

Get creative! Find our new Activity Kits on [Highlights.com](https://www.highlights.com)



MAY 2023

Highlights

FUN WITH A PURPOSE



INTO THE FUTURE

Living on Mars
(Cats and mice, too?)
Page 14

Galaxy Jars
Page 20



PUZZLES

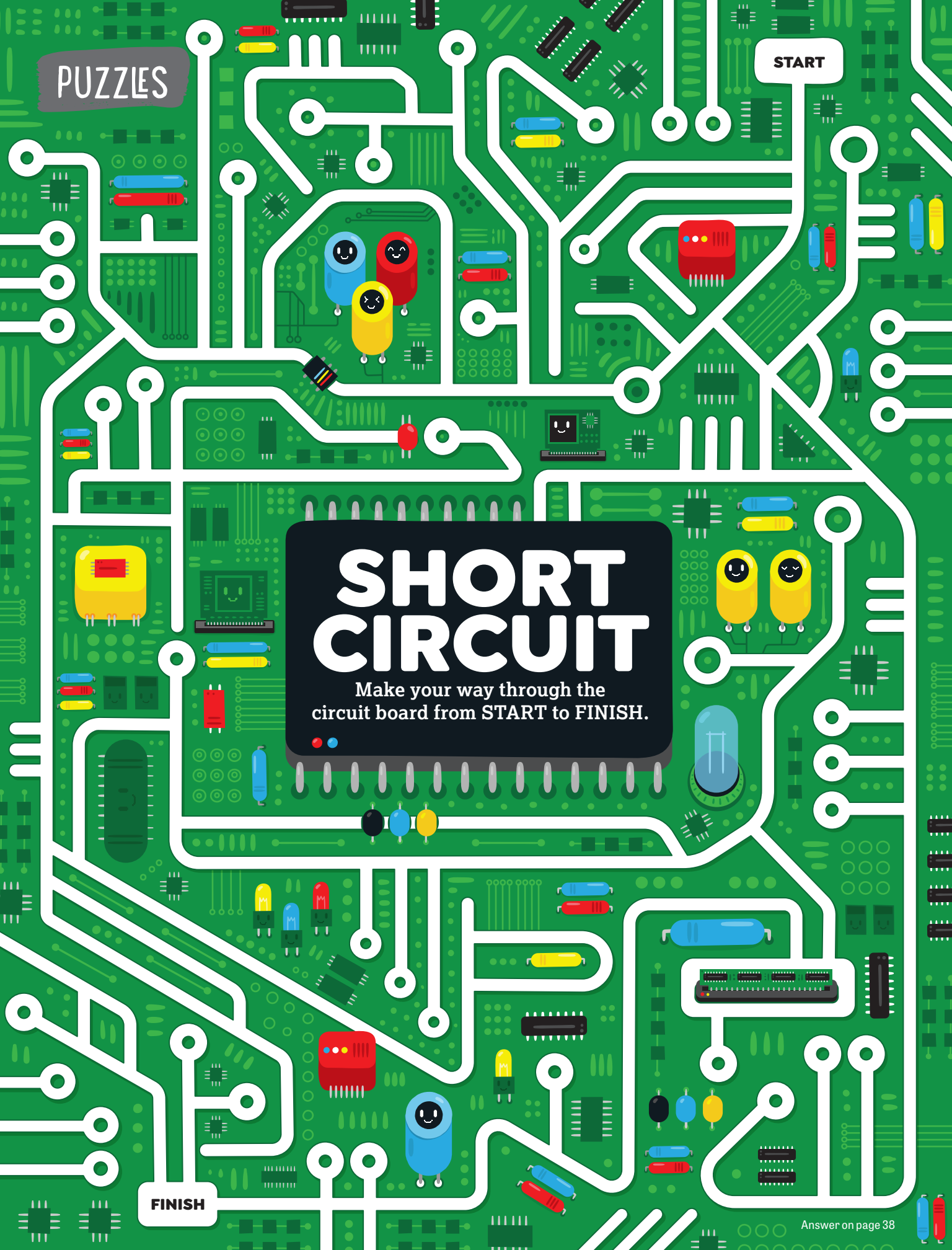
START

SHORT CIRCUIT

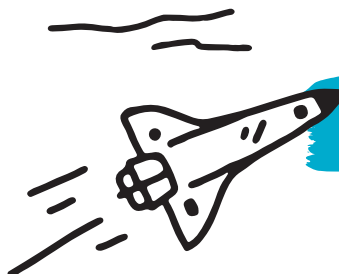
Make your way through the
circuit board from START to FINISH.

FINISH

Answer on page 38



The Thrill of Space



DEAR READER



One summer day several years ago, I stood on a Florida beach with hundreds of other adults and kids. We were gathered to watch NASA's last crewed space shuttle launch.

Because the weather looked iffy, we weren't sure the launch was going to happen, until it did. There was a countdown, then flashes of flame, vibrations, and lots of noise.

For several minutes after liftoff, cheers went up and down the beach, drowning out the sound of the ocean. We all craned our necks to watch the shuttle soar into the blue sky and disappear, on its way to deliver supplies to the International Space Station.

NASA retired the shuttle program after that. Today, it is focused on sending astronauts back to the Moon and to Mars. NASA thinks

that someday it might be possible for people to live on the red planet. "Living on Mars" (pages 14–19) talks about some of the questions scientists are exploring as they study that possibility.

Would you live on Mars, if you had the chance? What do you think it would be like? I'd love to hear your thoughts or see your drawings.

Space exploration can tickle our imaginations. I can't wait to see what you are imagining.

Your friend,

Christine

WRITE TO ME
Christine@Highlights.com



WOULD YOU WANT TO LIVE ON MARS?

I ASKED...

What's a good Mother's Day gift?



A handmade picture is a good gift.

Lucas Kelton
Age 7 • Texas

A day out together. It would be a good way to spend time with just your mom.

Emily Sanchez
New Jersey

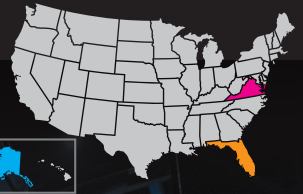
The Moon Speaks!

By James Carter

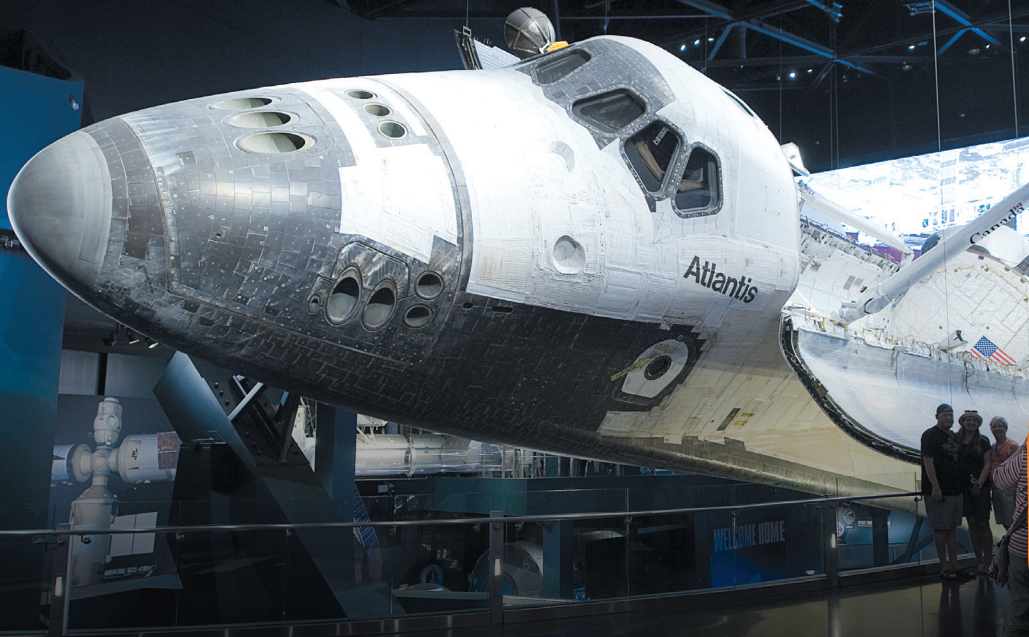
*I, the moon,
would like it known—I
never follow people home. I
simply do not have the time. And
neither do I ever shine. For what you
often see at night is me reflecting solar
light. And I'm not cheese! No, none of
these: no mozzarellas, cheddars, bries, all
you'll find here—if you please—are my
dusty, empty seas. And cows do not
jump over me. Now that is simply
lunacy! You used to come and
visit me. Oh do return,
I'm lonely, see.*

3, 2, 1, LAUNCH!

