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JUNE 2023

Highlights

FUN WITH A PURPOSE

ROAD TRIP!



**Wacky
Water Towers**

Page 3

**Trail Mix
to Go**

Page 18

TRAFFIC CHECK



Look closely at the vehicles on this highway. The traffic on the left side of the highway is almost exactly the same as the traffic on the right. But there are a few differences.

For example, the blue-and-white tractor trailer on the left is longer than the blue-and-white tractor trailer on the right.

CAN YOU FIND 11 OTHER DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES OF THE HIGHWAY?

Answers on page 38

What to Pack?



When I was a kid, my Girl Scout troop wanted to go camping to kick off summer. Space was limited in the cars we were taking, and the tents were tiny. Our leaders said they would award a prize to the camper who packed a bag that had everything needed—and nothing more. I tried to pack a small bag with just the basics, and I won the prize!

Since then, I've packed too many bags to count. Do I still pack like a winner every time? No. Often, I forget something—or take too much. But I'm happy to say that our family car has never looked like the car on this month's cover. What a fun, wacky illustration! I don't think that family has forgotten anything, do you?

If you're taking a road trip this summer, you'll find some

great ideas in our "Road Trip Survival Guide" (pages 14–17). We've even included a helpful packing list. Of course, everyone's list looks a little different. Most of us add at least one special thing we can't be without. For me, it's a good book and my journal. What is it for you?

Wherever you go, whatever you take, I hope you'll have a wonderful adventure!

Your friend,

Christine

WRITE TO ME
Christine@Highlights.com



WHAT SPECIAL THING DO YOU LIKE TO PACK?

I ASKED...

What good dream did you have?

I was driving with my friend Brian.

Owen
Age 4 • Minnesota

I was a mermaid swimming around in the ocean. It was really fun!

Faith
Age 13 • California

Summer Plans

By Jessica Shaw

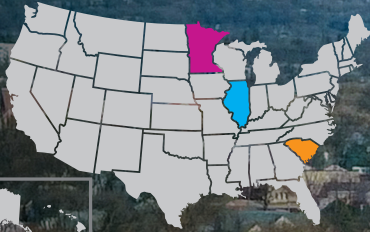
Sunny, barefoot summer days
Backyard-cookout fun
Playing hide-and-seek with friends
Hitting a home run
Hula-hooping in the yard
Eating cherry pie
Picnic blankets at the park
Fireworks in the sky
Jigsaw puzzles on the floor
Fishing at the creek
Mom won't have to hear, "I'm bored"
... at least not till next week!



Towering Food

WHICH WAY USA MAP IT

You'd need giant teeth to eat this corn!



Water towers are tall and very visible, so people in some cities have fun with them. Here are a few food-themed water towers!

The Corniest Water Tower

The Ear of Corn in Rochester, Minnesota, was built in 1931 to provide water to a food cannery that has since closed. Because it was lit by 10 bright spotlights, the Ear of Corn used to help pilots in the Army Air Corps and Air Force find a nearby airfield. It doesn't currently function as a water tower, but it continues to make people smile.

This One's a Peach

South Carolina grows tons of peaches. (California is the only state that grows more.) So when the people of Gaffney needed a water tower, they built one to celebrate the peaches grown nearby. It's called **Peachoid**, and it holds 1 million gallons of water. Since its construction in 1981, the giant peach has become a giant tourist attraction.

Pass the Catsup!

This water tower in Collinsville, Illinois, was built in 1949 for a catsup-bottling plant. The company left town, but the **World's Largest Catsup Bottle** stayed. The town loves the landmark so much that it holds a Catsup Bottle Festival. The event includes catsup tasting and contests, and people even sing the "Happy Birthday" song to their dear Catsup Bottle.

➡ **HAVE YOU SEEN A FUN WATER TOWER?** SEE PAGE 38

ALMANAC of FUN JUNE



3rd World Championship Running of the Tubs

The springs at Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas form from rainwater that travels deep below the Earth's surface, slowly heating as it gets closer to the core. The water is about 143 degrees when it reaches the surface again. Visitors can bathe in the park's

bathhouses, which pipe in the hot springs. To celebrate the bathhouse tradition, the park holds the annual Running of the Tubs. Costumed teams push tubs on wheels down Central Avenue while spectators cheer and throw water balloons!

6th National Eyewear Day

Celebrate your spectacles! What do the glasses in each row (horizontally, vertically, and diagonally) have in common?



Answers on page 38

18th

Wish a happy **Father's Day** to all the father figures in your life. Here's a "pop" quiz!



WHICH OF THESE IS THE MOST "POP"-ULAR FATHER'S DAY GIFT?

- A. Socks
- B. Necktie
- C. Card

National Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month

Here are five fun facts about fruits and veggies!

SPUDS IN SPACE

Potatoes were the first vegetables grown in space.



CARROT CONUNDRUM

The "baby" carrots sold in stores are just cut-up pieces of regular adult carrots.

STINKY FRUIT

The durian fruit, which grows in Southeast Asia, has been described as smelling like rotting meat and gym socks.



ORANGE YOU GLAD I SAID BANANA?

Bananas are the most popular fruit in the United States.

PICK A PEPPER

The spiciest pepper in the world is the Carolina Reaper.



