

July 2020

the Crossing Board

Dive into the first edition of The Crossing Board Magazine!

10



mini games to play with your friends



QUIZ

What's your island aesthetic?



MEET

Agony Agnes



BAKE

your own pansy shortbread!



Dont forget to check out our website - TheCrossingBoard.com



★ In this issue...

Upcoming events, including the August ‘Bug off’3-4

10 mini games to play with your friends.....5-6

Pansy Shortbread Recipe.....9-10

Quiz - What’s your island aesthetic?.....12-14

Featured Island (Piggy theme)15-18

Songs for every mood - K.K. Edition!.....19-20

Agony Agnes.....21-22

Puzzles - Crossword & Paint by Number.. 23-24

Crossword answers.....25

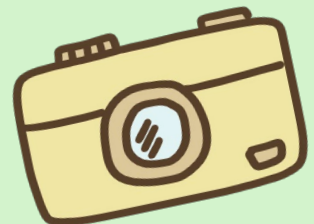
Welcome...come Villagers!

Thank you for purchasing the very first edition of The Crossing Board magazine! Inside you will find the monthly briefing of upcoming events, activities, quizzes, and more. This project is made by the fans, for the fans – so we hope you enjoy reading as much as we enjoy creating. Yes, yes!

And if that’s not enough fun, you can also enter our photo contest! Just post a photo of yourself reading the magazine in a creative way to win an exclusive prize. Maybe you will be reading with your favourite villager plushie, following a recipe in the kitchen, or wandering through the forest – the possibilities are endless!

Follow us on Instagram (@thecrossingboard) and Twitter (@thecrossingboard) to receive updates on the prizes for each issue. Remember to tag us as each photo will receive an entry.

This is The Crossing Board signing off!





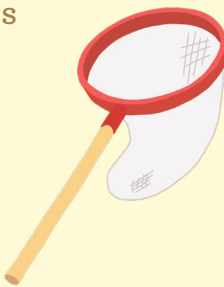
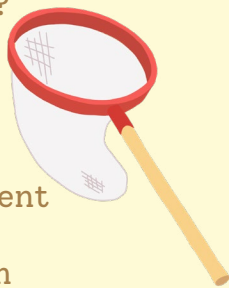
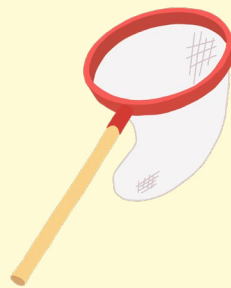
Upcoming events

The weather is getting warmer, villagers are enjoying cool drinks on the beach and the beetles are out in full force. This can only mean one thing: Summer is officially here! But what fun is in store for our virtual island paradise?

This month in Animal Crossing you will have the opportunity to participate in the bug off event hosted by none other than our favourite punk-entomologist, Flick! You will find him stationed in the plaza by his event tent. Flick will accept entries between 9am-6pm and will remain by his tent till 8pm to buy bugs and redeem points for prizes. Some of our favourite items to win are the artisanal bug cage, ladybug rug, and the spiderweb (a perfect wall-mounted decoration for any spooky islanders out there).

The first entry of the competition is free and then every entry after that is 500 bells. You will be able to participate as many times as you like up until 6pm. To participate, Flick will start the timer and you will have three minutes to catch as many bugs as you can. Bugs are valued at one point each and can be sold or kept at the end of the timer. If you catch more than three bugs, you will receive an extra two bonus points. Each item of bug swag will cost 10 points with a total of 13 items to collect. You will receive a different item until all 13 have been collected, then you have the opportunity to collect duplicates.

The next day, Flick will mail you a bug off trophy depending on how many points you earned during your



busy bug-catching-spree. 100 will get you a bronze trophy, 200 for silver and 300 points will earn you the coveted gold trophy. Holy bug points! If you are worried about unspent points, no need to fear! Flick will save any unspent points for future Bug Off events.

This summer you can also expect another free update from Nintendo. Although we don't know what this update will be yet, we've been researching past games and we think we might have an idea!

The last free update brought us diving, new critters and bug fixes. During the promotional teaser for that update, Nintendo announced that they will also be releasing a second wave of new and free content in early August. The update was labelled 'Summer Update #2' and was decorated with fireworks against a dark sky.