WHICH WAY USA MAP IT



Whether it's a spacecraft carrying astronauts or a satellite hitched to a rocket, getting into space requires a launch. Here are a few locations where spaceflights begin.



Moon Missions and More

All piloted missions to the Moon and space shuttle missions have been launched from the **Kennedy Space Center** in Florida. From there, NASA recently completed a flight test of the Artemis I megarocket as part of a plan to send astronauts back to the Moon in 2024. At the massive Kennedy complex, tourists can learn about spaceflight and, if they time it right, even watch a rocket launch.

What's Up at Wallops

NASA's **Wallops Flight Facility** in Virginia has been launching rockets and scientific research missions since 1945, making it one of the world's oldest launch sites. Wallops also manages NASA's Scientific Balloon Program, which launches balloons from different locations around the world. The balloons are as thin as plastic wrap but can lift up to 8,000 pounds of equipment into space. When fully inflated, the most commonly used balloon could hold a football field inside it!



Polar Launches

Pacific Spaceport Complex—Alaska (PSCA), on Kodiak Island in Alaska, is a great location for polar launch operations. While rockets launched from there often carry satellites and research equipment, private companies are now testing spacecraft that could carry space tourists. PSCA also launches huge balloons that may one day be able to carry people in a capsule to the very edge of space.





National Duckling Month

The ducklings on the grounds at Mountfitchet Castle in England have an unusual protector—a Labrador retriever named Fred. Originally built in 1066, the castle is a national Historic Monument. It has been reconstructed and turned into a museum experience with many animals living on the grounds. Last summer, when a mother duck went missing, Fred began looking after her 15 ducklings. The group could often be found snuggling up to Fred in the sun.



7th Happy World Laughter Day!

To solve the riddle below, use the fractions of the words. The first one has been done for you.

HOW DO YOU MAKE AN OCTOPUS LAUGH?

- Last 1/3 of ANT
- Last 1/2 of THEN
- First 1/2 of TIME
- Last 1/2 of LOCK
- First 1/2 of LESSON

Answer on page 38



8th

It's No Socks Day!

Celebrate the beginning of warmer weather by freeing your feet.



29th

On this day 70 years ago, **Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary** became the first people to reach the top of Mount Everest. The dangerous climb involves facing low oxygen levels and extremely cold, unpredictable weather. At 29,035 feet above sea level, Mount Everest's peak is commonly considered the highest point on Earth.



14th

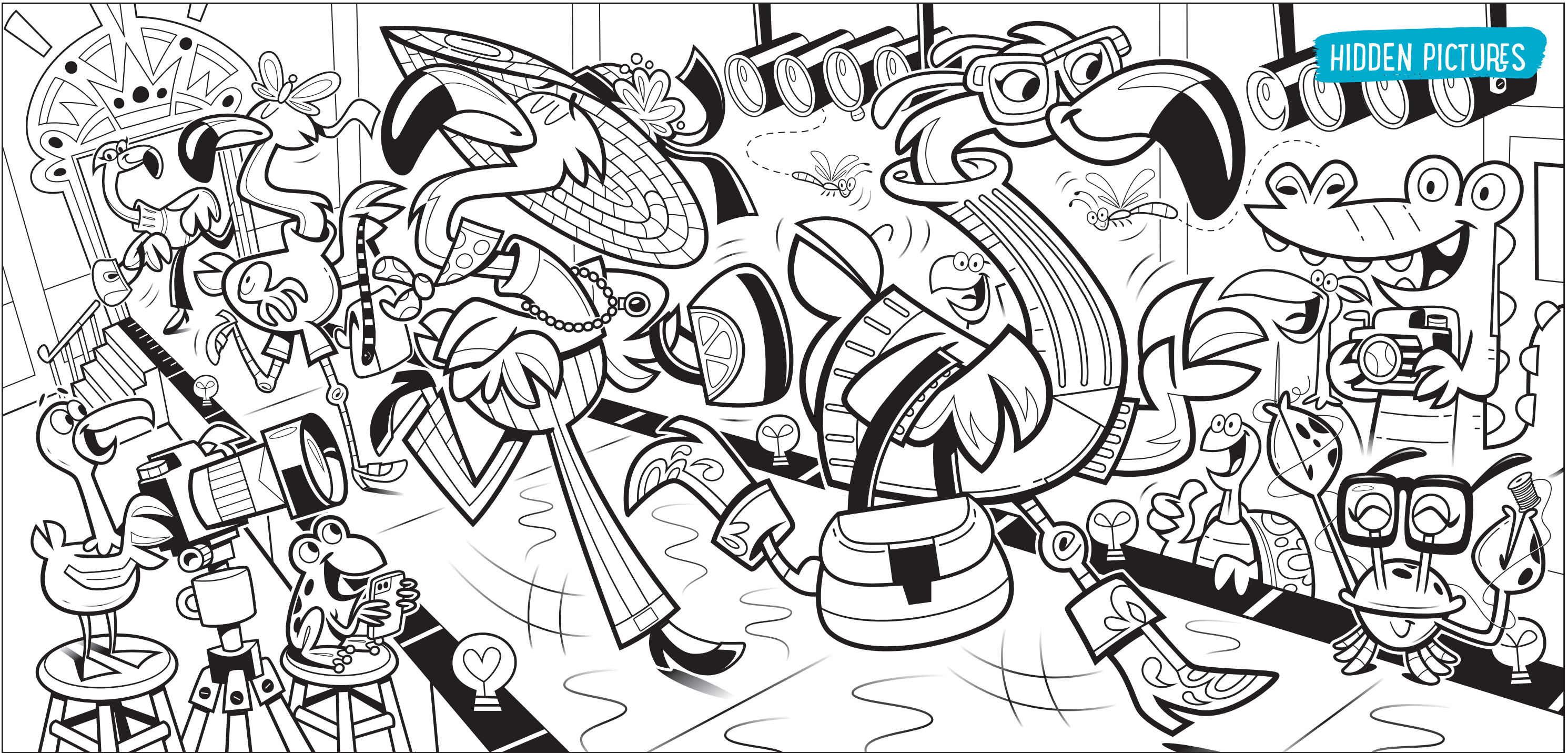
Wish a happy **MOTHER'S DAY** to all the mother figures in your life. You might even make your mom breakfast in bed. Mom-lette, anyone?



29th

MEMORIAL DAY is a day to remember the soldiers who have died while serving in the military. You can honor them by:

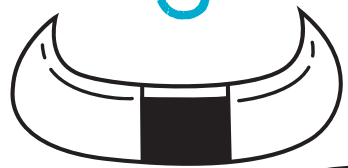
- Visiting a military cemetery or historic site with your family.
- Attending a local Memorial Day parade or ceremony.
- Making a bouquet of poppies, a symbol of remembrance for soldiers and their sacrifices.



Flamingo Fashion Show

BONUS!

Can you also find the heart, baseball, envelope, and paper clip?



canoe



mug



crown



banana



wedge of lemon



pennant



octopus



bowl



fishhook



butterfly



ring



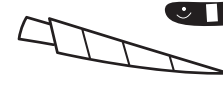
adhesive bandage



candy cane



toothbrush



carrot



ruler



snake



horseshoe



hockey stick



slice of pizza



spoon



golf club



coathanger



sailboat



candle

THE GREAT ALEEYA

(but ALWAYS Late)

By Julie M. Prince
Art by George Caltsoudas

“You haven’t started yet? The project is due tomorrow!”

The hover-bus rose into the air, shuddered slightly, and flew away from the curb as soon as I sat down next to my best friend, Tera. I felt a tap on my shoulder and turned around.

