

JANUARY 2021

Highlights.com

Highlights

FUN WITH A PURPOSE

Winter FUN

**Poppin'
Party
Pals**

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ARCTIC ADVENTURE

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DEAR READER

Hello, 2021!

It's January—time to say good-bye to the old year and hello to a bright, shiny new one! This year, we are more than ready to change the calendar, thanks to COVID-19. The pandemic isn't over yet, but the new year offers hope and the promise of brighter days. Let's welcome 2021!

How will you ring in the new year? This issue might give you a few ideas. On page 5, see how people in different parts of the world celebrate. Each tradition represents a hope for the coming year.

In the U.S., many of us make New Year's resolutions—promises to ourselves to do or be better. In "Ask Arizona" (pages 34–36), Arizona and Mareya write a few resolutions they try hard to keep. The results, of course, are hilarious.

Every year, my list of resolutions includes "Try something new." I

don't know yet what that new thing will be. But I know that if I keep this promise to myself, life will be more fun and interesting.

Speaking of new things, you may notice that we've tried a few in this issue. Let us know your thoughts about our new design and new features. And if this is your first issue, welcome!

What are your hopes and dreams for 2021? I'd love to hear what you're thinking.

Your friend,

Christine

WRITE TO ME
Christine@Highlights.com

I ASKED...

What kind of person do you want to be?

I want to be a caring person who tries to fix things in society.

MaKenna
Alabama

As I am growing up, I intend to help people all along the way by being kind.

Brei
(by e-mail)



What are your hopes and dreams for 2021?



Have You Met a Yeti Yet?

By Diana Murray • Art by Daniel Wiseman

If you ever spot a yeti
with a bowlful of spaghetti,
you must take the utmost care.

If you spook him, no denying
that spaghetti will go flying
and may end up in your hair.

But if you're calm and act politely
(and don't scare him, even slightly),
there's a good chance that he'll share.

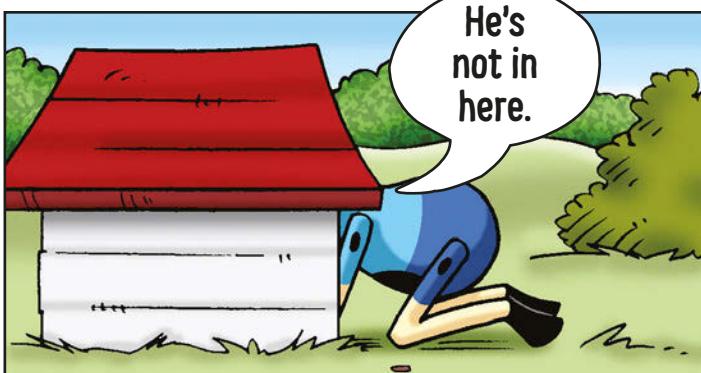
The TIMBERTOES

By Rich Wallace • Art by Ron Zalme

Where was Spot?



He's
not in
here.



Spot?



Tommy and Mabel checked their rooms.



He wasn't in there.



Where
did he
go?



Spot had found a cozy hiding place.



NOW

January 29

National Puzzle Day

Follow the
solid line to
the finish!

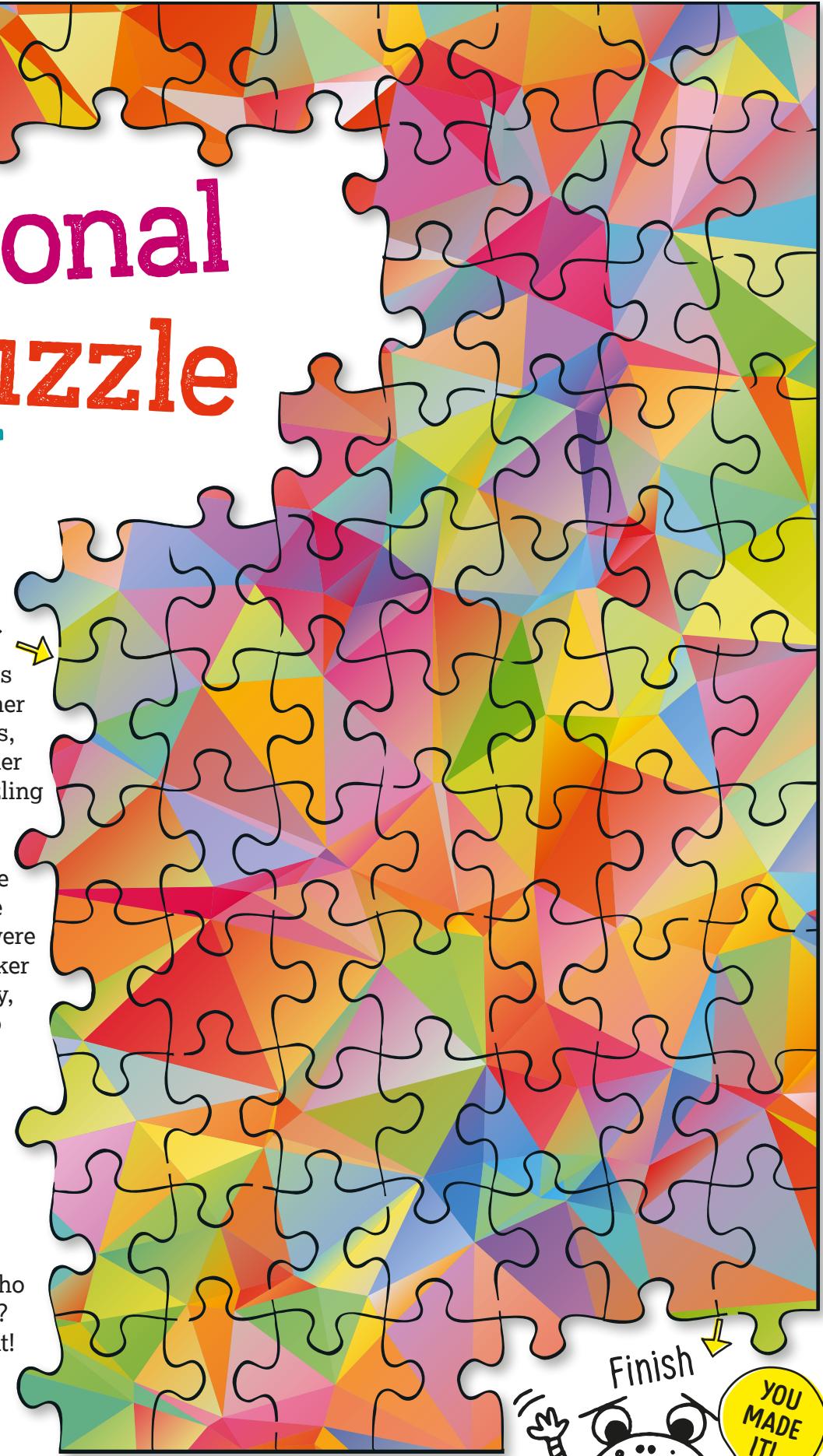
Start

Guzzle some puzzles on January 29! Whether you're into crosswords, sudoku, mazes, or other kinds of puzzles, puzzling is great exercise for your brain.

Jigsaw puzzles have been around since the 1760s. It's said they were invented by a mapmaker named John Spilsbury, who cut his maps into pieces to help kids learn geography.

Lately, jigsaw puzzles have been surging in popularity as a way to have fun at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Are you a person who enjoys jigsaw puzzles? There's a word for that! You can call yourself a *dissectologist*.



Answers on page 38.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we head into 2021,
try these traditions
from around the world.

COLOMBIA

Take your empty suitcase for a walk in hope of a year filled with travel.



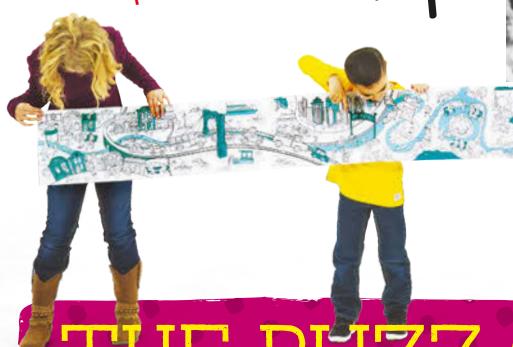
PHILIPPINES

Open windows, doors, cabinets, and drawers to welcome good fortune.



DENMARK

Leap into the new year from a couch or sturdy chair (with permission!).



