVADORDALI (9), SALVADORE (6), SALVADOREDALI (2)

319/415 = 76.9%

A lot of last names and full names here. I'm not well-versed enough in this subject to potentially pick up on the less obvious wrong answers.

Question 38: ...the surname of the president of the United States who resigned

NIXON (178), TRUMP (3), CLINTON (2), REAGAN (1), WILSON (1)

178/185 = 96.2%

Well isn't that some wishful thinking about Trump. (We were wondering what the logistics for updating this puzzle would be had Trump resigned during the course of our hunt. I estimated that this chance would be pretty low, like 1-2% at best, but still.) Clinton was impeached by the House but acquitted by the Senate.

Question 39: ...the 2016-2017 Premier League team whose name ends with "on"

SOUTHAMPTON (182), EVERTON (174), WESTBROMWICHALBION (142), SOUTHAMPTON (32), BRIGHTON (12), BRIGHTONANDHOVEALBION (5), ALBION (5), WOLVERHAMPTON (4), CHESTERTON (4)

498/575 = 86.6%

SOUTHHAMPTON was a very common misspelling. Brighton and Hove Albion got promoted this year, so weren't in the 2016-17 season. Wolverhampton seems even more premature, apparently vying to get back into the Premier League in 2019?

Question 40: ...the part of the Freudian psyche that is not present at birth

SUPEREGO (205), EGO (196), ID (20), SUPERGO (2), SUOEREGO (1), ORDEREGO (1), DEEPEGO (1), SUPERID (1)

401/427 = 93.9%

The question was worded to exclude id (as a component that is present at birth).

Question 41: ...the film starring Jake Gyllenhaal set entirely in Los Angeles

ENDOFWATCH (188), NIGHTCRAWLER (186), NOCTURNALANIMALS (24), ENEMY (8), SOUTHPAW (7), DONNIEDARKO (6), JIMINYGLICKINLALAWOOD (3), ENDWATCH (2), THEDAYAFTERTOMORROW (2), LOVELYANDAMAZING (2)

374/440 = 85.0%

Rahul actually watched Nocturnal Animals to confirm that it did not take place entirely in LA. I have no idea how this clue was made up - some lucky IMDB-ing?

Question 42: ...the Neal Stephenson novel whose title is a palindrome

SEVENEVES (197), SEVENEVS (2), SEVENES (1), SEVENEVERS (1), SEVENEYES (1), SEVENEAVES (1), SEVENSES (1), SEVENNEVES (1), SEVENVES (1), EVE (1), STEPHENSON (1), SEVEVN (1), EVENEVES (1), SENENES (1)

197/211 = 93.4%

Well, spelling was really the only real point of failure here, as palindromy isn't really a thing you can "accidentally" make. SEVEVN could theoretically be a typo of SEVEN (numpad question) I guess?

Question 43: ...the online game that was purchased by the creator of the JumpStart games from Viacom in 2014

NEOPETS (180), KNOWLEDGEADVENTURE (4), NEOPET (1), NEOPOETS (1), JUMPSTART (1)

180/187 = 96.3%

Also a pretty clear question. Probably influenced by some Discord discussion about "educational" video games that we played in our childhoods.

Question 44: ...the Pink Floyd album that contains a nine-part song

WISHYOUWEREHERE (182), SHINEONYOUCRAZYDIAMOND (19), ECHOES (11), ANIMALS (6), NOTHINGISCHANGED (6), THEWALL (5), ACOLLECTIONOFGREATDANCESONGS (3), WALL (3), ECHOESTHEBESTOFPINKFLOYD (2), UMMAGUMMA (2), ENDLESSRIVER (2), MORE (2)

182/250 = 72.8%

Shine on You Crazy Diamond being the 9-part song in question.

Question 45: ...the Japanese prefecture whose flag is a blue symbol on a white background

WAKAYAMA (155), NAGASAKI (154), IBARAKI (8), WAGAYAMA (4), FUKUOKA (3), WAKAYAM (2), NEGASAKI (1), NAGSAKI (1), WAKAYAMAWISHYOUWEREHERE (1), CHIBA (1)

309/330 = 93.6%

I remember running through my brain for lists of political subdivisions when trying to fill out our last two-way intersections in our previous draft. In particular, no U.S. state starts with an E, and no country in the world starts with a W. Eventually I looked at Japanese prefectures, and got this reasonable-sounding quantifier.

Now that I think of it, we did have another N/W question that apparently got cut about U.S. states - "... the state that shares a name of a US city whose population is at least 500,000" (WASHINGTON / NEWYORK). I guess the arbitrary population thing got it cut.