My brother, Jared, peered over the seat behind us. “You almost missed the bus again, Aleeya. Can’t you ever be on time?”

Jared was always punctual—always early, in fact. I groaned at him and turned back to Tera. “Here’s why I was late,” I said.

She read the title of the book I held out. “*The Great Rain of 2065*.”

“It’s for my history project,” I said. “It took forever to decide on a topic.”

Tera’s eyes widened. “You haven’t started yet? The project is due tomorrow.”

I sighed. “I know.”

“How will you get the report and the visual aid done tonight?” This time she used a quieter voice.

My shoulders slumped. “I

forgot about the visual aid.”

“Too bad you can’t go back in time and start your project when it was assigned,” Tera said.

“Too bad you can’t go back in time.”

My mind clicked into overdrive. “What if I can?” I snapped my NeoGum and blew a metallic silver bubble.

Tera looked confused. “Can what?”

“Go back in time!”

In the remaining minutes of the bus ride, I explained my plan.

Tera nodded but looked doubtful. “I guess it could work,” she said.

Air brakes hissed as the hover-bus lowered at my stop. I hurried to the front and waved to Tera over my shoulder. I dashed home as Jared lagged behind.

In my room, I dictated three notes to myself before I settled on one to print:

*Dear Aleeya,
You know the history project that was assigned today? Start on it right away! There’s an interesting book all about The Great Rain in the school resource center. Go grab it.*

Don’t miss the hover-bus after school!

*From,
Your Future Self*

PS: Make the visual aid something awesome, OK?

PPS: Next Tuesday, Zeke will offer to trade snacks with you at lunchtime. Tell him “No, thanks.” Dragon chips may sound cool, but they are seriously spicy.

My tongue burned at the memory of those chips.

After dinner, I slipped into the garage. It smelled of mildew and paint. I waved my hand to brush away cobwebs as I looked for Jared’s homemade

time machine. It was right behind the antique model airplane I’d begged for but had never finished.

The time machine was a small metal box. The timer on the front blinked to life as soon as I touched it. When the top of the box slid open, a tinny voice sounded from it, echoing through the garage.

“Welcome to the Time Portal Deluxe. Awaiting

your instructions.”

I looked toward the door to the house, which I’d left ajar. Satisfied no one had heard the computerized voice, I turned my attention back to the machine. But before I could drop my note inside and set the timer, I noticed another note already inside the box.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 9)

To Future Aleeya. From Aleeya of two weeks ago.

I gasped. I was in the future right now! I ripped open the note and read:

Thanks for your instructions about my history project. Unfortunately, I'm busy catching up on homework I should have done last week. You'll have to stop wasting time on silly notes and get to work, or you'll never finish the project before tomorrow!

I stared at the note. I blinked a few times and then noticed the handwritten signature at the bottom. It didn't look like mine. A muffled laugh sounded from behind our hover-van.

"Jared!" I yelled.

He stepped out, his shoulders shaking.

"How did you know?" I asked.

**"How did you know?"
I asked.**

"I heard you talking to Tera on the bus, then heard you in your room dictating the note. I put it together. How else could you try to alter time, if not with my fabulous, note-directed time portal?" He took the box and thumped it with his finger. "You know this time machine never really worked."

"It was worth a try," I mumbled.

He grinned. "That's what I told myself when I built it."

What was I going to do about the project and the visual aid? I blew a spectacular NeoBubble. A thunderous pop resounded through the garage. And then an idea came to me. "Jared . . . mind if I borrow your time machine?"

"I guess not. Why?"

My words rushed out. "I can use it as a prop during the presentation tomorrow. My class can pretend to travel back in time, to 2065. To make the classroom look and sound like The Great Rain, I'll put thunder noises on the sound system, close the auto-blinds, and click the lights on and off."

"Awesome idea," Jared said, handing over the Time Portal Deluxe. "At least it'll be good for something."

"Thanks! If I start my report right away, I might finish my assignment on time after all!"

After Jared left the room, I had another thought. I jotted a quick note for my brother to discover in the portal before we left for school the next morning.


*Dear Future Jared,
Thanks for your help with my project.*

You know, your time portal just may work after all—I'm writing to you from yesterday! Strange, huh?

*From,
Aleeya of the Past* 📧

**I was in the future
right now! I ripped
open the note.**







I love dirt bikes because I can do tricks like jumps and wheelies.

Steven Pinto Jr.
Age 8
Pennsylvania

I have a Great Pyrenees dog and a husky dog. The husky is named Luca and has one floppy ear.

Ev Armbruster
Age 8 • Wyoming

I love languages. I am learning Hebrew. I really like it.

Sarah Claudino
Tennessee

When kids were misbehaving on the bus, my friends Scarlet, Lucy, and Kaylee started a project: "Stop the Fuss on the Bus!" Arianna and I helped them make posters to remind people. It's going great!



Mollie Rabuse
Age 10 • Connecticut

ABOUT YOU

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

SEND US YOURS!
SEE PAGE 38



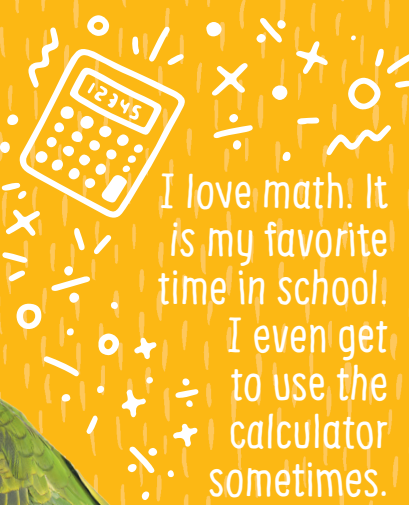
What I want to tell you is that sometimes I get angry, but I fix it.

Lily Ann Russell
Age 7 • Virginia

Bird-watching is my favorite thing to do. I love birds! We have many in our backyard. Parrots are one of my favorites. I like how they are bright and colorful, and some mimic people!




Emilia Bybee
Age 10 • California



I love math! It is my favorite time in school. I even get to use the calculator sometimes.

Nico Mazzarelli
Age 7 • New York



I am a very good builder. In Minecraft, I built 10 bases! It is very fun. And I also like to draw.

Austin Robb
Age 11 • Texas



Mother's Day Mix-up

Amir, Beth, Caleb, and Destiny made the Mother's Day cards above for their moms and grandmas. Use the clues to figure out which kid made each card.

CLUES

- Either Amir or Caleb made the yellow card.
- Beth did not use green lettering on her card.
- Amir did not make a red card or use red lettering.
- Amir did not use glitter.

Living on MARS

By Megan Sever

How would we live, work, and play on the red planet?

Have you ever thought about the possibility of living on Mars? Have you wondered what your house might look like? What you might eat or wear? Whether you could play soccer?

Dr. Ariel Ekblaw, a scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, thinks about these questions every day. She's in charge of a group of people who are trying to figure out ways to make our lives work on Mars. The group includes engineers, scientists, architects, and artists.

If people are going to settle on Mars, Dr. Ekblaw says, we will need more than just

the basics (food, water, and shelter). We'll need culture—music, art, sports, comfort food, and other things that make us happy.

First, though, we'd need shelter and a way to survive on the surface. If we stepped out of a spaceship onto the red planet without a space suit, we'd die within seconds, says planetary scientist Dr. Pascal Lee. Almost no oxygen, temperatures far below freezing, and toxic dust are only three of the threats to life on Mars.

But we can't just chop down trees or make concrete to build houses on Mars.

(Continued on page 16)

In a plan called MARSHA, robots would land on Mars and use huge 3D printers to build homes and work spaces before humans arrive.

High windows would offer views of the martian landscape.

The strong egg shape would hold in the air pressure that humans need to survive.

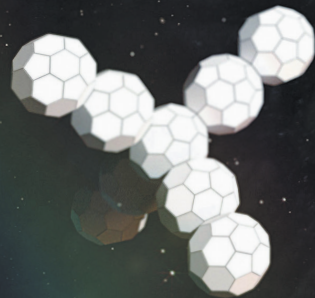
What's It Like Inside?

Families could have comfortable living spaces, such as this one, inside an egg-shaped MARSHA building.