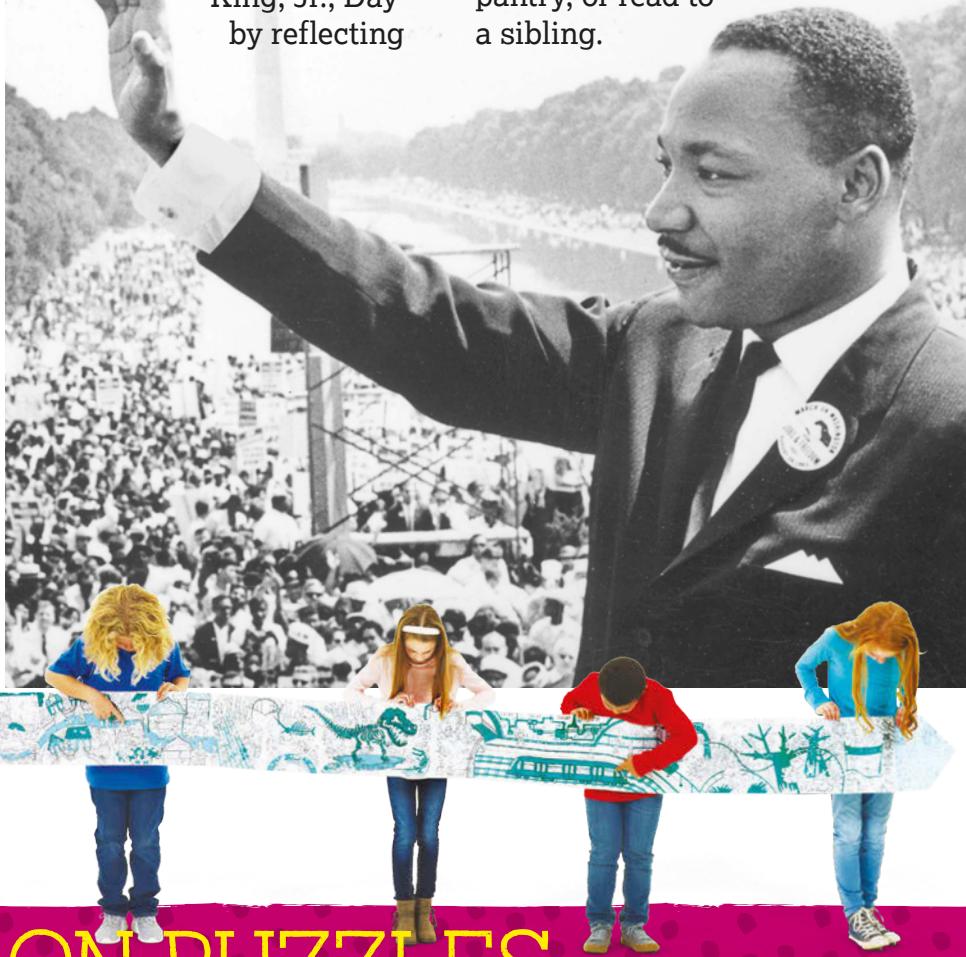
A Day “On”

In his “I Have a Dream” speech, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” On

January 18, you can celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr., Day by reflecting

on his message of justice for all, reading his words, and thinking about how we can continue to work toward his dream of a peaceful world.

You can also participate in the MLK Day of Service by volunteering in Dr. King’s honor. The holiday is known as “a day on, not a day off.” You might help a neighbor, collect items for a food pantry, or read to a sibling.



THE BUZZ ON PUZZLES

The jigsaw puzzle with the most pieces had **551,232** pieces.

The largest word-search puzzle contains **10,500** words to find.

According to Guinness World Records

The **Highlights Longest Hidden Pictures Puzzle Ever** has **280** hidden objects and is 16 feet 9 inches long.



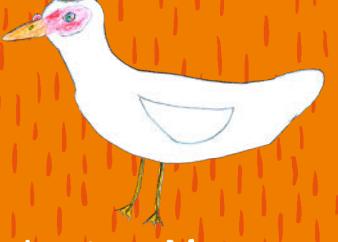
I went to the mountains.
I saw snow, rocks, trees,
a bunny, and an owl.
It was very cold!

Vivian Burkhalter

Age 7 • Colorado

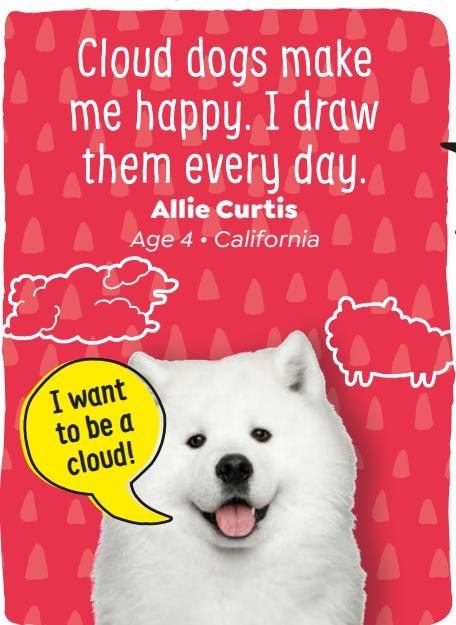
My favorite book is *Year in Sports 2020*. I like reading about sports teams, and the photos are great! My favorite player, Ian Book, is included.

Carson Panico
Age 10 • Michigan



I raise two Muscovy ducks. They have black feathers on their heads, and we get one or two eggs a day.

Brooke Holler
Age 9 • Pennsylvania



Cloud dogs make me happy. I draw them every day.

Allie Curtis
Age 4 • California

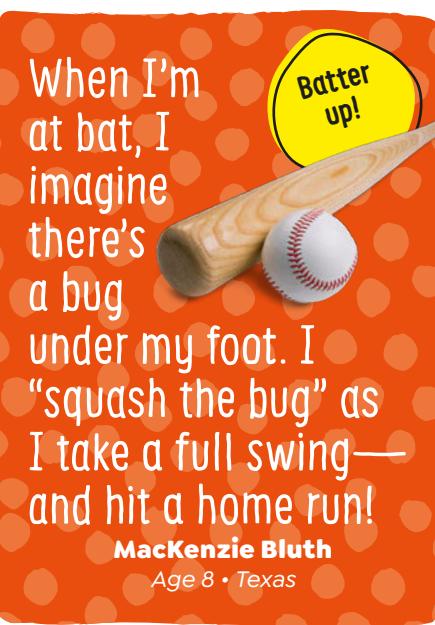
I want to be a cloud!



Stuff you love, things you tried, and what you wish other kids knew about you.

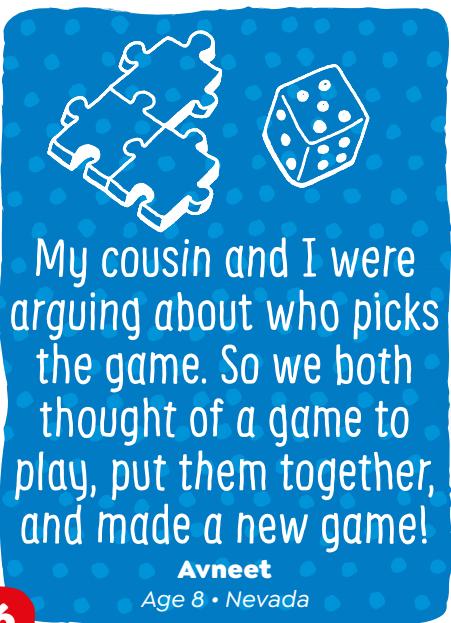
SEND US YOURS!

SEE PAGE 38



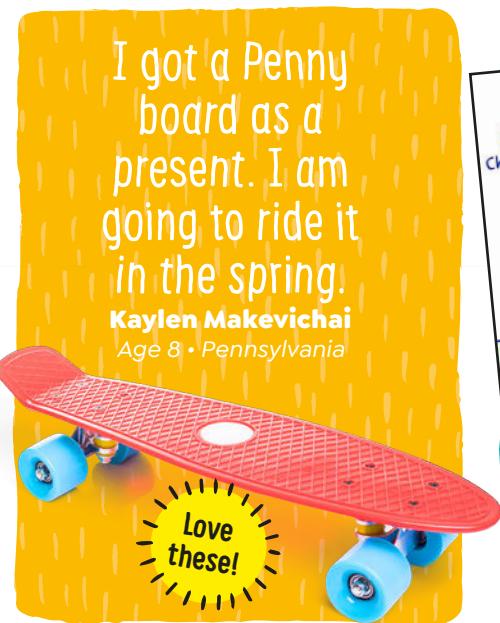
When I'm at bat, I imagine there's a bug under my foot. I "squash the bug" as I take a full swing—and hit a home run!

MacKenzie Bluth
Age 8 • Texas



My cousin and I were arguing about who picks the game. So we both thought of a game to play, put them together, and made a new game!

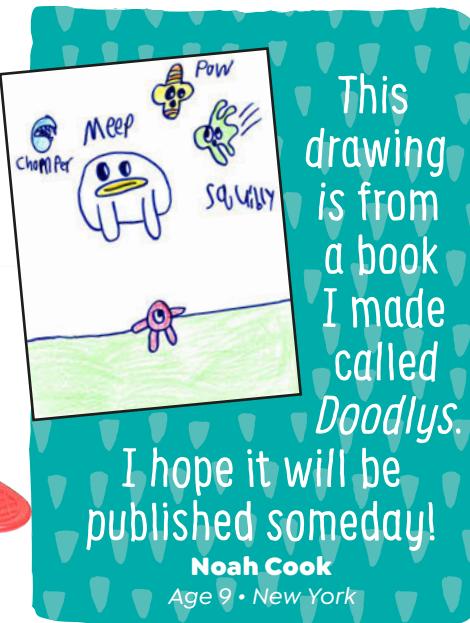
Avneet
Age 8 • Nevada



I got a Penny board as a present. I am going to ride it in the spring.