Any fans of the past games -particularly New Leaf- will remember that every Sunday in August we could enjoy fireworks lighting up the summer evenings. Isabelle and Redd would stand in the plaza and offer you gifts like Redd's cookies and fun light-up headbands. Maybe Isabelle will finally be able to stretch her legs and get some fresh air outside of the resident services building! Or maybe we could even see the return of old characters like Dr. Shrunk.

Many people are also hoping for the return of Tortimer's island: a tropical paradise similar to the mystery islands of New Horizons. However, this island also included the option to play mini-games with your friends online! This would be the perfect addition to a summer update, but we can't wait to see what else is in store for our island getaway packages. If you have any thoughts on what should be included in the next update, let us know on twitter and instagram!



10 mini games to play with your friends

Creating a mini game for your best friends or visitors is a great way to bond and continue the fun long after they step on your island. It's also a great way to use up materials, furniture, and clothing you don't need anymore as prizes—so it's also a win-win for everyone!...for everyone!

We've collected 10 different games for you to choose from (including the objective of the game, the materials needed, and how many players needed).

1 SWIMMING RACE (2 or more players)

Rules: Two players start by showing off their best dive from the pier. Then the players swim a loop around the island while capturing the most creatures you can! First person to reach back to the pier earns 20 points and both players earn 1 additional point for every creature they capture. Players with the highest points win!

Rounds: 3 or more

Attire: Wetsuit

Tools/Materials: None

Timed: No

2 SCAVENGER HUNT (5 or more players)

Rules: Once all the players have arrived, they are given a list of materials that the host has posted on the bulletin board. The items are hidden around the island and players have to find them before the time runs out!

Rounds: 1 or more

Attire: Casual

Tools/Materials: Fishing pole, Net and Shovel

Timed: Yes

3 TREASURE HUNT (2 or more players)

Rules: The host buries a wrapped gift around the island and players have to hunt for the buried treasure! Once the present is found, bring it back to the host unopened. The player who found the treasure has to guess what is inside it (with a maximum of 3 guesses). If they are all wrong, you have to bury the treasure once again and the game repeats.

Rounds: 1 or more

Attire: Casual, Pirate themed

Tools/Materials: Shovel

Timed: No

4 OBSTACLE COURSE (3 or more players)

Rules: The host creates an obstacle course that consists of climbing, jumping, falling, switching seats, and many more! With this activity, 2 players race to the end and whoever's first, wins! This game uses elimination, so if you lose, you're out and if you win, you go forward to the next level! Pretty simple, right?

Rounds: 2 or more

Attire: Athletic

Tools/Materials: Vaulting pole, Ladder

Timed: No

5 MUSICAL CHAIRS (5 to 10 players)

Rules: Place some chairs in a circle (the amount of chairs should be however many players minus one). The host will be holding an instrument and the game will start when they start playing. Walk around the chair circle until the host stops playing. Your friends now have to run and sit on an available seat and whoever wasn't able to sit is eliminated. On the next round, the loser has to sit on one chair that will not be used. Then, same objective until you reach the

last round when only two players and one chair are left. Whoever sits first, wins! (An alternative for a stool could be a tree stump. When a tree stump isn't needed, you can dig it out!)

Rounds: Depends on the number of players

Attire: Casual

Tools/Materials: Not needed

Timed: No

6 HIDE AND SEEK (2 or more players)

Rules: Let's follow the rules of this infamous game but with an Animal Crossing twist. One person is the seeker and the rest are hiders. Everyone has to hide around the island while the seeker finds them. The seeker has to have a net and when they find the person, they hit them in the head with it. Either the person found helps the seeker find the other hiders, or he waits at the town hall while the seeker finds everyone. Whoever is the first to be found is the next seeker. Simple but fun like the good ol' times!

Rounds: 1 or more

Attire: Casual

Tools/Materials: Net

Timed: No

7 FANCY DRESS COMPETITION (2 or more players)

Rules: RUNWAY TIME! For this mini game, you will need to pick a theme and make a themed runway for your models! The players will have to create an outfit that's fitting to the theme of the runway and model it in front of the judges, and in the end, choose the best look. Guess it's time to master the art of the catwalk!