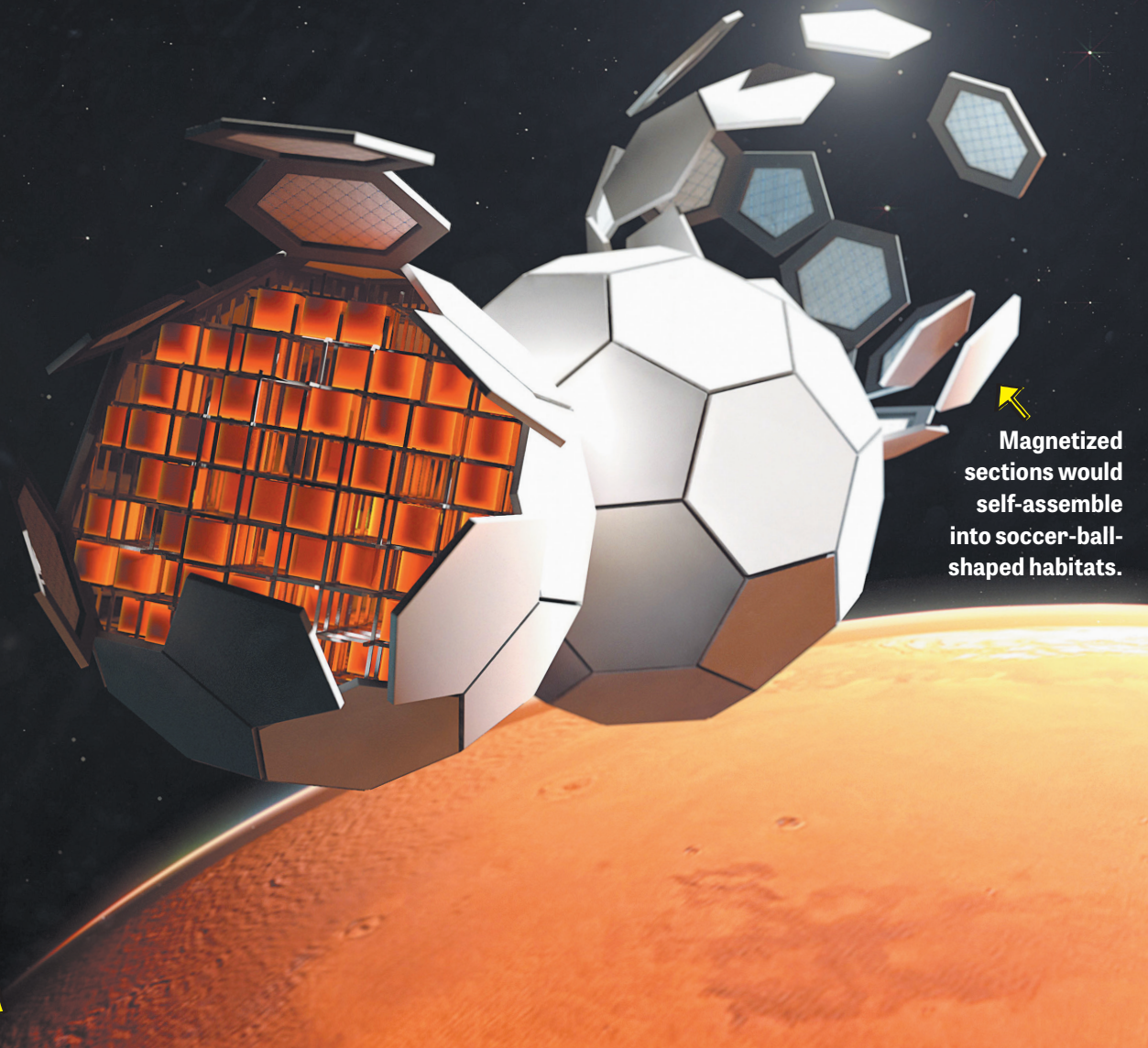


Earth

In orbit around Mars, TESSERAE's magnetic pieces would find one another and snap together. They'd quickly assemble themselves into living spaces. On Mars, the same pieces could be mixed and matched to build more living spaces.



Mars



Magnetized sections would self-assemble into soccer-ball-shaped habitats.

(Continued from page 14)

One option would be to bring everything with us. That would be really expensive—as much as \$5,000 per pound! Another option would be to figure out how to use martian dirt to make houses.

Our Martian Homes

Dr. Ekblaw and her team are inventing one type of potential martian home called TESSERAE. Picture a giant soccer ball made of huge Magna-Tiles.

You'd carry the tiles to Mars

in a spaceship. They're strong and lightweight. Once you were in orbit around Mars, you would drop the tiles out of the ship. Magnets in the tiles would make them snap together into a big, ball-shaped living space. On Mars's surface, you could use the tiles to build domes and covered walkways.

Another type of habitat, called MARSHA, could be built entirely on Mars using martian soil and a huge 3D printer. The idea, says architect David Malott, is to send 3D printers

and robots to Mars ahead of people. The robots could then operate the 3D printers, building houses for us before we arrive.

Malott leads AI SpaceFactory, the team that developed MARSHA for a NASA competition. MARSHA buildings are shaped like eggs: they're tall, and wide in the middle. The shape is important, Malott says. That's because the air inside would have to be pressurized the same way an airplane is pressurized. Any sharp corners in the structure could break as the Earth-like pressure inside pushes out against the low pressure of Mars's atmosphere.

Living on Mars—on Earth

In a few places on Earth that are rocky and remote like Mars, people are learning how to live on another planet. On Mauna Loa volcano in Hawai'i, six-member crews live in a two-story, dome-shaped habitat for missions that last as long as a year. Their work is part of the Hawai'i Space Exploration Analog and Simulation (HI-SEAS).

Crew members wear full space suits when they go outside. Inside, they sleep in tiny rooms. They eat the way they would in space and grow plants without soil in towers like those that may be used in space. They share weird toilets and take one shower a week (to conserve water).

They also do research. One part of future martian life that the mission focuses on is the

(Continued on next page)

HI-SEAS researchers try out new space suits.



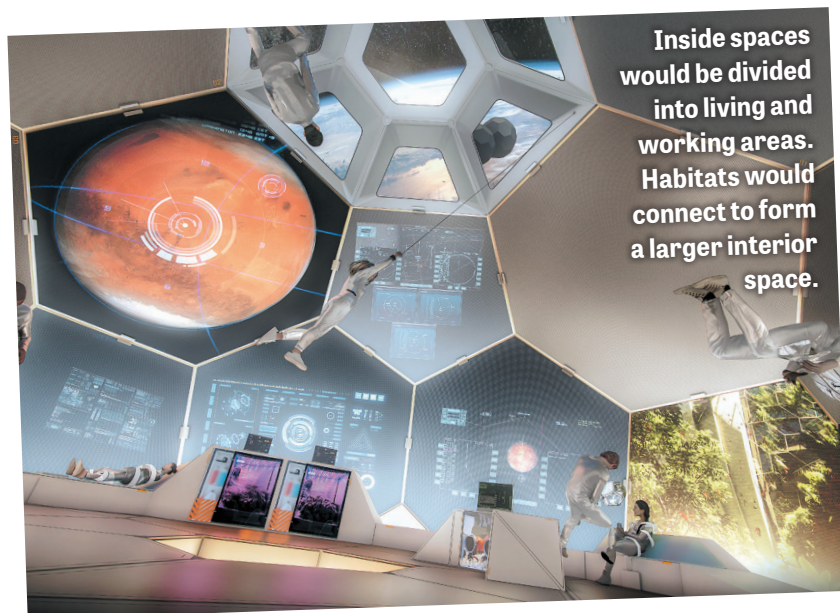
New Space Suits

A current space suit weighs about 300 pounds! Even in Mars's weak gravity, it would weigh more than 100 pounds. "That's too heavy!" says Dr. Pascal Lee of NASA. "You can't do geology; you can't even hike."

Dr. Michaela Musilova of HI-SEAS agrees. "You can't bend over to pick something up, and if you fell, it would be very difficult to pick yourself up!"