Kaylen Makevichai
Age 8 • Pennsylvania

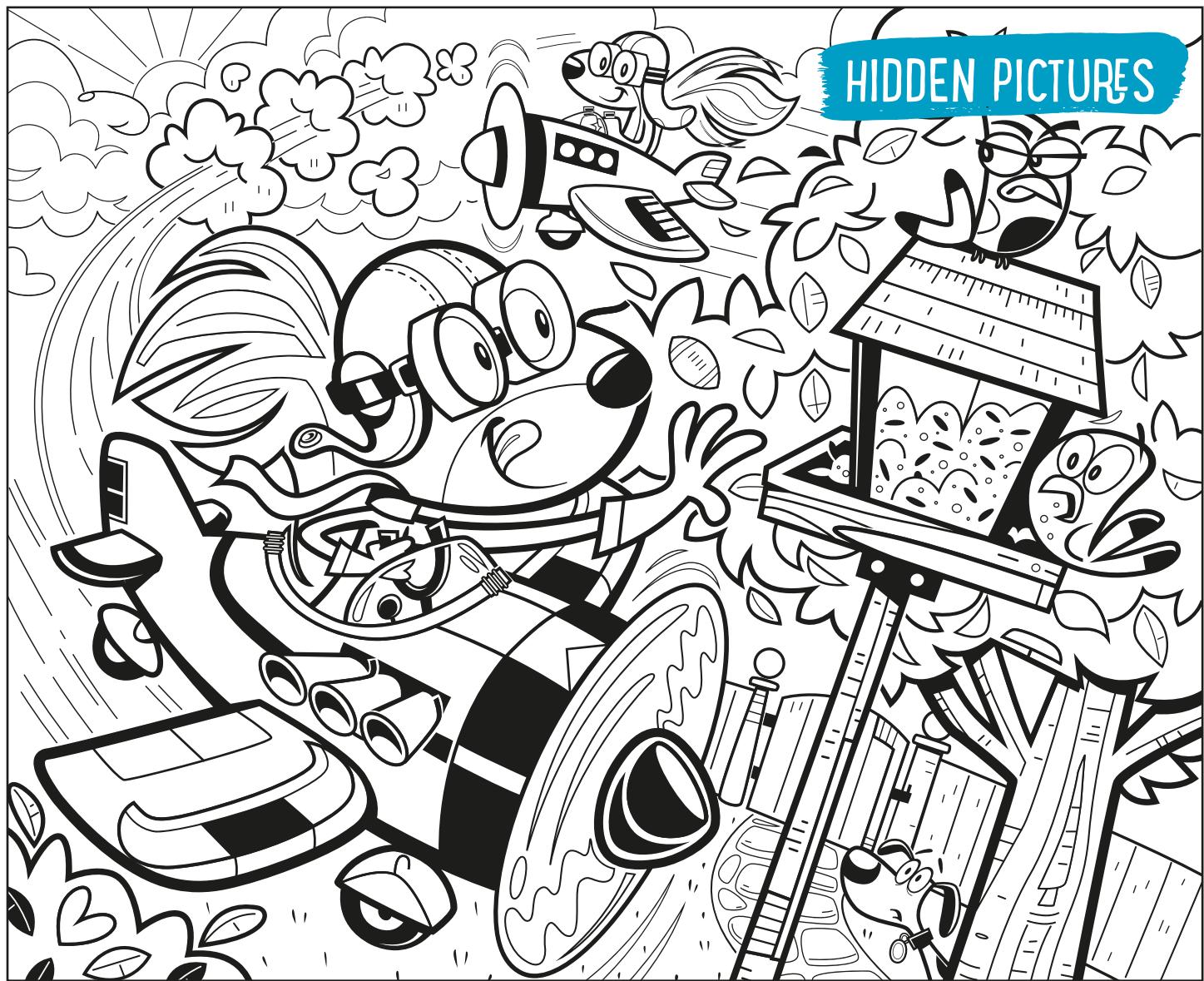
Love these!



This drawing is from a book I made called *Doodlys*. I hope it will be published someday!

Noah Cook
Age 9 • New York

HIDDEN PICTURES



Flying Squirrels!

BONUS!

Can you find the football, baseball bat, coat hanger, and sock?





Sigrid's Trade

By Tony Helies • Art by Dave Szalay



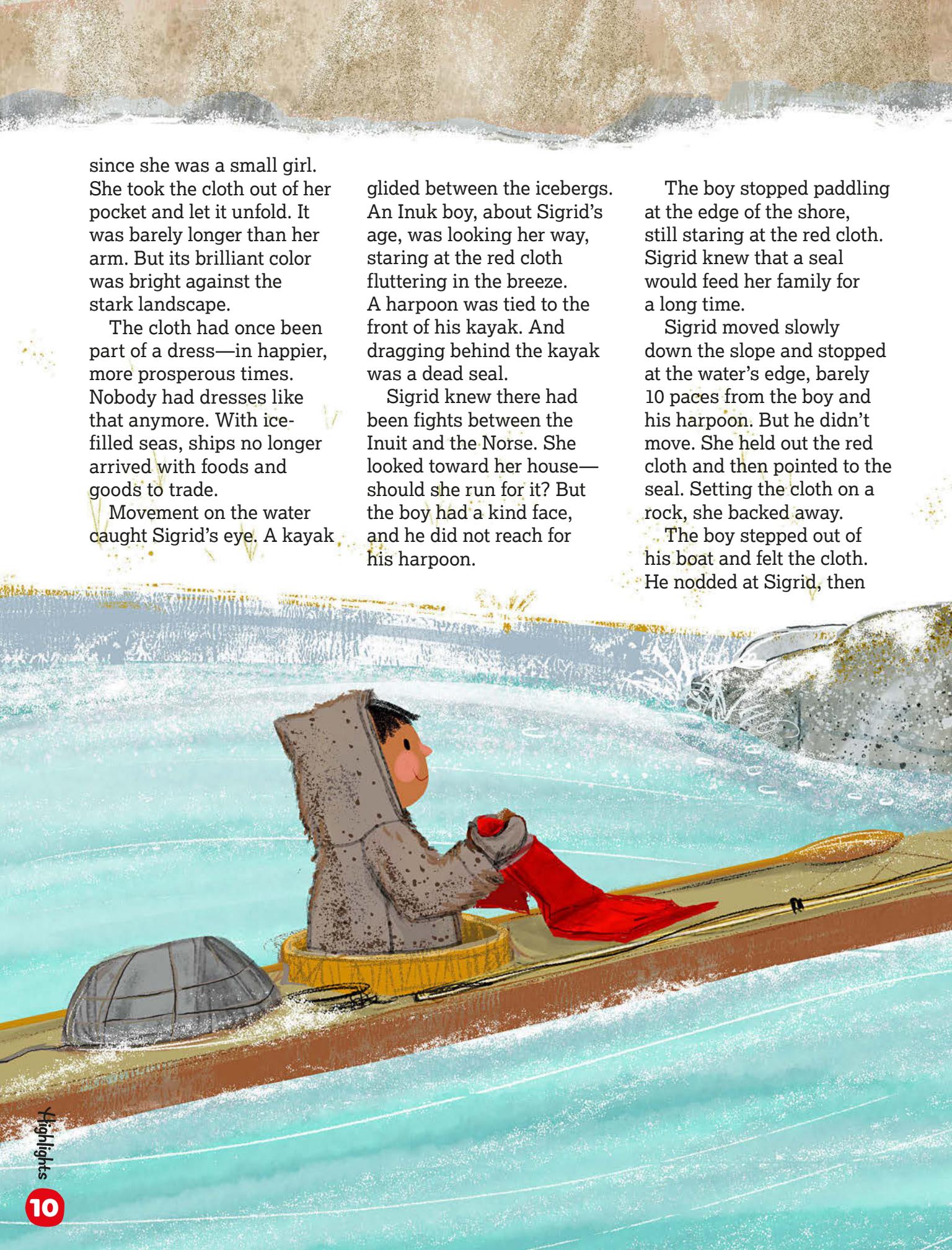
Movement on
the water caught
Sigrid's eye.

Sigrid finished milking the cow and stepped out of the barn into the cold air. It was almost summer, but icebergs still filled the fjord. She set the bucket down. The milk reached only halfway to the top. *If we don't get more food soon, she thought, we'll have to eat the cow. And then what will we do?*

Sigrid's grandfather told her that when their Norse ancestors first came to Greenland, the fields were

rich with grass. But in recent years, the climate was getting colder and the summers shorter. When her grandfather was a boy, there were 10 cows in the family's barn. Now there was just one. And the family had barely enough hay to feed it.

Sigrid stuffed her hands into her pockets to warm them. Her fingers felt her most prized possession, a piece of red cloth she'd had



since she was a small girl. She took the cloth out of her pocket and let it unfold. It was barely longer than her arm. But its brilliant color was bright against the stark landscape.

The cloth had once been part of a dress—in happier, more prosperous times. Nobody had dresses like that anymore. With ice-filled seas, ships no longer arrived with foods and goods to trade.

Movement on the water caught Sigrid's eye. A kayak

glided between the icebergs. An Inuk boy, about Sigrid's age, was looking her way, staring at the red cloth fluttering in the breeze. A harpoon was tied to the front of his kayak. And dragging behind the kayak was a dead seal.