Rounds: 1 or more (depending on the themes created)

Attire: Based on the theme of the runway

Tools/Materials: None

Timed: No

8 PHOTOSHOOT (1 or more friends)

Rules: Unlike the others, this isn't a game. Just a lil activity to capture a moment with your friends! There will be scenic areas around the island to take pictures in. Beside the area, there will be costumes and masks that you can use for the photoshoot!

Rounds: As many as you want!

Attire: Anything you want!

Tools/Materials: None

Timed: No

9 MURDER MYSTERY (3 or more players)

Rules: THERE'S BEEN A MURDER! The host will set up a murder (no, they're not the murderer) and one of their villagers did it! It's up to the detectives to decide who's guilty based on clues hidden around the island. Have fun creating a story on who killed the victim and why. Good Luck!

Rounds: 1 or 2

Attire: Detectives

Tools/Materials: Shovel (optional)

Timed: No

10 TIMED GAMES (2 or more players)

Rules: Let's make use of the timer that you can buy at Nooks Cranny! You could use this to make normal tasks a lot more challenging. Who can catch the most fish in 5 minutes? Or catch the rarest fish in the sea in 10 minutes? Or the biggest butterfly in 15 minutes? It could be anything! Create different rounds and eliminate players to make it harder for the competitors. The eliminated players could make it even harder by trying to scare away the fish and bugs!

Rounds: 2 or more

Attire: Casual

Tools/Materials: Net, Shovel, Slingshot, etc.

Timed: Yes



Pansy Shortbread

Love them or hate them, pansies are a flowery staple of the Animal Crossing universe. They are also completely edible, so why not bake them into your favourite snack? This recipe is great for busy or beginner bakers as you only need a handful of ingredients and most steps can be prepped a day in advance. Any leftover flowers can also be great decoration for journaling your island progress. Yes, yes!

Ingredients:

- 225g Unsalted butter at room temperature
- 60g caster sugar
- 260g plain flour
- Pinch of salt
- Around 30 fresh pansies

Pressing Your Pansies:

Pick fresh flowers and remove the stems with sharp scissors. Cut as close to the flower as possible without damaging the petals.

Place the pansies face down between two sheets of parchment paper and top with heavy books. Leave to press for 30 minutes. Pressed flowers can be used right away but they can also last up to five years, so take your time!

Baking The Shortbread:

Cut butter into cubes and add to a bowl with sugar. Whisk until smooth ensuring no clumps or lumps remain.

Add flour and salt to the mixture, using your hands to combine. As everything comes together, turn the dough onto a floured surface and form into a flat disk. Cover and place in the fridge to chill for at least an hour but can be left overnight.

Preheat oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5

Remove dough from the fridge and place onto a floured work surface. Gently roll until the dough is around 1/2 inch/ 1cm thick. Cut into rounds, making sure there is enough room for your flower in the centre. All flowers are different sizes but around 2 inch/ 5cm is a good diameter. Gather the leftover dough, form into a flat disc and chill again. Repeat as necessary.

When cut, place on a baking tray lined with parchment paper to chill in a fridge for another 30 minutes or until completely cold. If they are still warm the biscuits will spread, so ensure they stay in the fridge for as long as possible.

Remove from the fridge and use a fork to make a few lines of holes in the centre. Bake in batches for around 10 minutes. The biscuits should take on minimal colour, they will feel really soft but will firm up once they cool.

While biscuits are still warm, gently place the flowers on top and press down lightly. The heat will adhere the flower to your shortbread. Finish by sprinkling with lots of sugar and pairing with a nice cup of tea.

We would love to see how your shortbread turned out! Tag us in your photos at @thecrossingboard on instagram and @crossingboard on twitter!



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Quiz: whats your island aesthetic?

Answer each question with A, B, C OR D – Then count up how many times you answered each letter to find the aesthetic that suits you best!

1

What weather do you associate with a 'perfect day'?

- a) Comfortably warm and sunny with a slight breeze – spring!
- b) Cool and crisp with the sun hiding behind the clouds – autumn!
- c) Cold and dark with the chance of storms or snow – winter!
- d) Hot, hot, hot with sunshine and not a cloud in the sky – summer!