19th

This year marks the 160th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. The proclamation declared most enslaved people free. However, many enslavers refused to listen. It wasn't until June 19th, 1865, that Union Army soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to finally free the last enslaved Black Americans. That's why Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom in the United States.



Turn to page 12 to learn about special foods for Juneteenth celebrations.

PUT 'ER THERE



29th

NATIONAL HANDSHAKE DAY
Make up an amazing secret handshake with a friend.



I love sliced bananas
with peanut butter.
Beckett Armbruster
Age 5 • Wyoming

I can be kind of
sassy when I'm mad.
It can be hard to be
a good big sister at
times, but never be
afraid to admit you
were wrong
and say
sorry.

Catherine Vidrine
Age 12 • Texas

Sorry
☹



I want to learn how
to fly like a bird, but
humans can't fly like
birds. So I'm going
to be a pilot.

Mae O'Keeffe
Age 6 • New York

I love to learn
AND play. So
I have fun
all year!


Henry Barrows
Age 8 • Alaska



ABOUT YOU

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

SEND US YOURS!
SEE PAGE 38


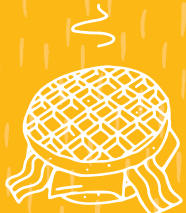


My favorite sound is the
peaceful wind. Once,
when I was riding my
bike, I stopped to listen,
and I heard everything!

Tabitha Bailey
Age 7 • Utah

I love apples, and I
also love that there are
over 7,500 varieties of
apples. There is appley
goodness in many
parts of the world.

Oliver Mathews
Age 12 • Virginia





I have a recipe to share.
Put cheddar cheese and
cooked bacon between
two waffles. Ask an adult
to help you cook it like a
grilled cheese, and enjoy!

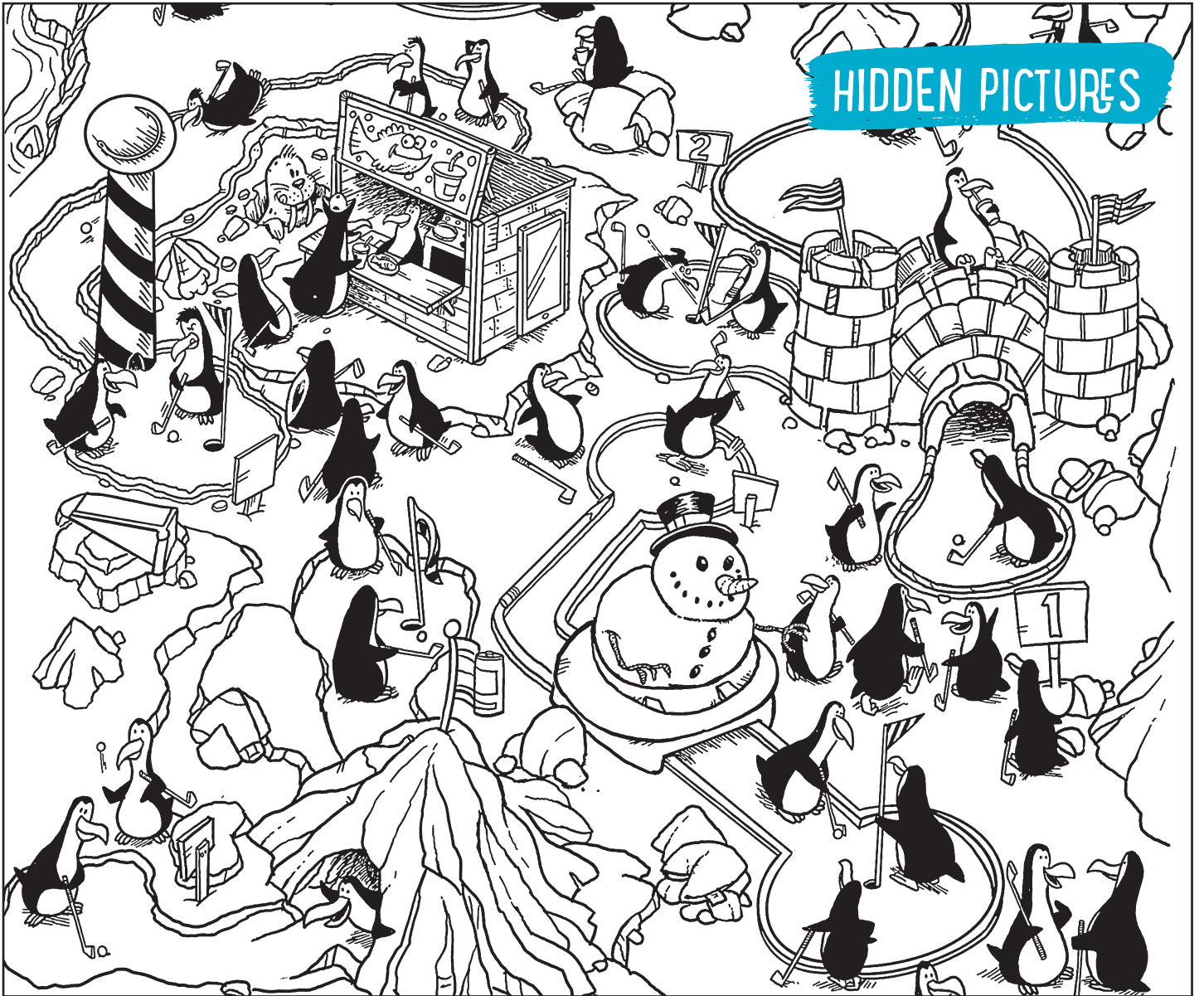
Maura Regan
Age 12 • Minnesota

I love to read
books so
much. I made
my own comic
about two kids who go
back in time and see
dinosaurs. I hope
the world gets to
read it!