Sigrid knew there had been fights between the Inuit and the Norse. She looked toward her house—should she run for it? But the boy had a kind face, and he did not reach for his harpoon.

The boy stopped paddling at the edge of the shore, still staring at the red cloth. Sigrid knew that a seal would feed her family for a long time.

Sigrid moved slowly down the slope and stopped at the water's edge, barely 10 paces from the boy and his harpoon. But he didn't move. She held out the red cloth and then pointed to the seal. Setting the cloth on a rock, she backed away.

The boy stepped out of his boat and felt the cloth. He nodded at Sigrid, then



A seal would feed her family for a long time.

untied the seal and pulled it up onto the beach. Picking up the cloth, he got back into the kayak.

"Thank you," said Sigrid.

The boy smiled and said something in his own language.

Sigrid didn't understand his words, but she smiled back at him.

With a quick stroke of his paddle, he headed toward the sea. Then he turned and waved to Sigrid.

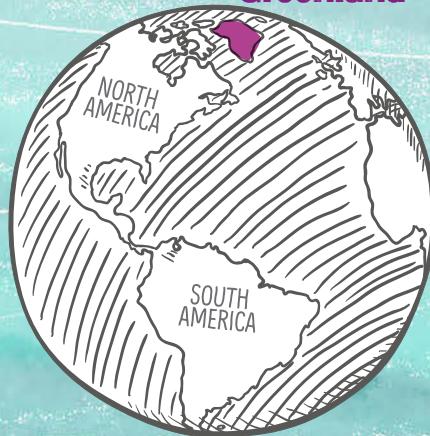
Sigrid raised her hand. She watched the boy until his boat was a speck on the horizon.

Then she hurried toward her house, calling for someone to help her bring in the seal. 



The Norse Colony

Greenland has one of the harshest climates in the world. Indigenous peoples have lived there for more than 4,000 years and have adapted to the cold. About 1,000 years ago, parts of the planet, including Greenland, became warmer. Norseman Erik the Red and others left Iceland to settle on Greenland's southwestern coast, which was not inhabited at the time. The colony grew to 3,000 people. After 350 years, that area cooled again, and the colony could no longer thrive.



MAKE

Poppin'
Pat



Party Cr

Fuzzy
Sticks



Balloon

Tape



Hole Punch

Cardboard
Tube

Cardstock





features

Wiggle Eyes



Pompoms

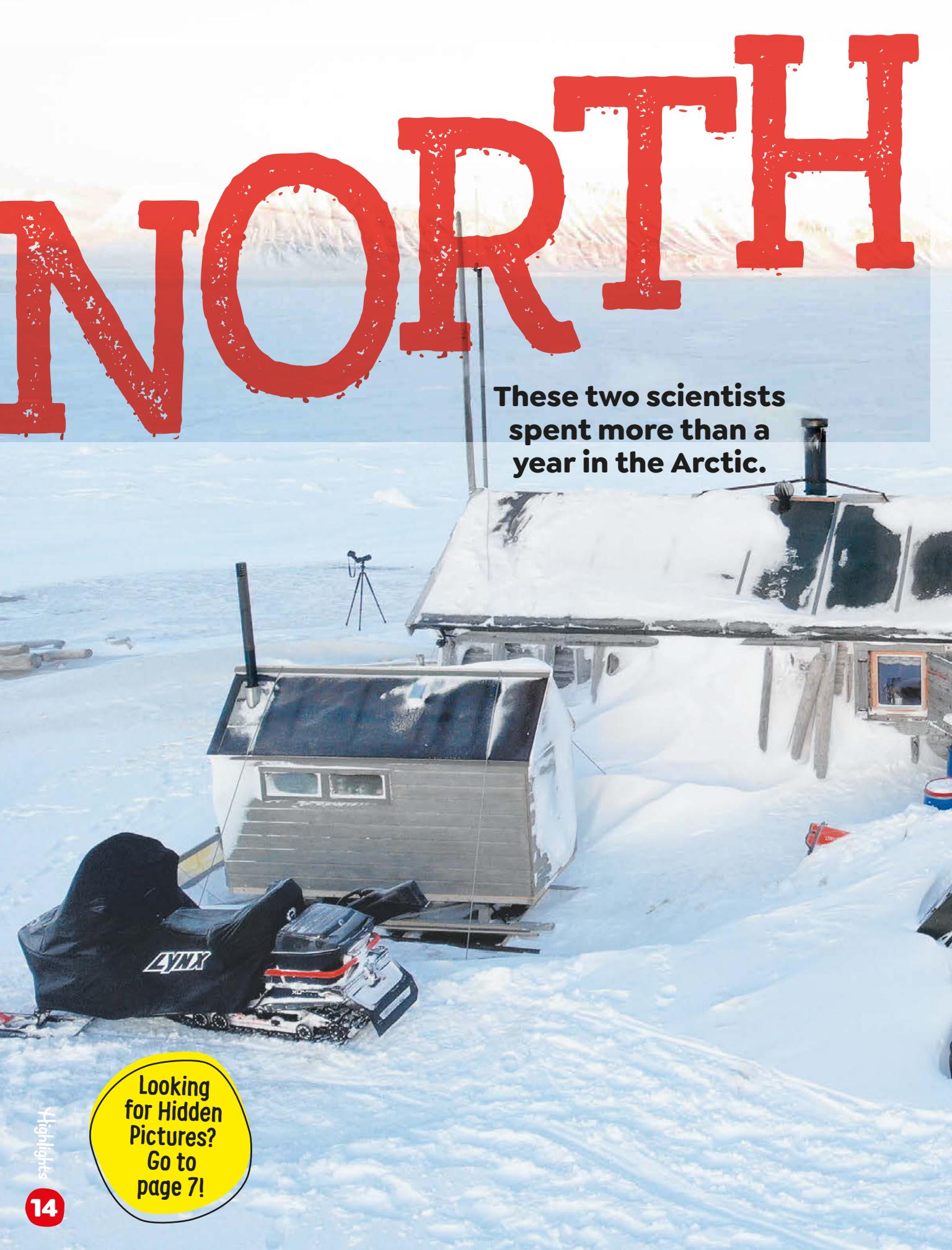


Tie a **balloon**. Cut off the end opposite the knot. Stretch the opening around the end of a 4-inch-long **cardboard tube**. Use **tape** to hold the balloon in place. Tape **cardstock** around the tube. Decorate with **fuzzy sticks**, **wiggle eyes**, **pompoms**, and other materials. Use a **hole punch** to make confetti from cardstock.

To launch the confetti, put it in the tube. Hold the creature with one hand, and pull the balloon knot with the other. Aim, then release the knot. Happy New Year!



NORTH

A wide-angle photograph of a snowy, arctic landscape. In the foreground, a black Lynx brand snowmobile is parked on the left. To its right is a small, dark wooden cabin with a white roof, partially covered in snow. A tripod-mounted binoculars stand on top of the cabin. The background shows a vast, light-colored snow-covered plain under a clear sky.

**These two scientists
spent more than a
year in the Arctic.**

Looking
for Hidden
Pictures?
Go to
page 7!

STARS

By Gail Skroback Hennessey

For fourteen months, researchers Sunniva Sorby and Hilde Fålun Strøm lived in a small cabin on an icy island near the North Pole. They were away from their families but had the company of Ettra, their dog—and lots of wildlife. The two are citizen scientists, collecting data and observations. “We make new discoveries every single day,” Sunniva wrote. “We call them ordinary miracles.”

KEEP READING ➔



In August 2019, the researchers landed on Spitsbergen, in Norway's Svalbard island group. They planned to work through the winter, then go home in May 2020. But their ship could not come because of COVID-19 shutdowns. So Sunniva and Hilde stayed until September.

"We are not stranded," Sunniva wrote. "We are remote and isolated, but we chose to be here to stay relevant in the conversation around climate change."

The two had already survived the harshest Arctic winter in 15 years, with temperatures between 35 and 50 degrees below zero!

Their uninsulated cabin was one-fourth the size of a classroom, 87 miles from the nearest town. Three-inch-long nails pointing outward from the shutters kept polar bears from climbing through the windows. "We hear the howl of the wind as it screams



Their ship could not come because of COVID-19 shutdowns. So they stayed four more months.

past our stovepipe and shakes the side walls," they wrote on their blog.

Their days started at 7 A.M. and ended after midnight. Everything took time. Each morning, they wore down-stuffed jackets and pants as they waited for the wood-burning stove to heat the cabin. They had

no running water. They cut and hauled pieces of freshwater ice to melt for drinking, cooking, washing clothes, and bathing. Solar panels and a windmill supplied enough power to run laptops and satellite communications. For the stove, they gathered driftwood. They cooked their meals—including pizza!—and maintained their equipment and the cabin. These tasks used up large stretches of each day.

They also stayed in touch with schools and other groups. They wrote blog entries and answered

Arctic Gear

To go outside, Hilde and Sunniva wore 20 pounds of clothing and carried special equipment.





Keep
out,
polar
bears!

In October
2020, they
headed back for
another winter!
WOW.



"We always see reindeer around us," said Sunniva. "They have become used to us, and we have become used to them."





e-mails. For fun, they danced to music, exercised, practiced yoga, and read.

"We are efficient here," Sunniva wrote. "We have a routine, habits, and systems. We have time for what matters most—living safely while making a contribution to our understanding of a changing world."