2

Choose an animal companion

- a) Bunny
- b) Deer
- c) Frog
- d) Bird

3

How would you describe your personal style?

- a) Cute and unique, with lots of pastel colours
- b) Simple and elegant, with natural & earthy tones

- c) Sleek and dark, mostly black but maybe some dark grey too
- d) Colourful and bold, trendy and sometimes sporty



What do your weekend plans look like?

- a) Hanging out with friends, practicing a hobby and playing games
- b) Taking some 'me' time, walking, spending time with nature
- c) Mainly staying at home, watching movies or reading books
- d) Time to hit the beach, hanging out with lots of friends or partying



How would your friends describe you?

- a) Bubbly and sweet, emotional but determined
- b) Introverted and calm, very wise, the 'mom' friend
- c) Seems scary at first but really has a heart of gold
- d) The life of the party, confident and extroverted



What is your favourite movie genre?

- a) Anything animated
- b) Drama
- c) Horror/thriller
- d) Comedy



What are your favourite scents?

- a) Bubblegum, vanilla and rose
- b) Fresh cotton, mowed grass and rainfall

- c) Petrol, open fires and sandalwood
- d) Exotic fruits, sea air and sunscreen



Mostly A: FAIRYCORE

You are a lover of all things sweet and whimsical! Fill your island with pastel colours and create a faerie circle, but remember: never, ever step inside...



Mostly B: COTTAGECORE

You are someone who appreciates the simpler things in life. You enjoy nature and show this by creating ponds and flower patches, with mushrooms galore.



Mostly C: SPOOKYCORE

You prefer your island to be dark and spooky, but beautiful nonetheless. Black flowers grow around your graveyards and Lucky is on your dreamy list.



Mostly D: TROPICORE

Your island is the definition of a tropical getaway! You love bright colours, waterfalls and palm trees in abundance.



Featured Island

Piggy themed...

This month's featured island is the uniquely themed 'piggy island' of Valinor. Representative Jesse (@acnhgala on Twitter) was kind enough to show The Crossing Board around her beautiful farmyard and home so that you can see it too!

So, without further ado, **let's begin the tour...**



"So these are all your villagers?"

"Yes! I have an all-pig-villager island. It's like they left their mark [on the stone] and I designed their names like their

personalities! I saw someone do something similar in a Facebook group and took the idea and ran with it.

"Aaa, this is the cutest!"

"This whole strip is like a little farming area. I took the popular trend of lavender farms to the next level: Lavender fields!"

"So that was your influence? Apart from that, was it all just creative vision?"

"I volunteer at an animal sanctuary [in real life] and love

pigs and happy sanctuary farms. I wanted that kind of vibe! The island is like a pig sanctuary for the villagers... I squished a lot of cottagecore trends



into one area. I love cottagecore but don't want my whole island to have one set theme so I picked my favourites and squished them together into one super cutesy sanctuary farm area!"

"That's too pure! Hearing the crickets, it's like being in France."



"The inspiration for this is from what my island was originally going to be; I used to have pure white brick paths, lots of gold and statues, because I used to have a lot of snooty personalities like Judy and Diana. I tend to make the island suit the villagers rather than the other way around! But I love the ethereal vibe so much, I had to incorporate it into my island somewhere. And where better to put it than in a secret forest? The reason why the ethereal and heavenly elements even exist is because of my island's namesake, Valinor, which comes from J. R. R. Tolkien's legendarium. Valinor is the land of the Valar - it's the most beautiful place imaginable. It's where

Elrond, Bibo, Gandalf etc. sail to at the end of The Lord Of The Rings. It's the "undying" lands and I just love it all so much."



"The last place on our list before we take a look at your home design. What were your thoughts behind this part of the island?"

"Well, as you can see, it's the campsite! I wanted to make this area very secluded and peaceful, hence the long path through the trees. The mushroom lamps light it up at night and it looks really cosy and atmospheric. It's mainly a lakeside retreat but I added some little touches like the ducks at the heart shaped pond and the acoustic guitar for songs around the campfire! I'm quite pleased with how this area turned out."

Well that concludes our tour of Valinor! I thoroughly enjoyed having a look around and getting some inspiration for my own island. Now it's time to admire some shots of Jesse's creative interior design...