Franklin Owens
Age 9 • Washington



HIDDEN PICTURES



Penguin Mini Golf

BONUS!

Can you also find the cell phone, pencil, and sock?



canoe



fortune cookie



chili pepper



2 hats



shoe



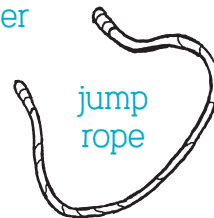
fishhook



battery



ice-cream cone



jump rope



toothbrush



T-shirt



shovel



sledgehammer



snake



whale



musical note



slice of pie



drinking straw



open book

SOMETIMES Backup Outfielder

By Carole E. Leonard
Art by Marta Kissi



Have you ever heard of the position “sometimes backup outfielder, possibly left”? I hadn’t either. Until this spring.

My parents brought me to the Centerville Youth Baseball tryouts. When it was my turn, I ran out onto the field.

My parents were surprised at how quickly I returned to the bleachers. “How’d you do?”

Dad asked.

“I don’t know,” I said. “I’m not sure I’ll make the team.”

“Let’s wait and see,” Mom said.

After tryouts, Coach Bullyard announced, “Positions are posted in the clubhouse.”

Parents and kids stampeded to check the results.

Dad stared at the lineup list for a long time.

I couldn’t get myself to look. “So, did I make the team?” I asked him finally.

“Did I make the team?”

“You did,” Dad replied. “It says *Mike Davis: sometimes backup outfielder, possibly left*. What does that mean?”

It didn’t sound great.

We had three practices before the first game. The first day, I sat on the bench

beside my friend Emily, but Coach pointed to the outfield. “Mike Davis and Emily Hall—out there. And practice!”

Emily and I headed for the outfield. We were close to the river. The evening train rumbled by.

During our first practice, we dropped every ball. At the second practice, we showed some improvement.

The third day was batting

practice. Now that was dangerous.

I could hear Emily chuckle as I missed every pitch. “Play ball!” she said.

Our team, the Lizards, lost the first two games. But Emily and I sat on the bench the whole time.

At home, I asked my older brother, James, “Do you think Coach will ever put me in a game?” James wrote down and calculated some

numbers. He wants to be a statistician someday.

Finally, he rattled off his probabilities. “The likelihood that you’ll play in a game before the end of the season is equivalent to . . . standing eyeball to eyeball with a giraffe.” He looked at me. “In other words, it probably won’t happen.”

“Let’s wait and

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 9)

see,” Mom said.

That night in bed, I thought about Coach’s words to us: “If you do your best, you’ll see results.”

I started practicing every day at home. Dad set up a backstop. When I practiced at the field, though, Coach stared at me as if trying to remember who I was.

In the final game, Emily was called in to play.

I sat on the bench alone. It started to drizzle. My heart hurt. I’d tried my best, but nobody had noticed.

The players were taking their field positions. Suddenly it seemed unfair. Why should I give up after all this practice? With a fierce new determination, I stood up and jogged in place. I practiced my swing.

Why should I give up after all this practice?

I felt a change. The evening train sounded its horn as it passed by.

In the second inning, the left fielder twisted his ankle and had to sit out. Coach called for the first backup left fielder. That kid played three innings and dropped five balls. But our Lizards were ahead, 4–1.

In the final inning, Coach bellowed: “Sometimes backup outfielder, possibly left: ON THE FIELD!”

Wait. That was . . . me.

Emily frantically motioned

for me to get moving. I grabbed my glove and tore out to left field.

The first batter for the Hawks, the visiting team, popped a ball into shallow left. I ran forward, stuck out my glove, and missed. The runner got on base.

Later, with two outs, the Hawks drew a walk.

The next batter hit a fly ball between center and left field. Emily and I both

went for it but collided. The ball dropped to the ground. The bases were loaded.

The drizzle became a downpour.

A pinch hitter was at the plate. On the 0-2 pitch, he sent a grand-slam ball far out into left field.

Oh no, I thought. If I could be anyplace else right now . . .

In one last attempt, I held out my glove.

The ball kept traveling through the heavens. Then it started spiraling downward. I ran with all my might, but the worst happened. I tripped and fell flat in the mud. In one last attempt, I held out my glove.

THUMP. Something hard fell into it. THE BALL.

The game was over. We had won!

Coach Bullyard, my parents, and my team ran out and lifted me from the ground. Emily high-fived me, twice.

While I enjoyed a mustardy hot dog at the concession stand, the rival

coaches came over. One asked me, “Exactly what position *do* you play?”