They conducted lots of experiments. They collected ice-core samples to study microscopic life in the sea ice. They collected weather data and photographed the aurora borealis for NASA. They gathered data on climate change, using a drone to measure sea-ice temperatures. They observed wildlife and tested new technologies, including an electric snowmobile.

Sometimes, hurricane-force winds forced frigid air through the cabin's slats. Once, wind ripped open the door. Sunniva and Hilde couldn't close it until the storm ended! Another time,

Meeting the Neighbors

Sunniva told us about some of the animals she and Hilde saw.



BELUGA WHALES

"We have seen hundreds. It's just absolutely amazing to hear them—*whoosh*—breathe."



PTARMIGANS

"When you hear their call for the first time, you will never forget it. It's like a little cry."



POLAR BEARS

A cub romping around and hopping onto its mother was "one of the most amazing sights that we've ever seen."

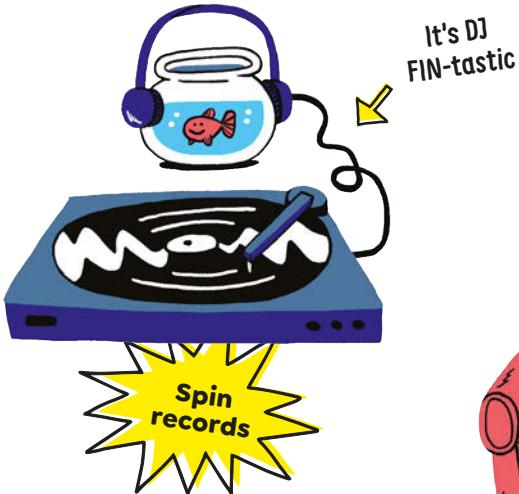
after a heavy snowstorm, the door wouldn't budge. They had to climb out a window. Between storms, silence settled on the cabin. Then, they could hear the crunch-crunch-crunch of reindeer and polar bears walking in the snow.



One time, after being out on the snowmobile, they came back to find a polar bear in front of their cabin, just a few feet away from Ettra. They waited. Finally, the polar bear left. Whew!

"We always did a polar bear check, looking left, right, forward, and back whenever we walked outside," said Sunniva. Night-vision binoculars came in handy. And, knowing the dangers, they carried a knife and a rifle.

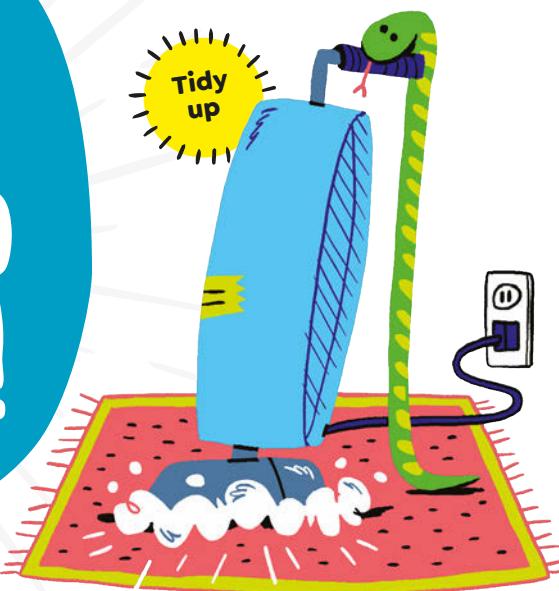
To stay four extra months, they had to eat smaller amounts of food so they wouldn't run out. "It was difficult being here, so far away from everything," Sunniva wrote. "Food, shelter, and warmth are often taken for granted until you are on your own." But, they wrote, "We have packed our patience, our smiles, and good spirits." And they enjoyed the adventure, finding ordinary miracles every day. 



Our Pets Do What?!

Send a drawing of what your pets do when you're not home! See page 38.

By Greg Kletsel



SPOTLIGHT

VIRUS

This is the
germ that
causes
COVID-19.

By Andy Boyles, Contributing Science Editor

In 2020, an illness called COVID-19 changed the way we live. The disease moved fast because people can catch it from one another and many don't even know they have it. Last winter, it spread from China to other countries around the world, including the United States.

Many people who get the disease do not feel sick at all. But others become very sick, and some even die.

This picture shows the cause: a type of germ called a virus. It's a new member of the coronavirus family, which includes germs that cause less harmful diseases such as the common cold.

COVID-19 is short for COronaVIrus Disease 2019. (That's the year the disease was discovered.)

A virus is a particle so small that we need a special microscope to see it. When a person with the virus sneezes, coughs, or even talks, tiny water droplets carry the virus into the air.

When virus particles get into another person,

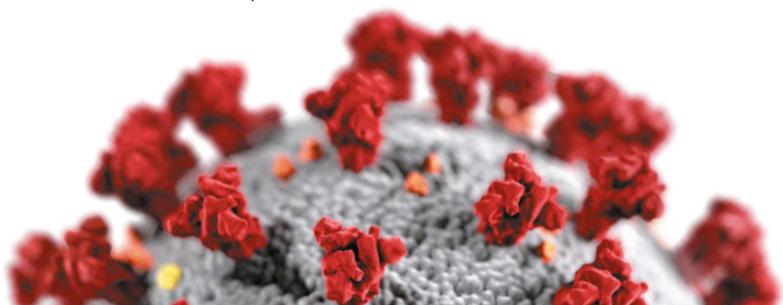
they break into some of the trillions of cells that make up that person's body. Then the viruses trick the cells into making copies of the virus.

A body uses several responses to fight viruses and other germs. Together, these responses are called the immune system. As the immune system kills viruses, it makes antibodies, which help find and fight the virus if it invades again.

Scientists are working to make a vaccine against this virus. When a person gets a vaccine, the immune system can make antibodies before the person gets the disease.

You can help slow the spread of COVID-19. Wear a mask, wash your hands often, and follow all other safety measures.

ENVELOPE
This outer coat
protects the virus.



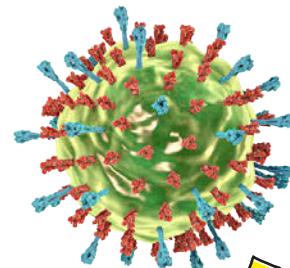
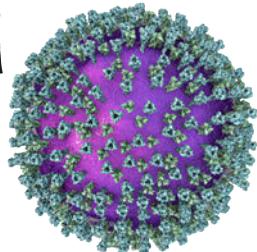
ENVELOPE PROTEINS

They help form and release new viruses from infected cells.

VIRUSES WE'VE BEATEN

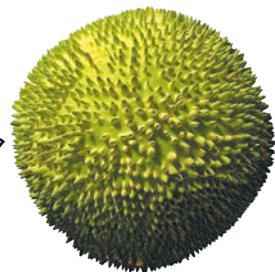
Vaccines stop viruses before they make a person sick. Here are four viruses that scientists have controlled or eliminated.

Measles

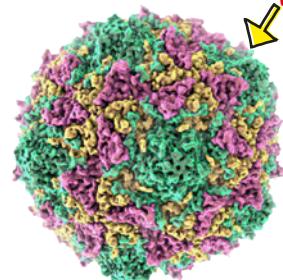


Mumps

Rubella



Polio



SPIKE PROTEINS

They grab on to cells and open the way for the virus to go in.

MAKE

20 Minutes Serves 3 ★★★ Fairly easy

Mac and cheese

hot sauce or ketchup
breakfast sausage
scrambled eggs

The Early Bird

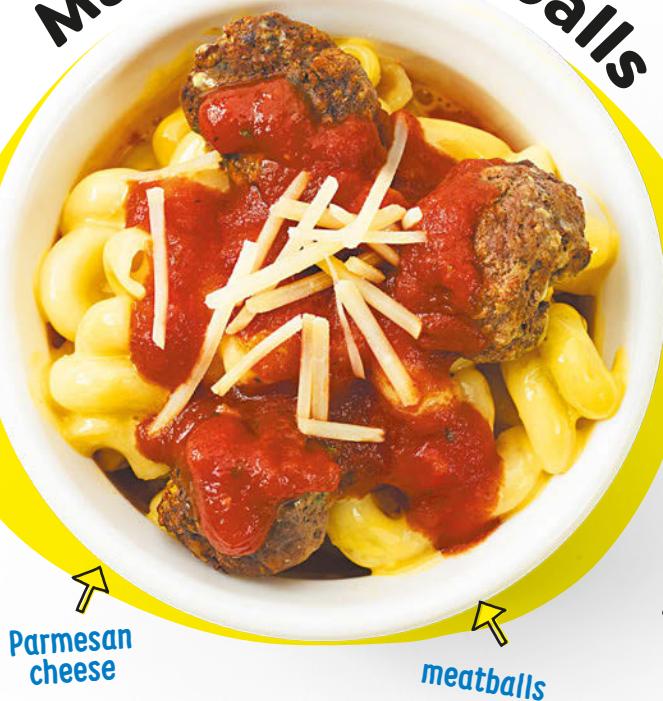
Mania

Try these tasty twists on classic macaroni and cheese.

By Taylor Clifton

Cheesy breakfast

Mac and Meatballs



Mac and Cheesecake



Make up
your own
flavor!