Both Chiba and Ibaraki have flags that are a white symbol on a blue background. Fukuoka's flag is more purple, I'd say.

Question 46: ...the surname of the author of a famous novel whose title refers to an "invisible man"

WELLS (175), ELLISON (156), HGWELLS (3), WELLES (1), ELLIOSN (1), HEMINGWAY (1), ELLION (1), RALPHELLISON (1)

331/339 = 97.6%

I remembered that there was both a "The Invisible Man" as well as an "Invisible Man". I knew H.G. Wells wrote one of them, but my poor literature knowledge resulted in not knowing the other author. I was pleasantly surprised that his name started with an E.

Question 47: ...the play by Sophocles that shares a name with one of the Pleiades

ELECTRA (209), ANTIGONE (10), STEROPE (6), ELEKTRA (2), ELECGR (1), TAYGETA (1), ELECTRCA (1), ELECTOR (1), PLEIADES (1), MEROPE (1), OEDIPUS (1)

209/234 = 89.3%

This came from looking at my list of sets (useful for puzzling!) and finding some pretty neat single-element intersections between them. Antigone and Oedipus are just plays, Sterope, Taygeta, and Merope are just the Pleiades (is the singular Pleiade?).

Question 48: ...the blue planet that isn't Uranus

NEPTUNE (194), EARTH (176), SATURN (13), VENUS (3), URANUS (3), PLUTO (3), NEPTUNR (1), JUPITER (1), NEPTUN (1)
 $370/395 = 93.7\%$

Ok, I suppose there's been some Blue Saturn pictures floating around, but really Neptune and Earth should be the obvious ones. (Saturn, I suppose, does start with an S.) We were arguing over whether Uranus was more or less blue, and ultimately ended up just excluding it as in the question.

Question 49: ...the taxonomic rank shared by scorpions and giraffes but not giraffes and venus fly traps

KINGDOM (205), ANIMALIA (98), DOMAIN (31), PHYLUM (27), ANIMAL (19), SUBKINGDOM (16), ORDER (15), SPECIES (12), CLASS (11), REGNUM (10), CHORDATA (8), FAMILY (8), BILATERIA (8), KINGDOMANIMALIA (8), GENUS (7), EUKARYA (6), CLADE (5), EMPIRE (5)
 $205/625 = 32.8\%$

Well this one was fun... I think this was one of the first sinks that many teams discovered (the other would be "towards"). Its sufficient distance from the center caused several teams to believe that it had to start with N/S/E/W as well, which led to some interesting guesses like EMPIRE (I mean, it's a synonym to KINGDOM right?)

Of course, we got many guesses on the instruction phrase, as well as interesting ways to interpret it:

GOINGBACKTOWARDSUNITEDKINGDOM (117), BREXIT (58), MODGNIKDETINU (12), RETURNING (10), GOINGTOWARDSUNITEDKINGDOM (8), GOINGBACK (7), GOINGBACKTOWARDUNITEDKINGDOM (7), THE (7), COUNTRY (7), GOINGBACKTOWARDSKINGDOM (6), REUNIFICATION (6), CENTER (6), EUROPEANUNION (6), RECENTERING (5)

Some guesses that were directions and/or composed of many compass directions: COMPASS (13), NORTHWEST (12), EAST (12), NORTHEAST (10), WEST (10), NORTH (7), NEWNESS (6), SOUTH (4), SOUTHEAST (4), DIRECTIONS (4), SENSE (4), NORTHNORTHWEST (2), COMPASSROSE (2), NW (2)

(With Southwest being a common airline, I chose to move that guess there. There were 35 SOUTHWEST guesses)

Some guesses about the puzzle itself:

ANSWER (15), THEANSWERTOTHISPUZZLE (6), INCORRECT (6), TEST (4), WRONG (4), GUESS (2), CORRECT (2), THEANSWER (2)

Some guesses that were miscellaneous guesses about the UK:

UNIONJACK (14), ENGLISHCHANNEL (3), UNIONFLAG (3), TUNNEL (2), CHUNNEL (2)

Two other answers that I particularly enjoyed:

- YOURDISCORDMUSTBEADISASTERRIGHTNOW
 - We specifically dedicated a channel for this puzzle predicting many thousands of guesses just for this puzzle. I think it worked pretty well.
- YOUHAVEGOTTOBEKIDDING

And of course, the right answer:

HALT (131)

(although many misspellings / misreadings of the graph occurred as well)