



introduction

2014 AQUARIUM PUZZLE HUNT

welcome freshmen!

This is a puzzle hunt that will take place while you are at the aquarium.

We recommend working in teams of 5-8 people, but there is no limit (orientation groups are fine too). There is a prize for the first team to solve all puzzles.

Your team will need 1 phone that is capable of sending texts. Always use the same phone.

To begin, **text your team name to 267-800-2018**

If you need help/have questions, find any of the staff members wearing a **bandana**.

Dear fellow travelers,

If you're reading this, then you've stumbled upon my most prized possession - the travel log that I kept during my four years at MIT. It was a simpler time back then. We didn't have the flying cars, or the robot cats, or the color televisions that I'm sure you all have today. What we did have back then was a sense of adventure. I don't mean those "video sports" or "melee brothers" or whatever - I mean *real* adventure. Adventure was what MIT life was all about back then.

Those were the days, full of wonder and excitement! We explored the world and found love and stayed up much too late, studying and talking and enjoying everything that life had to offer. Day after day, year after year, we grew and learned and lived with one another, until one day we finally found the True and Verified Secret to Happiness. Are you skeptical, dear reader? I myself disbelieved it, but gradually I came to understand the meaning of what we found. And once we understood the True and Verified Secret to Happiness, we kept it safe, buried on the Inconspicuously Hydrophobic Tastefully Furnished Paradise Archipelago.

My travel log documents my visits to each of the archipelago's 9 islands. Your quest is to visit each island and bottle its essence [solution to the puzzle]. My travel log contains a map, but Slinky (my pet cobra) seems to have shredded it into a few pieces. My sherpa friends (who are all sporting incredibly fashionable bandanas) each have found one piece, but unfortunately they're forgetful and can't seem to remember how to access them. Once you've completed the map, the True and Verified Secret to Happiness will be within reach.

Dearest travelers, I know you might be new to the art of puzzle-solving, but I have the utmost confidence that you will succeed in uncovering the True and Verified Secret to Happiness. My only fear is that many worthy travelers will answer my call for adventure, but only the first to unlock the mysteries will be rewarded. I bid you good luck and safe travels!

The 9 puzzles plus one meta puzzle are scattered throughout the aquarium. Good Luck!

To submit an answer, send a text to 267-800-2018 (our radio tower) with the format [puzzle number] [your solution].

E.g. if the answer for puzzle 6 was trebuchet, you would text **6 trebuchet**.