Both teams are developing lighter, more flexible space suits. "A space suit is not just clothing," Dr. Lee says. "It is a wearable spacecraft." It holds in air pressure and blocks out deadly cold, radiation, and meteorites.

His group is working to put the heaviest equipment onto a robotic ATV that follows the explorer like a puppy.



Inside spaces would be divided into living and working areas. Habitats would connect to form a larger interior space.



On Earth, team members wear space suits to explore the challenges of living on Mars.

The hardened lava of Mauna Loa volcano offers a Mars-like landscape for researchers in the HI-SEAS program.

(Continued from page 17)

mental health of the crew. The team studies challenges we'd face in space. One is being away from friends and family for long periods of time. Another is living in a small place with a group of strangers.

Dr. Michaela Musilova says that her team identifies the kinds of conflicts that happen often. Then they look for ways to avoid them, such as choosing a mix of crew members who are not likely to engage in such conflicts.

Crew members also do the kinds of research that would be done on the Moon and Mars. In their space suits, they study the nearby rocks, landscape, and living things. They work on new technologies for everything from getting

around, to growing food, to developing new space suits.

Creating a Life on Mars

To keep astronauts healthy and happy, scientists will need to give them some comfort and fun during the seven-month trip to Mars, their time in orbit around the planet, and their missions on Mars.

Researchers will need to adapt ordinary things for use in space. These things might include musical instruments, furniture, sports, and ways to get around.

Some members of Dr. Ekblaw's team developed musical instruments designed to work without gravity. Other team members are working on different high-performance clothes and shoes.

Robots could go first and build habitats for us.

And we'll definitely need new ways to get food in space! Space food right now is mostly freeze-dried stuff or "just-add-water" prepackaged meals.

Scientists are working on ways to grow fresh vegetables and fruits with no soil and little water. They're developing stoves that work in low gravity.

They're also thinking about how soccer, swimming, and other sports may work. Without gravity, everything would be different.

In addition, "on Mars, there's a very limited set of resources, and you're in a very dangerous environment," says Arizona



At the University of Arizona, Dr. Gene Giacomelli began a team project that's developing ways for plants to provide food and recycle air, water, and waste on other worlds.

State University theater professor Dr. Lance Gharavi. "It's really critical that people find ways of working and living together effectively."

He and his teammates in the Interplanetary Initiative group developed a game, called "Port of Mars," to figure out how people can learn to work together while still meeting their own needs.

Dr. Ekblaw says this work will require creative thinkers, including kids. You don't have to be interested in just science or math to participate in the future of space. "We need space doctors, space artists—people who make life in space worth living for all of us," she says.

Within your lifetime, you may be able to go to space if you want to—so plan for it! 4

What Would Our Life on Mars Be Like?

DR. ARIEL EKBLAW
 "For the first few decades, it will probably be like an extreme environmental outpost, like Antarctica's McMurdo Station was at first. But over time, as we grow settlements on the Moon and learn more about how to live in those environments and how to keep humans happy, we will start growing those outposts into small towns and maybe eventually cities and societies."

DR. PASCAL LEE
 "I think Mars will be like an international park. There might be a research station where rangers live permanently, but other people would come and do research and then leave, as on Antarctica. There would be no families, no kids growing up or going to school. But I can definitely imagine that in the future we'd have regular flights to Mars for tourists. They could spend time in a resort there, like an EPCOT 'city of the future.'"

MAKE

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS! SEE PAGE 38

30 Minutes
Fairly Easy



Galaxy Jars

Turn everyday materials into an out-of-this-world creation!

Jar with Lid



Cotton Balls



Glitter



Paint



- 1 Take the lid off the jar. Add enough paint to the inside of the jar to cover the bottom.
- 2 Layer 8-10 cotton balls on top of the paint.
- 3 On top of the cotton balls, add a different color of paint and some glitter.

- 4 Pour 1/4 cup of water into the jar. Squish the cotton balls with a spoon or spatula handle.
- 5 Repeat steps 1-4, using paint colors of your choice, until the jar is full.
- 6 Twist on the lid. Decorate the outside of the jar.



GOOFUS & GALLANT



There's a little bit of G & G in us all. Let your Gallant shine!



YOUR Goofus and Gallant Moments

I felt like Goofus when I erased my sister's drawing.

Juliana
Age 9 • New Jersey

I felt like Gallant when I swept the house.

Evelyn
Age 7 • North Carolina

I felt like Goofus when I ate all the free samples at the bakery.

Cross
Age 9 • Philippines



Bags into Blankets

By Gail Skroback Hennessey

Alyssa Dean, age 12, of Wales, helps to reduce waste by recycling used bags from potato chips (or “crisps,” in the United Kingdom). She turns the bags into blankets for people who don’t have homes and need warmth. She also donates them to people in Ukraine who have lost homes and possessions in the war. And she offers workshops to teach others how to make the blankets. We asked her to tell us about it.

How did you get started?

I was inspired by a group of people in England who were making crisp-packet blankets for people who are homeless. I learned how and decided to do it too. People donate crisp packets to me, and my mum has a box at work where people can put empty packets for me to use.

How do you make the blankets?

I wash and open 44 packets. I overlap them and iron them together on low heat. Then I fuse them together by ironing clear plastic on top. From cleaning to fusing takes about 1½ hours. Each blanket is waterproof and very light to carry. And the shiny side reflects back a person’s body heat to help keep them warm.

Then you give the blankets to shelters and organizations?

Yes, along with socks, a hat, chocolate, and a toothbrush and toothpaste. To hold each set of items, my auntie makes a bag from old bedding.

Photo courtesy of Darlene Fallorina



I used my own pocket money from helping around the house at the start. Since then, I have also started raising money by doing raffles and charity events.

Any thoughts to share with other kids?

I would like to inspire other kids to recycle and care for our environment and to help others too. It is not a difficult task and you feel better for doing it. ♡

More About Alyssa

Favorite school subjects



P.E.

Music



Other hobbies



Singing

Acting





Benny and Harold

By Oz Spies • Art by Esther Hernando

All day long, Benny the betta fish darted through his castle. Sunlight danced across his shimmering scales. On the walls outside his tank hung crayon drawings from the kids in Room 203. “You’re the best pet ever!” kids had written on their drawings.

And then Harold arrived. Harold was soft. He chewed on cardboard and ate carrots. He could be lifted out of his glass-walled cage, ready for petting.

Benny watched Harold. His scales itched with longing.

It was easy to like a hamster.

Soon, drawings papered the walls behind Harold’s cage. Kids shredded carrots just for him. Someone brought him a palace with winding tube tunnels. Someone else wrote a song for Handsome Harold.

No one had ever written a song for Benny. Not a lyric, not a story, not even an acrostic poem.

Before Harold came along,

the kids in room 203 had liked Benny just fine.

Benny tried to get closer to see why everyone loved Harold. He glared at Harold’s wiggling nose.

Benny spat a food-pellet rainbow. The pellets sank to the bottom of the tank.

Kids always went over to check on Harold. No one checked on Benny.

Before Harold came along, the kids in room 203 had liked Benny just fine.

Once, when the lid was off his tank, Benny created a whirlpool of bubbles, sending water flooding out of the tank and Benny along with it. He thrashed across the floor, inching closer to Harold.

A pair of fingers lifted him tail first, plopped him into his tank, and snapped the lid shut.

Harold hadn’t noticed. He was busy eating lettuce.

(Continued on next page)

It was easy to like a hamster.

(Continued from page 25)

For days, Benny swam along slowly, his fins dragging. He was lonely.

Then, one evening, his tank took flight. It wobbled across the room. He closed his eyes.

When he opened them, he found himself in a new spot under the windows. Right next to Harold.

Benny narrowed his eyes. He fluffed out his fins. He glared at Harold.

Harold pushed his quivering nose against his glass-walled cage. He scrambled up a tunnel and peered through the plastic.

"You are so colorful," Harold squeaked.

That took Benny by surprise. He fluttered. He spun. He couldn't help

waving his beautiful fins.

"Thank you," Benny said at last. "I can stay by the edge of the tank. That way, you can see my colors whenever you want."

"That would be nice," said Harold.

Benny did a double flip.