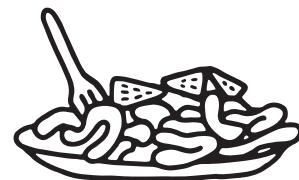
I told him, proud of it for the first time. “I’m the sometimes backup outfielder, possibly left.”

The coaches eyeballed each other like two giraffes. 🐘



Cookbook Author

Food writer Nicole A. Taylor created a book that celebrates Juneteenth.



1 WHAT FOODS DID YOU HELP COOK AS

A KID? Desserts! I was drawn to baking—watching the process of baking breads and desserts. I spent a lot of time watching my great-aunt and my mom cook, and I paid attention.



2 WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JUNETEENTH LIKE?

It was a community festival at a park in Brooklyn, New York. I thought, *I want to celebrate this every year.* Since then, I've made it a regular part of my summer festivities. Our diverse group understands the importance of pausing to celebrate Black freedom and life.



3 WHAT INSPIRED THIS COOKBOOK?

Those outdoor events with the people I love most. Pulling out the grill, having that celebratory punch, and really thinking about the joy in those moments. I wanted to tell the story of Juneteenth through food.

4 THE BOOK IS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES. WHAT'S A GOOD RECIPE TO MAKE WITH KIDS?

The recipe I love doing with my son is a funnel cake. It's a magical experience! It comes out looking like this beautiful golden fried piece of lace that you sprinkle with powdered sugar. And the best part is adding toppings: strawberry, apple, mango. It's the perfect recipe for families.

5 WHAT DO YOU HOPE THAT PEOPLE GET FROM YOUR JUNETEENTH COOKBOOK?

I hope it can give joy and show how food brings family and friends together. And I hope people enjoy and learn from the bits of history, so that every American will fully understand the meaning of Juneteenth—that on June 19th, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, enslaved Black Texans finally got word that they were free.



Stacks of Snacks

PUZZLES

Find the two columns with the same five foods.

BONUS! What do these foods have in common?



What's for Lunch?

By Clare Mishica



Add one letter to the beginning of each word to turn it into a food. For example, add an "r" to number 1 to get "rice."

- 1. ice
- 2. read
- 3. ear
- 4. live
- 5. hips
- 6. oodles
- 7. each
- 8. rune

Answers on page 38

Road Trip SURVIVAL GUIDE

By Carly Schuna
Art by Kate Bingaman-Burt

Whether you're a road-trip expert or a newbie to long trips in the car, we've got you covered.

PACKING LIST

- Toothbrush & paste
- Clothes
- Snacks
- Water bottle
- Pillow
- Sunscreen
- Spork
- Stray sock
- Pen & paper
- Games
- Craft stick
- Piggy bank coins
- Blanket or sheet
- Markers
- Books

How many of these things can you find on the front cover?

BEFORE YOU GO

Draw a silly face on a craft stick, then hide it in the car. At a rest stop, notify everyone that "Sticky McStickerton" (or any name you like!) is hiding. The person who finds Sticky must hide it in a new place in the car. Repeat.



IT'S GO TIME!

Write down the number shown on the car's odometer. Look up how many miles it is to your destination, and add that to the odometer number. Have everyone guess what the actual final number will be. (Rest stops and detours will add miles.) Whoever comes closest gets crowned "Road Trip Royalty."

Snack Time
HOW GOOD IS YOUR SENSE OF TASTE?
One person grabs an item from the snack bag and serves a bite to someone whose eyes are closed. The taster has three guesses to figure out what the food is.

Craft
Puppet Pandemonium
You'll need a stray sock and markers. Lay the sock flat on a book, then use the markers to draw a wacky face. Add details like hair, a tie, or jewelry. Slip the sock onto your hand. Slowly turn it to face someone else. See how long it takes that person to notice.

Game
Fortunately/Unfortunately
In this game, the people in the car work together to tell a story. They take turns, adding one sentence at a time. The sentences must alternate between starting with "Fortunately..." and "Unfortunately..." **EXAMPLE:** FORTUNATELY, THE DRAGON WAS FRIENDLY. UNFORTUNATELY, IT GREETED OTHERS BY BREATHING FIRE. FORTUNATELY, THE PEOPLE HAD BROUGHT MARSHMALLOWS.

Make your own trail mix! Turn to page 18.

(Continued on next page)

Car Tunes

This is a good time to set the tone for the rest of the trip with some great tunes. Try humming a song everyone knows or singing it with gibberish lyrics. The first person to guess the song correctly gets to hum the next song.

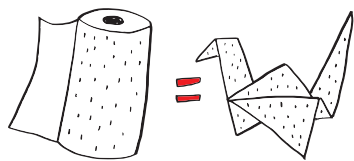
Work It Out

CAN YOU WIGGLE YOUR EARS? Most people can't, but if you'd like to try, place one finger behind the top of each ear. Raise your eyebrows and see if you can get your ears to touch your fingers. Opening your mouth may help. Then try making your eyebrow and mouth movements smaller and smaller until you are moving only your ears.



Scavenger Hunt

The next time you're at a rest stop, see if you can complete any of these tasks.



Fold a pretty shape using a paper towel from a public restroom.



Get a picture of a parent dancing.



YUM!
Try a snack you've never had before.

