

MIT Aquarium Puzzle Hunt 2025

[Note: this hunt is named for its association with the First-Year Orientation Event which previously took place at the New England Aquarium. In 2025, the event was held at the Samberg Center, but retained the name for the sake of tradition.]

Thank you for your patience, class of 2029!

We are the Aquarium Hunt Organizing Committee, and everything is almost ready for this year's grand orientation event. The exhibits are polished, the drinks are icy, and the penguins are excited to see you!

We're experiencing some **ahem** logistical issues—Tim, our mascot, is mysteriously absent, and nobody knows where he went. We're sure he'll be here any minute now, but in the meantime, our staff has been frantically putting together a collection of puzzles, spotify playlists, and physical trinkets as diversions to keep all of you occupied while we wait. They weren't meant to be the main event, but desperate times call for... puzzles!

So please, lend us your time and brainpower. Solve what you can, have some fun, and pass the time, and maybe these puzzles will lead you to the answer to the most pressing question right now—where on earth is that busy beaver?

Gratefully,
People United in Zealously Zany Logistical Excuses (P.U.Z.Z.L.E.)

Welcome to Aquarium Hunt 2025! This is an annual puzzle event written and run by the MIT Puzzle Club for you, the incoming freshmen. If you've never done a puzzlehunt before, don't worry! This is designed to be a hopefully-accessible introduction to the world of puzzles, and there are puzzle club volunteers available to give hints. (Asking for hints is a normal and encouraged part of solving a puzzlehunt!)

The process of solving is unique to each puzzle, and should be revealed by the puzzle itself; that said, we have also included a code sheet of common systems of encoding letters/numbers that frequently come up in puzzlehunting (note that not all of these methods will necessarily be used in this hunt). Using the internet beyond these resources should not be required for this hunt, but it is permitted! With each puzzle, your goal is to extract a word or phrase, which is the puzzle's answer. When you think you have found the answer to any puzzle, find a volunteer to confirm it for you!

Once you have solved at least 5 of the puzzles, we will give you the metapuzzle, which is a puzzle that requires the use of the answers to the previous puzzles in order to solve it. Solving the metapuzzle finishes the hunt!

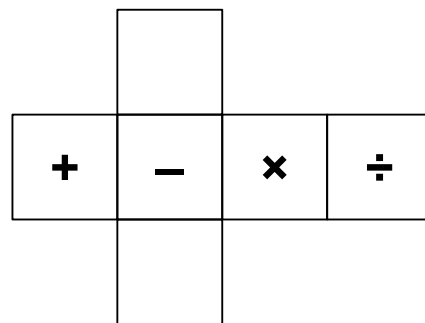
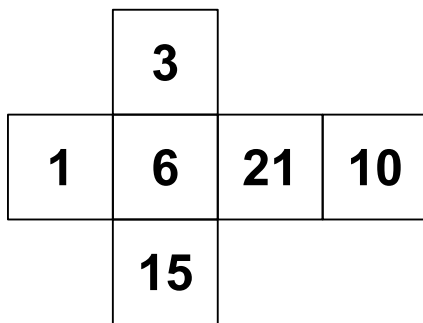
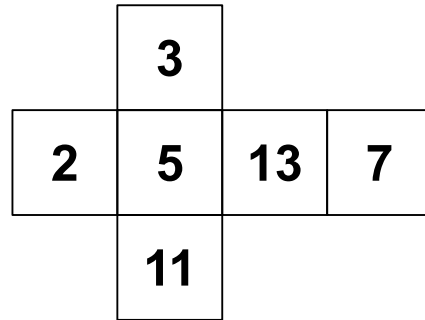
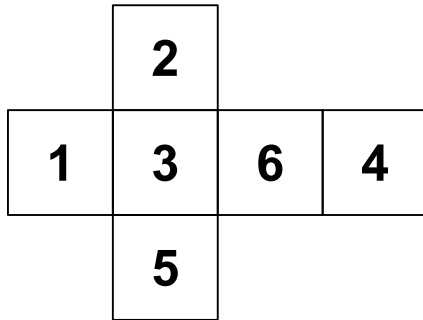
Good luck!