Harold applauded. He slid down the tube and somersaulted. Benny nodded in approval.

"It was lonely here without anyone to talk to," said Harold.

"It was lonely here without anyone to talk to," said Harold.

"I was lonely too," Benny admitted.

From then on, Benny didn't really mind Harold.

At night, when the kids went home and the custodian's vacuum fell silent, Harold snuffled in his cage next to Benny. It wasn't so bad, having a friend.

And one day, the kids in room 203 made a new sign: *Benny & Harold. Best Class Pets Ever.*

Then Valencia flew in. 🐣



Benny did a double flip.





'Ukulele Musician

Jake Shimabukuro talks about music, emotions, and tapping into your creative side.

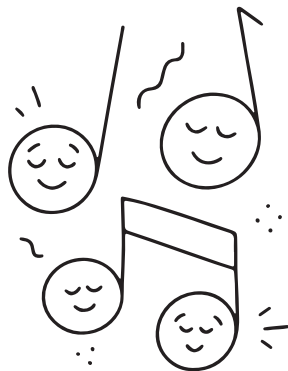


1 HOW DID YOU BEGIN PLAYING?

I started playing 'ukulele when I was four. My mom taught me a few chords. I would play all the time. Sometimes my parents had to take it away from me so I would do homework or eat dinner!

2 TELL US ABOUT A TIME WHEN MUSIC HELPED YOU.

My parents divorced when I was in fifth grade. It was hard to deal with those emotions. Music was good for me because I could put my emotions into the music. You have to have a way to channel your emotions. But the most important thing is to have someone you can talk to.



3 WHAT DON'T MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Before I was a teenager, I was very, very shy. Even in high school, performing in front of crowds, I refused to have a microphone because I didn't want to talk into it. I'd stay in the background while everybody was in front, singing.

4 WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT MAKING MUSIC?

Listening to music is great, but when you make music yourself, you tap into your creative side. As you play, you engage physically, mentally, and emotionally. Doing all three things centers you.

5 DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR KIDS?

I always tell my kids that, for me, the three big pillars in life are to be humble, grateful, and kind. And having a passion in life is so important. When you find something you love doing and want to become better at it, remember these three things: 1. Study. 2. Practice. 3. Make healthy choices.



Cities of the Future

For centuries, people have imagined new ways to live.

By Andrea Silen

This city looks pretty cool. But it isn't a real place—at least, not yet. It's a plan for a futuristic city.

For centuries, humans have been dreaming up designs for futuristic cities. No one has built the perfect

one, but the planning helps people think of solutions to current problems and imagine new ways to live.

In the late 1400s, inventor and artist Leonardo da Vinci had ideas for a city that would help solve

overcrowding issues. His plan showed different levels connected by stairways, along with wide roads and a complex system of canals. More recently, at the 1964 World's Fair, designers displayed models of an

undersea hotel and a city with moving sidewalks and road-building robots.

Today's futuristic cities aim to solve modern challenges. Designs might include super skyscrapers, delivery drones, and

drought-resistant water systems. They would try to reduce pollution by using renewable energy. People have designed underground cities and cities that float on artificial islands in the sea.

When will you get to visit

one of these cities? Some are under construction. Others will never be built. But just drawing the designs helps us think about new possibilities.

If you could design a city, what would it look like? 4

This image shows a vision for a futuristic city called Telosa. Its planners want it to have energy-efficient buildings, rooftop farms, and everything you'd need within walking distance.



Watercolor Carrots

Eli
Age 7 • Virginia



Egg Wedding

Eliza Bellinger
Age 7 • Pennsylvania



3 Trees in the Woods

Lainey
Age 11 • Ohio



Super Pig

Liam Carr
Age 7 • Colorado



A Mom and Baby Otter

Addie Johnson
Age 8 • Wisconsin

*Sakura trees
So stunning
The light pink blossoms
descend from the branch
Waves of red and pink
Into the palm of my hand*

Oliver
Age 11 • California

Goodnight Whispers

Goodnight whispers drift through the air.
People sleeping everywhere.
Foxes curl up in their dens.
Chickens perch up in their pens.
The stars are out, the moon aglow,
Goodnight whispers, soft and low.

Michaela Golden
Age 10 • New Hampshire

The Tooth

It was so hard and very stuck,
But good for me, I was in luck.
My mom was there to get it out.
“The tooth is gone!”—I gave a shout.

Ellington Williams
Age 7 • Virginia

Snake

Rocks resting under his chin
Light reflecting on his skin
He slithers not walks
In a gap in the rocks
He's alert as a hunter
Body huddled up together
See the sun in his eyes
Trying to hide as he spies
Hear him hiss as he talks
Peeking out of rocks
Feel his blood getting hotter
Scales as smooth as water

Ayan Kolachalama
Age 8 • Massachusetts



Me

Nora
Age 11 • New Mexico

Bruno is my hamster
Running on the wheel he loves
Under the bedding he goes
Noisy at night he is
Out of the cage he escapes!

Julia
Age 10 • Missouri

Night at the Seaside

Waves crash and bash.
Water bubbles. And dash—
Seagull flies by.
Fish swimming, going swish.
Mountains rising over
Trees and patches of clover.
Sleepy town, down below.
Sun is setting, faded yellow.

Rhett Phares
Age 9 • California



For My Little Brother

Friends come and friends go,
but an elder sibling
is someone who
will never let you go.

Zaemah Khan
Age 8 • New York

EVER WONDER?

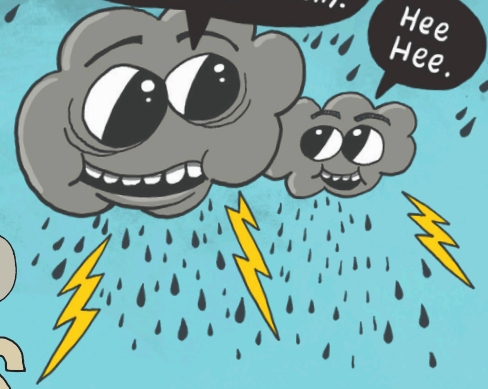
This umbrella is making me feel under the weather.



COLD hail ICY
dry SNOW
WET BLIZZARD
RAIN hot humid
CLOUDY
DAM FREEZE MILD
WINDY DRY S
BREEZY SLEET STORMY
HEAT CHILLY CLOUDY SUNNY
LIGHTNING
PARTLY SUNNY DRIZZLE

I think we make a striking team.

Hee Hee.



our atmosphere and within it, are other tools that gather data for weather scientists. And radar shows precipitation and where it's moving, as well as wind speed and direction.

Information from these many sources gets fed into supercomputers, which calculate what is most likely to happen next (based on what has happened under those conditions before).

Meteorologists combine all of this with their own knowledge, experience, and expertise to let you know what kind of weather is likely on the way. Since a change in any factor can change the outcome, weather predictions are most accurate for upcoming hours and days, rather than weeks. That's why meteorologists update their forecasts often—and can't tell you today whether it will rain when you're at camp in July! ⚡

How do scientists know if it'll be a hot or cold day?

Andrea
Age 10 • Massachusetts

Predicting something in the future seems as if it would require supernatural powers—which doesn't sound very science-y! But there's no magic here. Instead, scientists who study weather use special tools to help make their predictions.

Weather science is called meteorology (MEE-tee-uh-RAHL-uh-jee). That may sound as if it's about studying meteors, but it's not. The name comes from an ancient Greek word

and means "the study of things that are up high." And, to study those high-up things, meteorologists put tools up there to help.

One tool is a mini weather station they attach to a weather balloon and launch into the part of the atmosphere above

ours. There, the weather station takes readings on things like air pressure and temperature. What's happening way up there can affect what happens in our part of the atmosphere.

Weather stations are also on the ground throughout the world. They give accurate, real-time readings, which help meteorologists see how weather is changing from moment to moment.

Satellites, both far above

RAIN EXPECTED IN DEW TIME.

WEEKEND FORECAST



Ask an adult for help with anything hot or sharp.