XYZ Brain Trick

The ZYXs

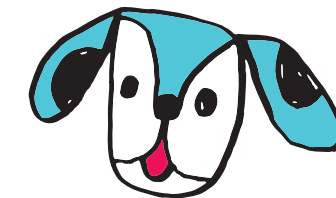
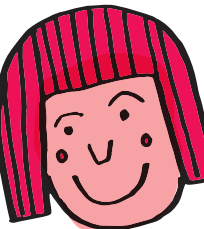
CAN YOU RECITE THE ALPHABET BACKWARDS? Write the letters in reverse, starting with Z and ending with A. Focus on 3–5 letters at a time until you've memorized that string, then move on to more letters. By the end of the trip, you might be able to sing the whole alphabet in reverse to the tune of the alphabet song!



Keep your eye out for water towers, like the ones on page 3.

Blanket Fort

You must be ready for some sleep—and personal space. You can use a blanket or sheet for both. Drape one end over the headrest in front of you (not the driver's), and the other end over the headrest behind you. Instant blanket fort!



Write On!

Take out a pen and paper, and write a letter to a pet, a relative, or a friend you'd like to know better. Send the letter after you reach your destination.



9 HOURS IN

10 HOURS IN

11 HOURS IN

Game

Back Messages

Choose a word, then use your fingertip to trace the word onto someone's back. That person will trace the word onto another player's back, and so on. The last person says what they think the word is. If they're correct, that person chooses the next word.

SURVIVAL TIPS

You've been staring out the window for what feels like half your life. What to do?

Would you rather be looking at cities, farmlands, oceans, or mountains? Draw a picture of your ideal landscape, and start to imagine a vacation there!

Forgot to pack something?

If it's something small, maybe you can buy a replacement on the way. If not, see if you can make a substitute. Your backpack could be a pillow, for example. A clean spork could act as a comb!

You think you're starting to get carsick. What do you do?

Take calm, deep breaths, and focus on your breathing. Look out the window and set your gaze on one thing in the far distance. Try cracking the window to get some fresh air. Sip some water, or rest your head on a pillow. If none of that works, see if the driver is able to stop so you can walk around a little.

YOU MADE IT!!!

Finally—a chance to stretch your legs and eat something that's not a granola bar. Have a great time in your temporary home away from home!

6 HOURS IN

(Continued from page 15)

7 HOURS IN

8 HOURS IN

DETOUR

Team Drawing

One person draws part of something and passes the drawing to the next person. That person adds to it and passes it to someone else, and so on. When the drawing is finished, give it a title!

MAKE

15 Minutes Serves 1 Easy

What flavor combos can you come up with?