Rainbow Pepper Mac



SEND US YOURS! SEE PAGE 38

5 QUESTIONS FOR...

Jonah Larson

This crocheting sensation uses his talent to help others.

By Sonja Cole



1 AT AGE 5, YOU TAUGHT YOURSELF TO CROCHET WITH YOUTUBE. WHY DO YOU LOVE IT?

The rhythmic motion relaxes me and helps me focus. And I get to create beautiful items that make people happy.

2 YOU'VE WON 40 AWARDS. WHAT DO YOUR FRIENDS SAY ABOUT YOUR SKILL?

They find it really cool that I'm a speed crocheter and often ask me to make them things.



That's a BIG trophy!

5 HOW DO YOU USE YOUR BUSINESS, JONAH'S HANDS, TO HELP KIDS?

I was adopted from a poor area in Ethiopia. I often think of the kids in that village and how they would have been my friends. They have very little and I have so much. I auction many items and donate the money to Roots Ethiopia. So far I've raised enough to build a library and a science lab in the village where I was born so the kids there can have a shot at a successful future. It makes me feel good to help!



Perfect job for you!



3 HOW DID CROCHET HELP YOU AT SCHOOL?

In grade school, I was bored. I would sometimes cause trouble to entertain myself. When I was allowed to bring crochet to school, I was no longer bored. After I finished my classwork, I would take out my project and focus on the item I was making instead.

4 WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER GOALS?

I am going to be a surgeon. I've gained hand dexterity from crocheting that will help me in that. I want to occasionally return to Ethiopia and help people in need. And I will always crochet.

Jonah made this!





GOOFUS & GALLANT



YOUR Goofus and Gallant Moments

"I felt like Gallant when I helped my sister up after she fell down."
Jillian
Age 8 • Oregon

"I felt like Goofus when I stepped on my sister's Barbie doll on purpose."
Daniel
Age 10 • Oklahoma

"I felt like Gallant when I brought napkins to the table without being asked."
River
Age 5 • Massachusetts

Ready, Set— SNOW!

By Dawn Malone • Art by Paula Bossio

Rosalee pressed her nose against the kitchen window. Then she made a wish. “Ready, set—snow,” she whispered.

She looked to the sky, but there was no snow.

Rosalee closed her eyes. “Ready, set—SNOW!” she said louder. She peeked with one eye open. “Not one flake.”

“Be patient, dear. It will snow soon,” said Nana. Rosalee’s grandmother was setting a plate of warm pizzelle on the table. Rosalee loved her grandmother’s cookies. Their fancy shapes looked like snowflakes.

“But Grandpa told me it was supposed to snow today,” Rosalee said. It would be their first snow this winter.

Rosalee’s brother, Marcus, was sitting at the kitchen table. “Today can mean anytime between now and midnight,” he pointed out.







Rosalee frowned. All the snow signs were there:

- It *looked* like it could snow. The sky matched the gray rooftop next door.
- It *felt* like snow weather. She'd had to bury her face in a scarf when she went outside to check the mailbox that morning.
- It even *smelled* like it could snow. Nana

always made pizzelle in snowy weather. The cookies cooled on the table, filling the kitchen with their sweet, vanilla scent.

An idea popped into Rosalee's head.

Nana smiled at Rosalee and handed her a cookie.

Rosalee took a bite. Suddenly, an idea popped into her head. "I know how to make it snow," she said. She hopped off the stool.

"Impossible," Marcus mumbled, his mouth full.

"You'll see!" Rosalee disappeared into her room. An hour later, Rosalee



called to her brother. He was in his room reading. “Come in here with your eyes closed,” Rosalee said.

“All right.” Marcus appeared in the doorway. His eyelids were shut.

“OK,” Rosalee said. “Ready, set—SNOW!”

Marcus opened his eyes and looked around the kitchen. Taped to the

window were snowflakes of all shapes and sizes. More snowflakes dangled from above, dancing on strands of yarn.

Nana laughed. “It’s beautiful, Rosalee.”

“Yeah,” Marcus said, “but it’s not—”

“Look!” Rosalee pointed out the window. Snow floated through

the tree branches outside. The flakes were so big that Rosalee could see their delicate designs as they landed on the bird feeder.

“Wow, Rosalee!” said Marcus. “You really did make it snow!”

Rosalee giggled. “Maybe next time you’ll believe me.” 

CREATE



Lighthouse at Night

Brooklyn Wagner

Age 8 • Michigan

She flies on her own wings
Never knowing what the world brings
In the night I fly with her
She touches the stars with me
I get to sleep on the moon
(Poem inspired by the state motto of Oregon)

Ashley Haley
Age 9 • South Carolina



My Dream Job: A Surgeon

Devin Gustowski
Age 10 • Wisconsin



My Kitten, Maple

Hannah

Age 10 • California

Scoring a Lacrosse Goal

Arms pulled back

Like a praying mantis ready to strike

Eyes focused

Like an eagle ready to dive

Legs crouched

Like a cheetah ready to rocket forward

Unleash the beast at the net

It's feeding time

Time to SCORE!

Quincy Rianhard
Age 7 • Connecticut



Two Ice-Skating Ballerinas

Elliette Redhouse
Age 7 • Utah

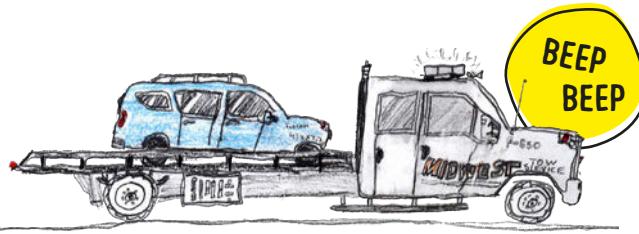
Red is my favorite color.
Wait a minute and I'll tell you why.
It's the prettiest color of the rainbow
that fills the lovely sky.
It's the color of all the clowns' noses
in the local circus parade,
and it's by far the tastiest flavor
of all the Jell-O and Kool-Aid.
Did I forget to mention
my hair is red?
Good thing it's my favorite color
because I'm stuck with it on my head.

Corbin Spurlock
Age 8 • Florida



Saint Bernard Reading a Book

Archer Graves
Age 8 • Minnesota



Tow Truck Carrying a Broken Car

Gerard Cerny
Age 11 • Kansas



I drew track-and-field athlete
Tianna Bartoletta because
she is an Olympian star
who looks like me.

Nassali Serwanga
Age 10 • California

The Robot Fight

Once upon a time, there
were two robots. They
were boxing in a robot
boxing stadium. One robot
did 1,000 backflips in the
air. The other robot did
1,000 somersaults. The
robot judges decided that
the robot doing 1,000
backflips was the winner.

Joe Nelson
Age 5 • Minnesota



SEND US YOURS! (see page 38).

BRAINPLAY



If friends gave awards, what would YOU win?

Take your brain on a hike!
START



YUM?

POOF

TA-DA
If you could make a wish come true for a random person without telling anyone, would you?

Would your favorite foods taste good together?

Name three ways to improve the world. Would everyone agree on them?



I am moving!



Is it harder for you to GET MOVING or GET STILL? **WHY?**

How can people tell what your mood is?

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BIG OPEN SPACE?

WHY?



What is your favorite family photo? WHY DO YOU LIKE IT?

What makes something art?