MAKE

30 Minutes
(not counting
freezer time)

Fairly
Easy

If nut butter is too thick for dipping, microwave it for 30 seconds.

nut butter
shredded coconut

chopped pecans

melted chocolate

Banana Pops

dried berries

vanilla yogurt



peanut-butter drizzle

melted chocolate

Make and share these tasty frozen treats!

- 1 Cut a **banana** into chunks. Insert an **ice-pop stick** into each chunk.
- 2 Line a baking sheet with parchment or waxed paper. Set the pops onto it. Freeze them for at least 2 hours.
- 3 Pour **yogurt**, **melted chocolate**, or **nut butter** into a bowl.
- 4 Remove the pops from the freezer. Dip them into the coating, then roll them in a **topping** of your choice.
- 5 Set the pops onto a lined baking sheet. Freeze for an hour. Enjoy!



granola

vanilla yogurt

honey drizzle



dried strawberries

melted chocolate



pumpkin seeds

vanilla yogurt

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS! SEE PAGE 38

My mom says that all she wants for Mother's Day is to be with family, but my brothers and I want to do something special for her. Any suggestions?
 —Searching Son in Salt Lake City

How to Freeze Time

By Lissa Rovetch • Art by Amanda Morley

Dear Searching,

Your mother reminds me of mine! Last year, my mom said that all she wanted for Mother's Day was to be together. So we packed a picnic that included a few treats from my mom's favorite bakery, and off we went for a day at the beach.

After we scolded the seagulls for trying to snatch our food, my little sister and brother got to work digging in the sand.

"Hey, you stole my shovel!" Indi yelled.

"I didn't steal it," said Tex. "It doesn't belong to you!"

"Yes, it does!" said Indi. "It came with the green seashell pail that Gran and Poppy gave me for my birthday."

"Well, I need it to build my castle," said Tex.

"Well, I need it to build my castle!" said Indi.

"Hey," said my dad, "have either of you heard of a little thing called sharing?"

"We'll never finish if we both have to share one shovel!" Tex complained.

"This might be the perfect time for some creative problem-solving," said my mom.

"Mom's right," said my dad. "I bet that if we put our heads together, we can come up with other things we can dig and scoop with."

"Hmm," said Indi. "I guess these picnic cups could work."

"Brilliant!" said my dad.

"If only there were a way to freeze these moments."



"And this empty potato-salad container could make a pretty good scooper," said Tex.

"Great idea!" said my mom.

We found a few more unusual tools and built the biggest, coolest castle creation ever. Once the sand part was done, we decorated it with shells, stones, sea glass, and teeny-tiny sand dollars.

"Now that's what I call teamwork," said my dad.

"Wow!" I said, adding a shell to the tippy top of the

tallest turret. "We did kind of an amazing job!"

"I love you all so much," said my mom. "If only there were a way to freeze these moments and make today last forever."

My dad held up his phone. "Let's take a photo. Everyone say *cheese!*"

"A time capsule!" I blurted out.

"You'd better take another picture," said Tex. "Arizona accidentally said the wrong words."

"Yeah, Arizona," said Indi. "The right word to say

is *cheese*, because it makes you smile when you say it."

"Cheese," I said as my dad snapped another photo. "But listen. I just thought of the perfect way to freeze this moment for Mom! What if we gather some treasures from today, put them in a container with the photo Dad just took, then bury the container somewhere?"

"That's a really good idea," said Tex. "Except if it's buried, the only people who will be able to see it are ants."

"Um, ants are not actually

people," said Indi.

"Nobody will see it until we dig it up on Mother's Day five or ten years from now," I said. "Then, when Mom finally opens it, she'll remember this day, frozen in time, just like she wished!"

Everyone agreed it would be fun to try. We took a bunch more photos, then carefully put some of the shells, stones, sea glass, and teeny-tiny sand dollars into a baggie. We even included one of the cups we

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 35)

had used as a shovel and the label from the bakery box.

When we got home, we printed out the funniest photo, and we each wrote about our favorite part of the day. We put the treasures, the photo, and the notes inside a stainless steel water bottle and put the lid on tight. We dug a hole under the apple tree in our backyard.

“When Mom finally opens it, she’ll remember this day.”

“OK,” said my dad. “Are we ready to cover our time capsule with dirt?”

“Wait!” Indi said, running inside the house. When she came out, she was carrying a handful of ice cubes, which she threw right on top of the

time capsule.

“Indi!” My mom laughed. “Why in the world did you do that?”

“Well,” Indi explained, “you said you wished you could freeze these wonderful moments, so I figured a little bit of ice would help!”

My mom chuckled. “When you put it like that, it makes a lot of sense!”

So, dear Searching, the time-capsule idea turned out to be a really fun present for our whole family. If you’re still looking for a Mother’s Day gift, I highly recommend giving it a try. Just one thing, though: you can probably skip the ice part!

**Ciao for now,
Arizona**

“Are we ready to cover our time capsule with dirt?”



START!
Take your brain on a hike.

Why don't people usually carry meals in their pockets?

What skills would be useful for an obstacle course?

How do family traditions start?

What do you forget about unless you look at it?

WHAT AROUND YOU IS MOVING RIGHT NOW?

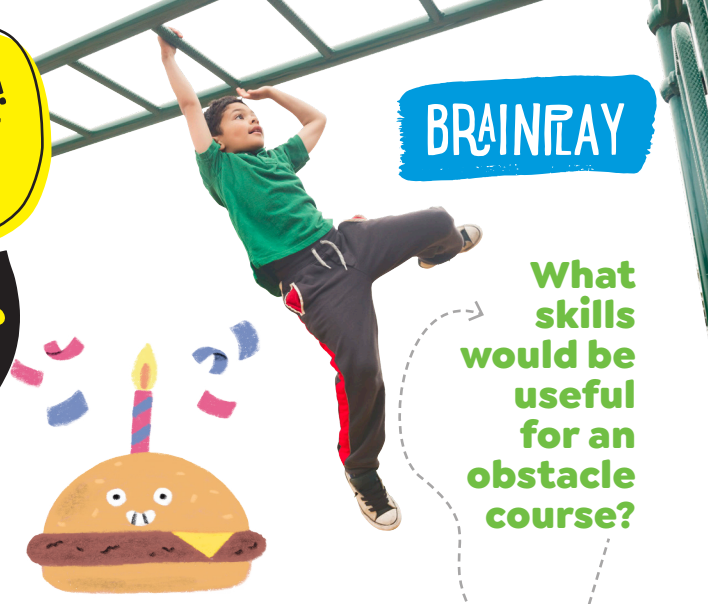
What do you think makes someone a movie star?

What's a difference between complaining and explaining?

If you could **SNAP YOUR FINGERS** and instantly be **GREAT** at one thing, what would you choose?

When has an animal made you laugh?

THE END



Highlights for Children

MAY 2023 • VOLUME 78 • NUMBER 5 • ISSUE NO. 859

Founded in 1946 by
Garry C. Myers, Ph.D., and Caroline Clark Myers

Editor in Chief, Chief Purpose Officer: Christine French Cully

VVP, Product Development: Mary-Alice Moore

VP, Executive Editorial Director: Liz Van Doren

VP, Portfolio Management: Jamie Bryant

Senior Creative Director: Marie O'Neill

Editor: Judy Burke

Creative Director: Patrick Greenish, Jr.

Senior Editor: Joëlle Dujardin

Associate Editors: Linda K. Rose, Allison Kane

Copy Editors: Caitlin Conley, Juanita Galuska, Rebecca Roan

Senior Production Artist: Dave Justice

Associate Managing Editor: Susan Shadle Erb

Pre-Media Specialist: Bonnie McCormick

Editorial Assistant: Sofie Jones

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

Business Offices: 1800 Watermark Drive,

P.O. Box 269, Columbus, OH 43216-0269.

Copyright © 2023, Highlights for Children, Inc. All rights reserved.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN is published monthly.

Cover price: \$5.99

ISSN 0018-165X (print); ISSN 2330-6920 (online)

Designed for home and classroom use.

Printed by LSC Communications, Danville, KY.

Periodical postage paid at Columbus, Ohio;

Toronto, Ontario; and at additional mailing offices.