Interior Design



Bathroom

Bedroom



Living room



Themed room -
Mermaid



Themed room -
Space



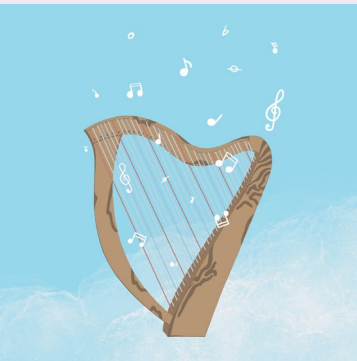
Songs for different moods

-K.K. Slider Edition

Feeling moody? Feeling blue? We've got you covered! We hand picked some of our favorite songs based on different moods to help you out when you have no idea what to listen to but you also want something very specific. There's a song for everybody! Don't be shy and follow your vibe.

Chirpy - K.K. Dixie

Looking for something upbeat and happy? K.K. Dixie is the one for you! Some whistling and guitar strings make everyone happy!

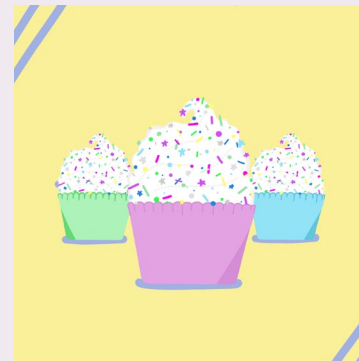


Blue - K.K. Sonata

Feeling a little blue and can't quite put a finger on what is wrong? There is no need to worry, K.K. Sonata is the one for you!

Moody - K.K. Dirge

Feeling moody and need something a little different? Looking for something a little dark? You don't have to look any further K.K. Dirge is as dark as it gets!

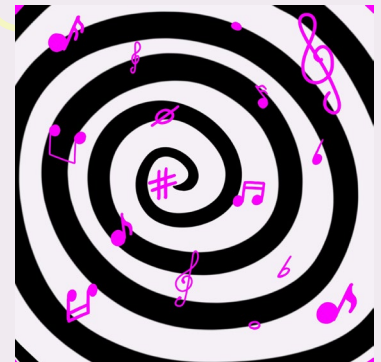


Chilled - Stale Cupcakes

Grab your favorite blanket, sit by the fireplace and listen to the sound of rain outside your window. Stale Cupcakes is the most relaxing song of all. It's the Animal Crossing lullaby for the young and the old.

Nostalgic - Hypno K.K.

If you feel like reminiscing this song will help you do just that! It's a song about dreaming and whimsical fantasies.



Say hello to Agony Agnes!

Dear Agnes,

I've been playing Animal Crossing since it was released back in March and I'm loving it! The only issue is that I wish I had more friends to play with. When the game first came out a few of my friends would play with me, but they've all moved on from playing regularly and never want to come to my island anymore. I always see other people playing with their friends online and I'm starting to feel really left out. What advice do you have for someone who wants their own Animal Crossing friendship group?

Sincerely,
Lonely Louis

Hey there, Louis!

This is a great question that we get asked all the time- you're totally not alone! We love this game and we love our friends, so it makes sense that we would want to smooch the two together. Playing with friends is a great way to get the most out of the game while also making lovely memories with your besties. Especially if you have a friend that lives far away; hanging out on your island can feel like a great substitute for a real day out. So I understand how sad it must feel when your friends don't enjoy playing as much as they used to. But there is hope on the horizon, Louis!

Talk to your friends:

Let them know how you're feeling- they're your friends after

all, that's what they're there for! Ask them why they don't feel like playing anymore. For many people, the pressure of having a cool island can be overwhelming. When we visit each other -even if we don't mean to- we can compare our island to theirs. This can be really disheartening for friends who are struggling with decorating and aesthetics. Reassure them and explain that there are plenty of other ways you guys can spend time together in the game. You can take the pressure off by playing loads of fun mini-games together (we've listed our favourites on page 6).

Spread The Love:

Do you have any friends that don't play AC but you think would really enjoy it? If they are able to, encourage them to buy a copy themselves. Maybe you even know someone who plays but you're not that close- take a leap of faith and reach out! This is a great opportunity to bond over a mutual interest and potentially make a brand new bestie.