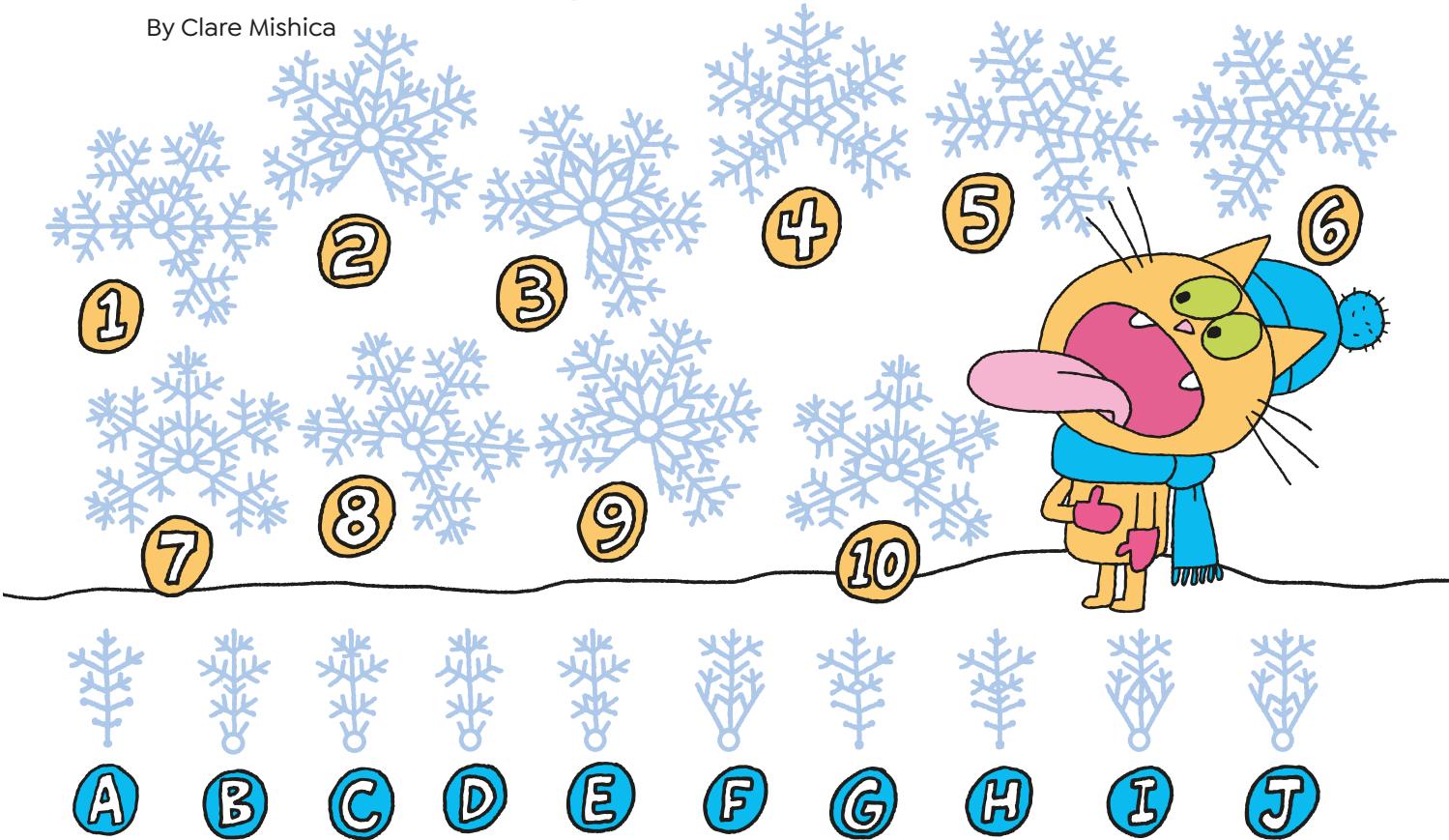


THE END

Fractured Flurries

By Clare Mishica

Each snowflake is missing one side.
Can you match the missing side to the
snowflake with the same pattern?



Answers on page 38.

Check... and Double Check

Can you find at least 18 differences?



My family has a tradition of making New Year's resolutions, but I can never keep mine. Do you have any tips?
—Wondering in Wisconsin

Resolution Redo

By Lissa Rovetch • Art by Amanda Morley

Dear Wondering,

My friend Mareya and I always have the same problem. So this year, we decided to be “resolution buddies” and write our resolutions together. We made a list of things each of us would do *every single day*:

1. Wear a cool new hairstyle.
2. Bake a scrumptious treat.
3. Eat a super-healthy lunch.
4. Read a chapter in a book.
5. Do 50 sit-ups, 20 push-ups, and 80 jumping jacks.
6. Do something big to help the planet.

“Of course, we’ll have to set our alarms an hour early to fit everything in,” said Mareya.

“Of course!” I agreed. The next morning, when

I stumbled into the kitchen at 5:45, my dad was so surprised to see me, he said, “Whoa! Who are you, and what have you done with my sleep-loving daughter?”

“Mareya and I need extra time to keep our New Year’s resolutions,” I said, handing him the list. “So from now on, I’m waking up early.”

“This is a lot to fit in every day,” he said, as he looked over the list. “Do you think you might be biting off a little more than you can chew?”

“I already did resolution number 1,” I said, showing off my braids. “Now I’m baking cookies before school for the second resolution. I’m making a double batch, so you can have as many as you’d like!”



Mareya and I decided to write our New Year’s resolutions together.

“Isn’t that my luck,” he said. “You resolve to bake treats right when I resolve to eat less sugar.”

When I arrived at school, Mareya said, “I love your braids! Oh, and here are some fresh-baked coconut thinsies!”

“Yum!” I said. “Here are some fresh-baked almond delights for you. And wow,



your hair looks gorgeous with that headband!"

We had a tough math test that morning, which made us extra hungry for lunch.

"What are you two eating?" Tyrone asked.

"I have an egg, spinach, orange, and onion sandwich," I answered.

"And I have a tuna, broccoli, tomato, and banana wrap," said Mareya.

"Do those things actually taste good?" Miguel asked.

Mareya took the list out of her pocket and explained, "Resolution number 3 says

our lunch has to be healthy, not necessarily delicious."

"Speaking of resolutions," I said to Mareya, "if we're going to squeeze in numbers 4 and 5 before the bell rings, we'd better hurry."

Fortunately, we did manage to read our chapters and do our 50 sit-ups, 20 push-ups, and 80 jumping jacks. Unfortunately, all that exercise right after gulping down lunch made our stomachs hurt!

We both had karate that afternoon, plus lots of homework, so we didn't

have time to do something big to help the planet (otherwise known as resolution number 6).

"Well," said Mareya, "I guess if we're going to have time for everything on our list, we're going to have to wake up even earlier."

"Earlier?!" I groaned. "I can barely stay awake now."

But I couldn't let my resolution buddy down, so we agreed to set our alarms half an hour earlier. Even with the extra time, though, it was hard to fit everything in. Plus, we were too tired

to do things well. When we had to present our book reports, we yawned the whole way through.

By Friday, we were exhausted. When we got to school, we took one look at each other and almost fell on the floor laughing. My “cool hairstyle” made me look like a porcupine in a lightning storm. And Mareya was wearing the sparkliest wig imaginable!

“I was too tired to be creative,” she said. “So I grabbed this disco wig from our Halloween box.”

I giggled. “And I was too tired to tell the difference between my mom’s hair gel and my dad’s shaving cream!”

“I guess we’re going to have to wake up even earlier.”

That afternoon, Mareya and I made up a whole NEW New Year’s resolution list. It was shorter, simpler, and, best of all, doable.

We already exercise and read a lot, so we left those off. In the end, we simplified the list to:

1. Try to eat healthy.
2. Try not to waste water, electricity, paper, or plastic.

And most important of all:

3. Try to be kind.

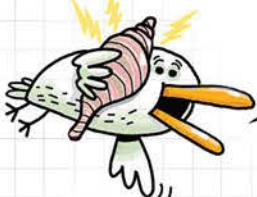
Of course, we still like to bake treats and try new hairstyles, but not every day. And we are still hoping to do something big to help the planet, but that will take more planning.

So, dear Wondering, here’s my one resolution tip: keep it simple!

**Ciao for now,
Arizona**



**By Friday,
we were
exhausted.**



Is the sound inside a conch shell really the ocean? How does it get in there?

Cross
(by e-mail)

Art by Jim Bradshaw.

THIS SHELL PHONE HAS BAD RECEPTION.

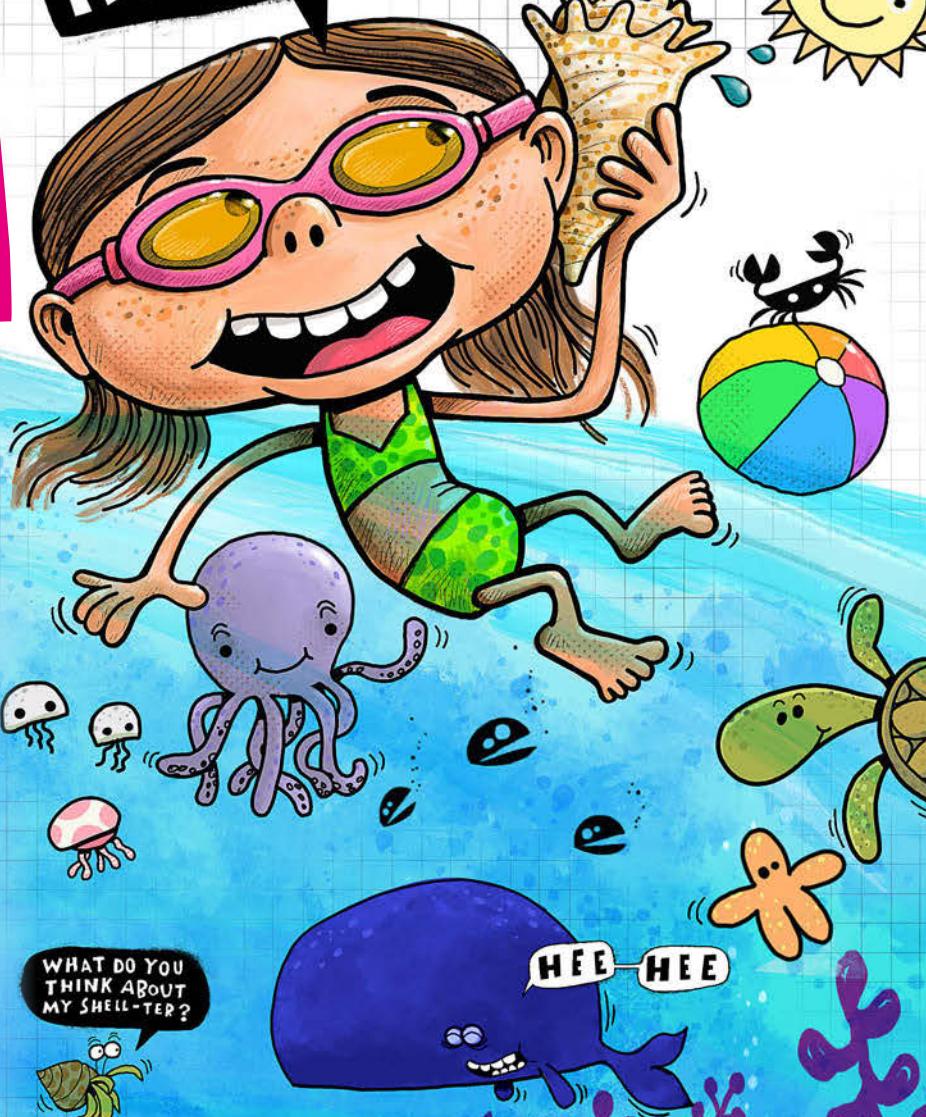
IT'S TIME TO SHELLEBRATE

EVER WONDER?