U.S. Postmaster: Send address changes to Highlights for Children,

P.O. Box 6038, Harlan, IA 51593-1538. **Canada Post:** Publications

Mail Agreement No. 40065670. Return undeliverable Canadian

addresses to P.O. Box 99 Stn. Main, Milton, ON L9T 9Z9.

To order, make a payment, change your address, or for other

customer-service needs, such as changing your contact

preference, please contact us:



[Highlights.com](https://highlights.com)



1-800-255-9517



P.O. Box 5878,
Harlan, IA 51593-1378

Covers: Into the Future by Jim Bradshaw
What's Wrong? by Dave Whamond

Author credits: pages 20–21: Anne Carey. *Illustration credits:* inside front cover: Shaw Nielsen; 1, 12, 23, 27, 30–31, 38: (doodles) Sebastian Abboud; 2: Maria Brzozowska; 3: (map) iStock/Getty Images Plus/Denys; 4: Hannah Marks; 12: (art and Hebrew letters) iStock/Getty Images Plus/NGvozdeva, (pixel game block) iStock/Getty Images Plus/seamartini; 13: Allyson Wilson; 14–15: AI SpaceFactory and Plomp; 16–17: courtesy of MIT Space Exploration Initiative and TU Dortmund Fraunhofer; 16: (bottom) courtesy of MIT Space Exploration Initiative—MIT Media Lab; 20–21: Mike Lowery; 28–29: courtesy of Telosa; 37: Johnathon Lightle, except (hand) iStock/Getty Images Plus/Sisi Liu. *Photo credits:* page 1: Heidi Ross; 3: (top) Shutterstock/Robert Hoetink, (bottom left) NASA, (bottom right) DARPA; 4: (duckling) iStock/Getty Images Plus/bagi1993, (dog with ducklings) South West News Service Media Group; 5: (footprint in sand) iStock/Getty Images Plus/Travel Wild, (flowers) iStock/Getty Images Plus/neirfy, (explorers) SuperStock/Alamy Stock Photo; 12: (iPad) DigitalVision Vectors/Getty Images/mikimad, (parrot) Shutterstock/Tracy Starr; 17: (right) and 18–19 (top) Dr. Michaela Musilova; 19: (inset) courtesy of The University of Arizona Controlled Environment Agriculture Center, Tucson, Arizona; 20–21: Rich Brainerd Studios; 27: courtesy of Jensen Communications/Photographer: Sienna Morales; 33: Rich Brainerd Studios; 37: (jeans and shirt) iStock/Getty Images Plus/Prostock-Studio, (pizza slice) iStock/Getty Images Plus/diane39, (child on monkey bars) E-/Getty Images/Boogich, (movie clapper) iStock/Getty Images Plus/koya79, (girl) iStock/Getty Images Plus/Jeka33, (cow) iStock/Getty Images Plus/FooToo; 39: © Harry Walker/Comedy Wildlife Photo Awards; 41: (goat) iStock/Getty Images Plus/Linas Toleikis.

Share Your Work

You might see it in a future issue! If sending your work by postal mail, please include your name, age, and address.



SEND US YOURS!



Mail it here! Include feature name (example: Jokes).

OR...



Look for this!

We're Here for You

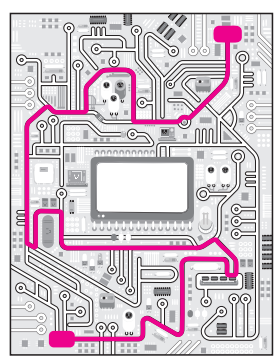
What's on your mind? We'd love to know how you're doing. You can write to us at Letters@Highlights.com.

With a parent's OK, find tips, ideas, and things to do on HighlightsKids.com and on our YouTube channels.

Keep talking with loved ones and taking good care of yourself!

Answers

INSIDE FRONT COVER
Short Circuit



PAGE 4
World Laughter Day
With TEN TICKLES.

PAGE 13
Mother's Day Mix-up
1. Beth. 2. Caleb.
3. Destiny. 4. Amir.

Jokes and Riddles

Why are robots never afraid?

Because they have nerves of steel.

Kyleigh
California

What does an avocado use to communicate?

A guacale-talkie.

Arcturus
Texas

What do you get from a pampered cow?

Spilled milk!

Artemis
Oregon

How do leopards change their spots?

By moving!

Kenna Byman
Washington

Where do butterflies sleep?

On cater-pillows.

Eunice
California

A book never written:
I Love This Book by

Paige Turner.

Alie Pelli
Wisconsin

TEACHER: "Use this book wisely, Bobby. If you do, it will do half your work."

BOBBY: "Great! I'll take two."

Elizabeth
Indiana

What isn't a cantaloupe able to do?

It can't elope!

Luc
Age 10 • Connecticut

Wacky Captions

LAUGHS FROM YOU

OH MY GOSH! IT'S HARRY OTTER!

Liba
Age 11 • Michigan

MOM! I NEED A TOWEL!

Yael
Age 10 • New Jersey

IS THIS HOW HUMANS BATHE?

Charlotte
Age 9 • Colorado

OH NO! I LEFT MY LIMITED-EDITION CLAM AT BOB'S HOUSE!

Harper
Age 12 • Virginia

One day, me and my dogs, Bruno and Basil, were playing tug-of-war. Basil and I went one way, and Bruno tricked me by pretending to go the way I went—then he turned around and took a shortcut. It was so funny!

Eddie B.

Age 9 • Washington

In class, I sit next to Joseph. One day, I told him how many minutes were left until recess. He pretended to think seconds were minutes, minutes were hours, hours were days, etc. So now I always say "seconds" to mean "minutes" to Joseph.

Cora

Age 9 • California

When my mom and I were both sick, my mom's fish had babies. From her bedroom, I heard my mom say "I have baby fish!" I was like "What!?"

Ansley

Age 10 • Texas



SEND US YOURS! SEE PAGE 38

DEAR HIGHLIGHTS

I want to know how to cook, especially cookies.

Riley
California

That sounds like a yummy goal! You might start by talking to a parent about it. Together you can figure out a plan for how to get started.

If a parent cooks and bakes, you may be able to help out and learn at home. If not, perhaps your school has a cooking club, or your community may have a youth cooking class that would help you develop skills. With a parent's OK, you can also find how-to videos for kids online or at your local library.



I'm terrified of tornadoes. When one comes, what should I do to stay calm?

Makelle
Georgia

You aren't alone. Many people worry about weather emergencies and what to do about them.

One way to make you feel calmer is to prepare as a family now. With permission, visit <https://www.ready.gov/kids/be-ready-kids>. Together, you can find the best places in your home to go in the event of a local tornado warning. Then create and practice a "family safety plan." Like a fire escape plan, this plan helps everyone know what to do in case of an emergency. Being prepared for whatever could occur can help you feel calmer and more confident, rather than anxious and unsure.

Anytime you feel afraid, remind yourself that you are prepared. Then try taking a few deep, slow breaths. Imagine a very relaxing place. Think of all the sights, sounds, and smells there. Anytime you're upset, you can return to this place in your thoughts.

Share your fears with a parent or another trusted adult. They can comfort you and help you handle your feelings.

ADVICE FROM YOU

My dad yells at me when I play sports or make a mistake at home. Any tips?

Cates
(by e-mail)

Ask your dad to encourage you instead of yelling.

Sophie
Age 10 • Texas

It's OK to make mistakes. Next time, tell him how you feel so you both can find ways to do better.

Mason
Age 7 • Hawai'i



HAVE A QUESTION?

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

1

TIE-DYE TO GO
We're taking those good vibes with us! We love the convenience of this cheerful **BEACH BAG** with matching **TOWEL** and **WATER BOTTLE**.



2



EDITORS' PICKS

Here are some cool things we love this month.

OUT OF THIS WORLD
Decoding all the puzzles in **SPACE CODE CRACKERS** is a blast! We think the built-in cipher wheel really makes this book stellar.



3



Scientists were inspired to discover a fun way to play!
You won't want to stop playing in the cereal box!

FAMILY FUN
Our family game nights just got wackier with the card game **THAT'S SILLY!**

With 750 cards and two ways to play, there's no limit to the laughs!



Parents, find these products and more at [Highlights.com](https://www.Highlights.com)