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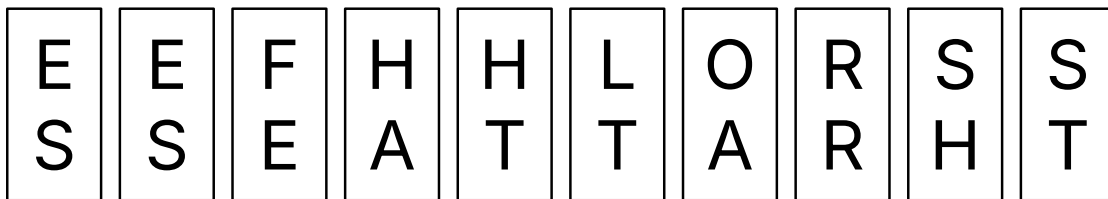
You should have in your bag or on your table a few tools to help you out, which you'll need for the puzzles ahead:

You should have a map of the aquarium.

You should have 4 cubes whose nets, up to face rotation, look like these:



You should have 10 tiles which look like this:



Answer Sheet for Team _____

(team name goes here)

After you solve a puzzle, write the answer here and show it to a Puzzle Club volunteer for confirmation.

| Puzzle Answers | | ✓ |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Dice Towers | | |
| Dual | | |
| One Fish, Two Fish | | |
| Reanimation | | |
| Ring Bearers | | |
| Rotten Right to the Core | | |
| Scrambled Legs | | |
| The Recirculating Aquarium | | |
| Tim's F1 Racecar | | |

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Meta: Where's Tim? | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|

After you solve any 5 of the puzzles above, we will give you the metapuzzle.

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Code Sheet

| NATO | Letter | Decimal (base 10) | Binary (base 2) | Ternary (base 3) | Hex (base 16) | Letter | Morse | Braille | Semaphore | Pigpen |
|----------|----------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------|-------|---------|-----------|--------|
| Alfa | A | 1 | 00001 | 001 | 01 | A | ·— | | | |
| Bravo | B | 2 | 00010 | 002 | 02 | B | —··· | | | |
| Charlie | C | 3 | 00011 | 010 | 03 | C | —·—· | | | |
| Delta | D | 4 | 00100 | 011 | 04 | D | —·· | | | |
| Echo | E | 5 | 00101 | 012 | 05 | E | · | | | |
| Foxtrot | F | 6 | 00110 | 020 | 06 | F | ··—· | | | |
| Golf | G | 7 | 00111 | 021 | 07 | G | —--· | | | |
| Hotel | H | 8 | 01000 | 022 | 08 | H | ···· | | | |
| India | I | 9 | 01001 | 100 | 09 | I | ·· | | | |
| Juliett | J | 10 | 01010 | 101 | 0A | J | ·—--- | | | |
| Kilo | K | 11 | 01011 | 102 | 0B | K | —·— | | | |
| Lima | L | 12 | 01100 | 110 | 0C | L | ·—·· | | | |
| Mike | M | 13 | 01101 | 111 | 0D | M | -- | | | |
| November | N | 14 | 01110 | 112 | 0E | N | --· | | | |
| Oscar | O | 15 | 01111 | 120 | 0F | O | --- | | | |
| Papa | P | 16 | 10000 | 121 | 10 | P | ·—--- | | | |
| Quebec | Q | 17 | 10001 | 122 | 11 | Q | ---·— | | | |
| Romeo | R | 18 | 10010 | 200 | 12 | R | ·—· | | | |
| Sierra | S | 19 | 10011 | 201 | 13 | S | ··· | | | |
| Tango | T | 20 | 10100 | 202 | 14 | T | — | | | |
| Uniform | U | 21 | 10101 | 210 | 15 | U | ··— | | | |
| Victor | V | 22 | 10110 | 211 | 16 | V | ···— | | | |
| Whiskey | W | 23 | 10111 | 212 | 17 | W | ·--- | | | |
| X-ray | X | 24 | 11000 | 220 | 18 | X | ---·— | | | |
| Yankee | Y | 25 | 11001 | 221 | 19 | Y | ---·— | | | |
| Zulu | Z | 26 | 11010 | 222 | 1A | Z | ---·· | | | |

code sheet courtesy of Puzzled Pint, <https://puzzledpint.org/>