Engage in The Community:

ACNH is an extremely popular game with millions of players worldwide, so there's bound to be a new best friend out there somewhere! Twitter, discord and instagram are all great places to chat with like minded people. Although when navigating online spaces please make sure you're old enough and are practicing a bunch of internet safety (don't share any personal info or meet anyone outside of the game). There are so many podcasts and youtube channels with friendly communities full of people who will want to visit your island. If you're not sure where to start, follow us on social media and engage with people in the comments!

Thanks for writing in, Louis! I hoped this helped unstick the jam you're in. If you're in need of some friendly advice, be sure to send us a question at contact@thecrossingboard.com

Agony Agnes 

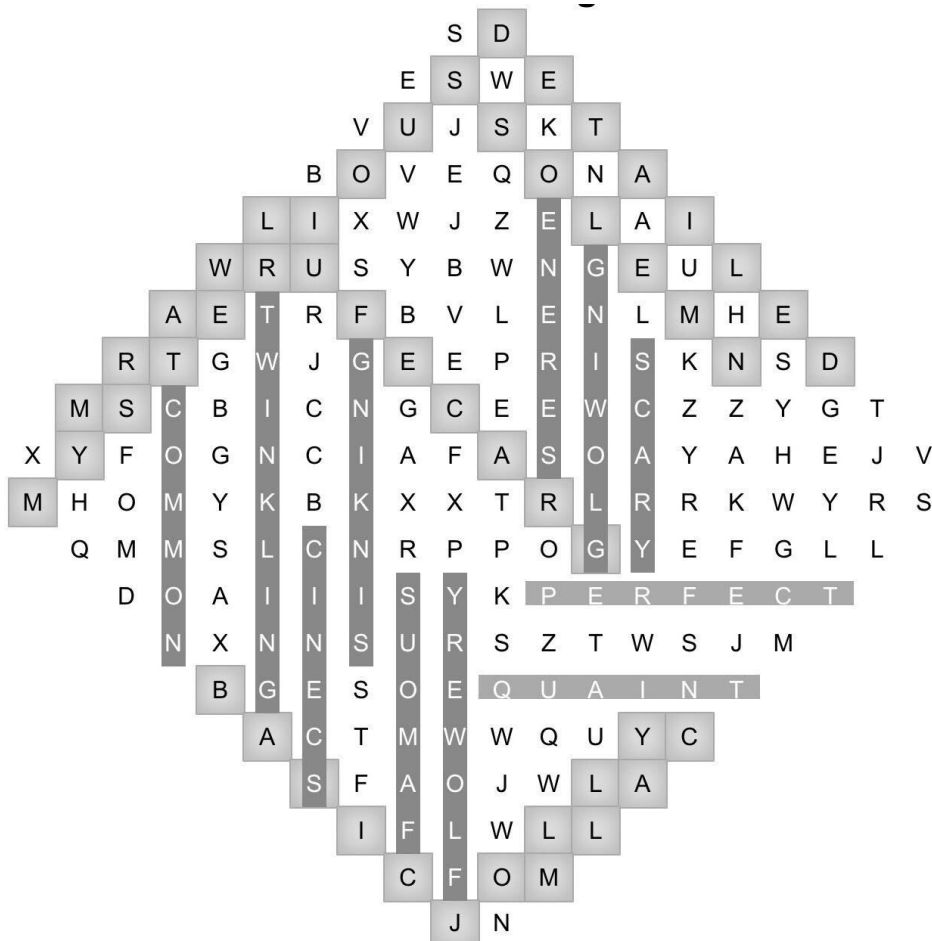
A cartoon illustration of a cheerful orange fox with a white belly patch, wearing blue shorts with a white drawstring. The fox is standing on a light brown background.

DETAILED
GRACEFUL
QUAINT
SINKING

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

[illegible]

Redd's painting answers



Thank you...

We would like to take a moment to say a big THANK YOU to all the talented people who have dedicated their time to this project! We couldn't have done it without every single one of you...

Jemima (@s_o_f_t_c_o_r_e) -> Editor-In-Chief

Charlie (@ac_solstice) -> Art Director & Managing Editor

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Kimmieko (@kimmieko10) -> Writer

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