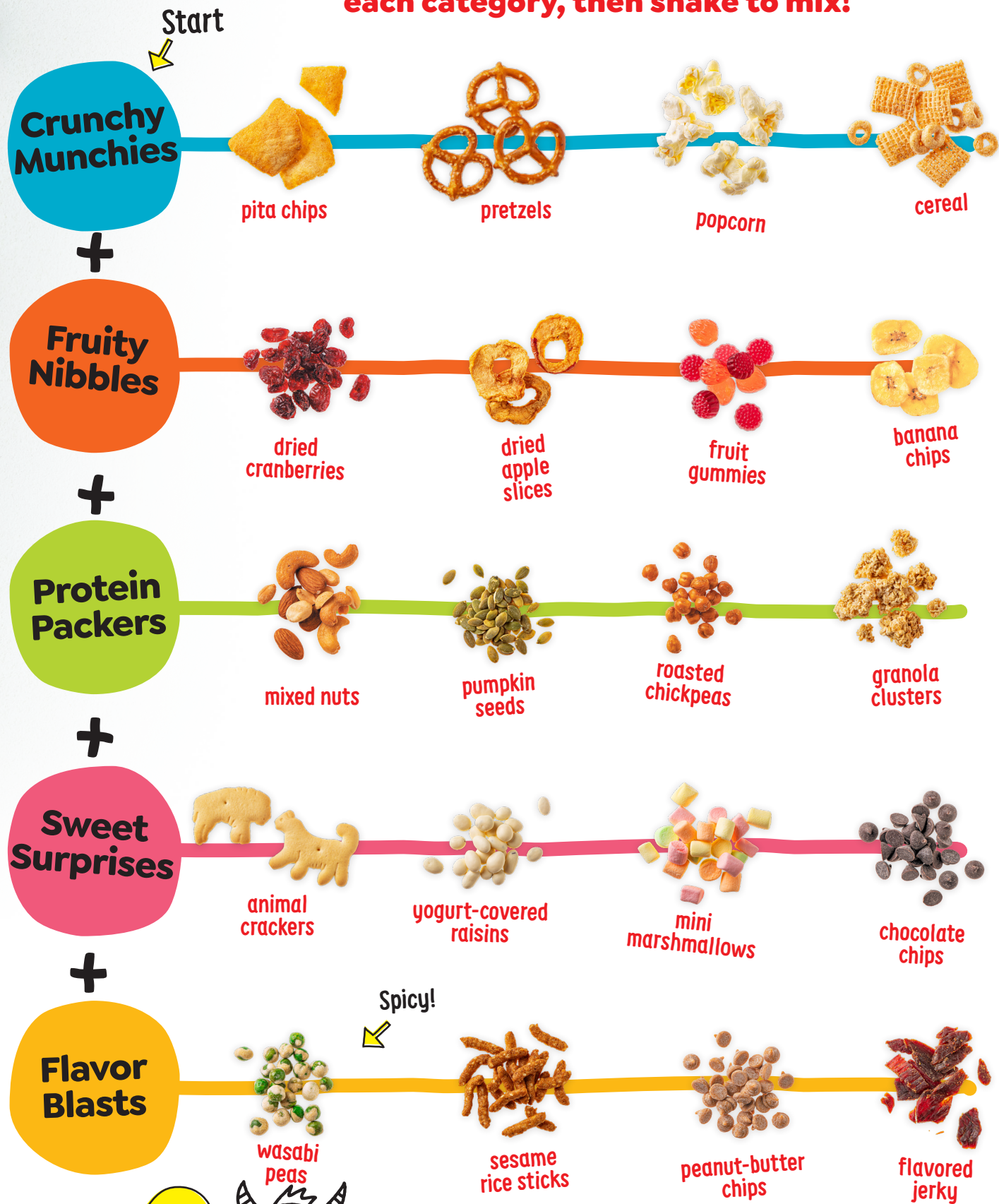
Build Your Own Trail Mix

Put your own twist on the ultimate road-trip snack.

For easy snacking on the go, store your trail mix in a plastic container that fits in a car's cup holder.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS! SEE PAGE 38

Add at least one ingredient from each category, then shake to mix!



Fly Geyser

This ever-changing geyser was created by accident almost 60 years ago.

By Carolina Muñoz-Saez, Ph.D.

When rainwater seeps through cracks in the ground, it can heat up as it descends. The water can accumulate in a layer of loose rock, creating an aquifer.

While people were drilling for water in the Black Rock Desert in Nevada, a hot aquifer was discovered. In 1964, boiling water shot up through a pipe and erupted at the surface, forming what is now called Fly Geyser.

It has been erupting continuously since then.

What gives Fly Geyser those eye-catching cones? Minerals from the water are deposited onto the pipe and grow a couple of inches per year. Microbes (bacteria) cover the cones, creating bright colors that change according to the water temperature.

These hot-spring microbes thrive in extreme environments, much like the conditions of the Earth more than 3 billion years ago.

Scientists believe that these primitive microbes

Hot springs that continuously erupt water are called "perpetual spouters."

could help us learn more about the Earth and other planets. Evidence of hot-spring activity has been found on Mars and on Enceladus, an ice-encrusted moon of Saturn. 🌋

Dr. Carolina Muñoz-Saez is a professor of geology at the University of Nevada, Reno.

How hot is this water? About 200 degrees Fahrenheit!

The colors are due to "extremophile" bacteria that live in extremely hot temperatures.

Why do body parts “fall asleep”?

Caleb
Age 9 • Pennsylvania

Your body parts don't really doze off. Saying they fall asleep is just an expression. It describes the feeling you can get after you sleep on your arm or sit for a long time with your legs crossed.

It might feel as if “pins and needles” are poking your limb—or you may not have any feeling in it at all! Your hand, foot, arm, or leg may feel thick and heavy, and when you poke it, you can't really feel it. That's because one or more nerves were pressed on for a long time, which kind of squished them.



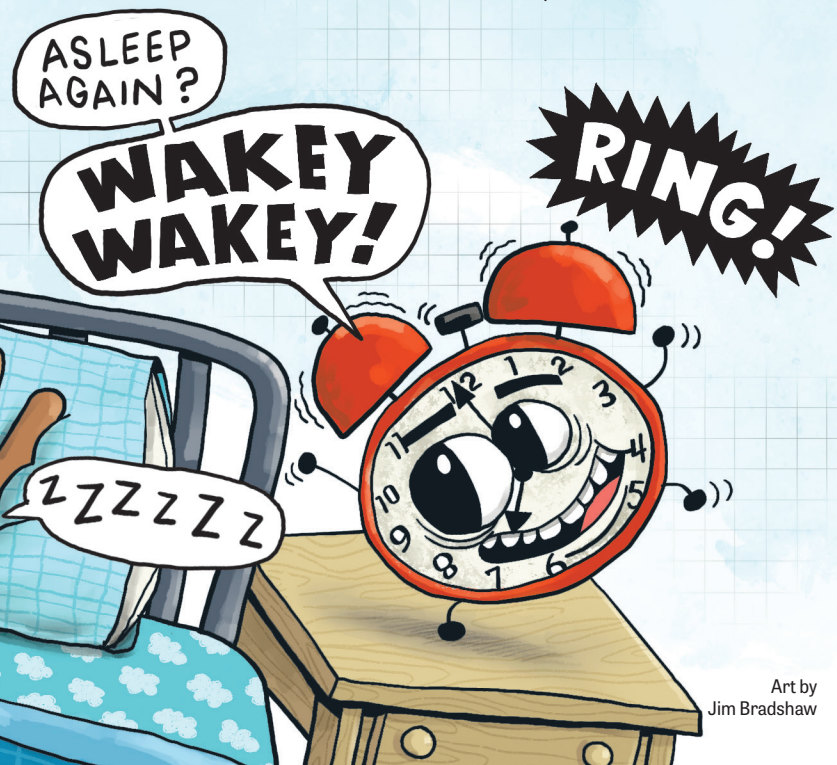
Throughout your body, nerves carry signals to and from your brain. Nerves can be very thin, like a thread, or thicker, like a cord. Pressing down on these signal-senders can temporarily cut off their ability to pass along messages.