GURGLE!

SPLOOOSH!
WOOOSH!

HELLO?



Nope, you aren't holding a shell full of captured sea sounds. With a conch shell held to your ear, you may *think* you hear ocean waves and winds—but that's an illusion!

You're really hearing echoes or reflections of the sounds around you at the moment. Those sounds bounce around off the smooth surfaces inside the shell's spiraled pathways, then back to your ear. Sounds may get louder or softer in the process.

Don't have a shell handy? Hold the open end of an empty jar to your ear. It doesn't have the spirals of a conch shell, but you may hear a sound like a breeze—or the echoes of people asking what you're doing with that jar over your ear!

Highlights

ASK A QUESTION! SEE PAGE 38

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YOU LOVE
ABOUT
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Contributing Science Editor: Andrew Boyles

Editorial Offices: 803 Church Street, Honesdale, PA 18431-1895.

E-mail: eds@highlights.com

To submit manuscripts, go to Highlights.submittable.com.

CEO: Kent S. Johnson

President: Lece Lohr

SVP, International and Global Content Licensing: Andy Shafran

Business Offices: 1800 Watermark Drive,

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You might see it in a future issue!

We'd love to see your About You items, poems, drawings, photos, Funny But True stories, jokes, Goofus and Gallant Moments, and more. If sending your work by postal mail, please include your name, age, and address.



Mail
it here!



Upload
it here!

Life During COVID-19

These are challenging times! You and your parents can find tips, ideas, and things to do on HighlightsKids.com, on our YouTube channels, and in the Highlights@Home segments on Highlights.com.

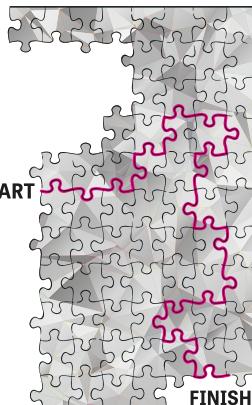
Keep sharing how you feel, talking with loved ones, and taking good care of yourselves. And write to us anytime you'd like!

Answers

PAGE 4

National Puzzle Day

Here is
the path
we found.
You may
have found
others.



PAGE 33

Fractured Flurries

1. E 2. J 3. I 4. H 5. G
6. A 7. C 8. B 9. F 10. D

PAGE 41

Monster Match

Here are the answers we found.
You may have found others.

spots headphones cookie	spots snack	spots horns one eye
teeth headphones	teeth snack cookie one eye	teeth horns
pencil one eye headphones	pencil snack	pencil horns cookie

What is the most adorable vegetable?

A cute-cumber.

Julia

Age 8 • California

OLIVE: How many apples can fit in an empty box?

OLIVER: Just one, because then the box isn't empty.

Oliver

Age 10 • New York

Why can't Elsa from Frozen hold a balloon?

Because she will let it go.

Lau

Age 7 • Florida

A weasel walked into a restaurant. The waiter said, "What can I get you?"

"Pop," goes the weasel.

Haley

Age 9 • South Dakota

A book never written: How to Grill by Barbie Cue.

Harper

Age 8 • Kentucky

"Knock, knock."

"Who's there?"

"Doris."

"Doris who?"

"Doris locked. That's why I'm knocking."

Zoey

Age 8 • Arizona

I invented a new word: plagiarism.

Kaden

Age 9 • Georgia

What do cats eat for breakfast?

Mice crispy treats.

Arianna

Age 10 • Missouri

Your Wacky Captions

LAUGHS FROM YOU

UGH, TODAY WAS RUFF.
Ana

Age 11 • Virginia

DO I SMELL
BACON???

Sammy

Age 11 • Florida

I'M IN THE CAR, I'M IN THE CAR, I'M IN THE CAR, I'M IN THE CAR, I'M IN THE CAR!!!
Ava
Age 8 • New York

THE SUN IS
RIGHT IN
MY EYES.
Capri

Age 9 • Pennsylvania

I had a dream I was swimming with two dolphins. I was a mermaid—and my tail was an ice-cream cone! We were exploring this giant shipwreck, then we bumped into another mermaid, met a fish, and had a huge party!

Aubrey Bradley

Georgia

Funny But True

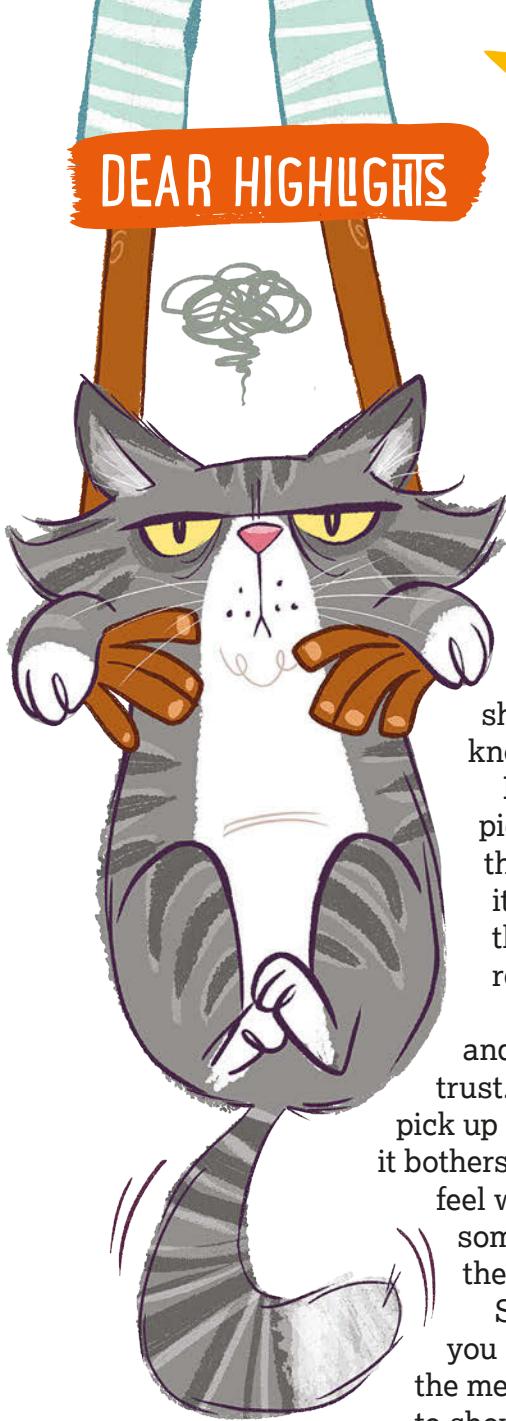
One time, in second grade, we were reading *Charlotte's Web*. There was this boy who was sitting at his desk and leaning back, and he fell asleep! My teacher told us just to let him sleep.

Tessa

Age 10 • New York

SEND US YOURS! SEE PAGE 38

DEAR HIGHLIGHTS



My kitten Luna loves it when I pet her, but she hates it when I pick her up.

Lucas
Massachusetts

It's great that you notice the ways Luna shows you what she likes and dislikes. She can't use words to tell you how she feels, so she lets you know in other ways.

It can be hard to resist picking up our pets when they're cute and cuddly. But it's important to remember that they aren't toys. They're real beings with feelings.

Respecting a pet's likes and dislikes is one way to build trust. When you feel tempted to pick up Luna, remind yourself that it bothers her. Think about how you feel when people keep doing something after you've asked them to stop.

Someday Luna may surprise you and let you pick her up. In the meantime, look for other ways to show her you care.

ADVICE FROM YOU

If I really want to do something, sometimes my brain says, "Nope!" What do I do?

Audrey
California

Think of a way to make it fun. Like, if you do laundry, imagine you're a basketball player!

Maggie
Tennessee



I am afraid of the dark, but I'm not sure why.

Harper
Maryland

Lots of kids (and adults!) feel the same way you do. Try to understand the feeling better. You could ask yourself questions, like "When do I feel most afraid? Do noises or storms make it worse? Do I watch scary movies that keep replaying in my mind?"

Make a list of what you think can be scary about the dark. Then think about whether you really need to fear those things. Talk with a parent about the things on your list, too, and ways to handle them. For example, if you fear not being able to see what's around you, maybe you can use a flashlight to remind yourself that a room is safe.

Try having a week of YES. Each day say yes to a good thing you usually wouldn't, like trying a new food.

Alanna
Alaska

HAVE A QUESTION?
Write to us at Letters@Highlights.com or by postal mail (see page 38).

Monster Match

Monster school has gone virtual this year! What do the monsters in each row, column, and diagonal have in common?



WHAT'S WRONG?

It's up
to you!