It's like what happens if you stand on a running hose and cut off the water supply. When you take your foot off the hose, the water can flow again—although it may take a minute or two for the hose to get back into shape and let the water through.

Likewise, certain ways of sitting or standing, especially for a long time, can press on a

nerve enough to temporarily cut off the signals it is getting or sending. If you move your body enough to take pressure off of the nerve, the signal can get through—but, as with the hose, it might take a few minutes for things to get back to normal.

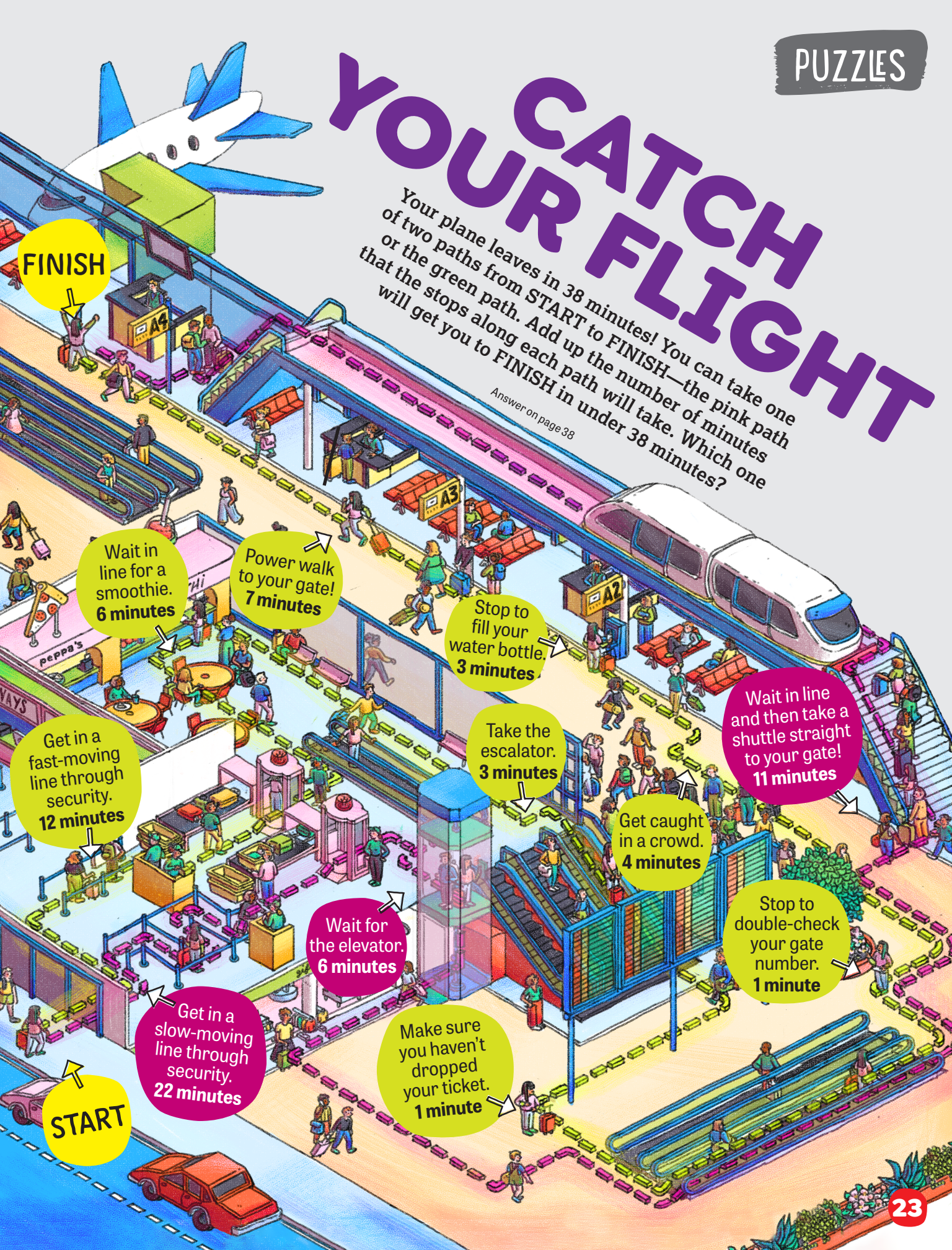
The weird feeling usually goes away pretty quickly. Doctors say you may be able to get feeling back faster by gently shaking the limb that fell asleep. (Maybe that's how your family wakes YOU up when an alarm clock doesn't do the trick!) 4



YOUR CATCH FLIGHT

Your plane leaves in 38 minutes! You can take one of two paths from **START** to **FINISH**—the pink path or the green path. Add up the number of minutes that the stops along each path will take. Which one will get you to **FINISH** in under 38 minutes?

Answer on page 38



FINISH

START

Wait in line for a smoothie. **6 minutes**

Power walk to your gate! **7 minutes**

Stop to fill your water bottle. **3 minutes**

Wait in line and then take a shuttle straight to your gate! **11 minutes**

Get in a fast-moving line through security. **12 minutes**

Take the escalator. **3 minutes**

Get caught in a crowd. **4 minutes**

Stop to double-check your gate number. **1 minute**

Wait for the elevator. **6 minutes**

Get in a slow-moving line through security. **22 minutes**

Make sure you haven't dropped your ticket. **1 minute**

Olivia Can't Cook

By Pascale Duguay
Art by Jack Viant

Olivia Cook and her family worked in the kitchen of a grand castle. Olivia loved the symphony of pots clanking and food sizzling as the Cooks prepared elaborate meals for the king and his guests.

But unlike the members of her family and all of the Cooks who had come before them, Olivia could not cook, boil, fry, roast, grill, or bake anything—anything that could be eaten, that is.

Olivia's family had tried to teach her, but it was no use.

Her spiced duck?
Water, please!

Her featherlight pastry?
More like a paperweight!

Her pear flambé? Grab
the fire extinguisher!

Olivia was good at one
thing: making shapes out

of dough and decorating them with colorful glazes. But once baked, they became as hard as rocks.

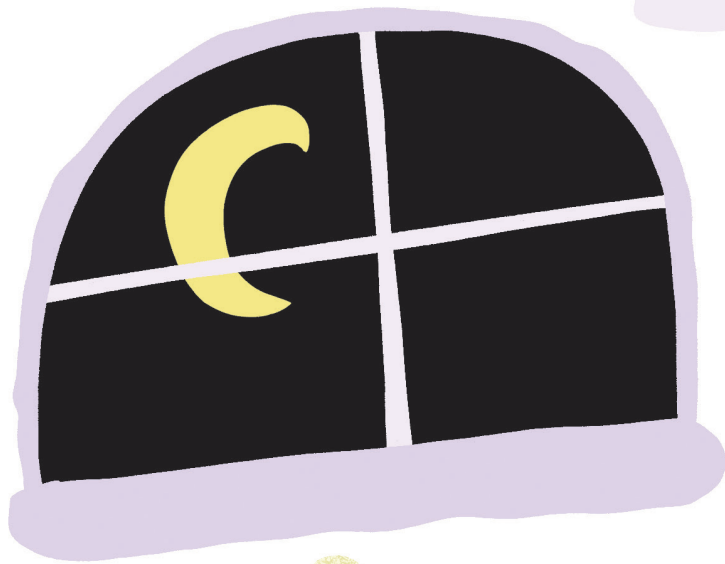
So Olivia helped her family with other chores, and during her spare moments, she amused herself by creating new shapes with her dough.

One day, as Olivia returned from the garden with a basketful of vegetables, she came across the king. He looked troubled, but when he saw Olivia, his face lit up. "A Cook! Why did I not think of this before?"

The king beamed at Olivia. "I need your help. A remarkable lady is arriving at the castle today. I would like to ask her to become my queen. I know I can count on you to create something



Olivia's family
tried to teach her,
but it was no use.



Olivia worked all evening and into the night.



(Continued from page 25)

fabulous for her. No Cook has ever let me down!”

The king gave Olivia a huge smile. “Make sure your creation is ready by tomorrow morning.” Then he strolled away, whistling.

“Make sure your creation is ready by tomorrow morning.”

Olivia’s heart sank. She had no choice but to obey

the king. She knew that her family would not be able to help her with his request. It was a matter of honor for a Cook to create the order by oneself when personally asked by the king.

Shoulders sagging, Olivia returned to the kitchen to announce the news to her family.

The Cooks gathered around Olivia, unable to hide the worried

expressions on their faces.

“You’ll do great, Olivia,” said her brother, Oliver, but even he did not look convinced.

Once alone, Olivia slumped onto a stool in front of her collection of inedible shapes. “What will I do? I cannot cook anything. If I try, I will dishonor the king and my family.”

To calm herself, Olivia reached for a piece of dough.

She rolled it between her fingers and, before long, had twisted it into a rose.

As she played with the dough, an idea came to her. What had the king said? “I know I can count on you to create something fabulous for her.” He didn’t say it also had to be eaten!

As she played with the dough, an idea came to her.

With a laugh, Olivia jumped off the stool and set to work. She grabbed the largest bowl she could find and filled it with the ingredients she needed to make her special dough. Olivia worked all evening and into the night.

When her family returned to the kitchen in the morning, they found Olivia asleep on her stool. She was covered in flour and food coloring. But where was her creation?

Olivia’s father shook her awake. “Tell us what you made, Olivia! Will the king be satisfied?”

Olivia looked around at

her family. “Come and see for yourselves!”

They headed to the flower garden. Once there, they found the king and the lady talking joyfully next to Olivia’s fabulous creation: a beautiful heart-shaped sculpture.

In the end, the king did marry the lady, and the castle gained a remarkable queen.

And Olivia? She still spends a lot of time in the kitchen enjoying the symphony of pots clanking and food sizzling. However, she is now also very busy creating works of art that can be found all around the castle. **4**



GOOFUS & GALLANT



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



Goofus tries to hide a spill.



"I spilled milk on the rug. How do I clean it?" says Gallant.



"Don't be a baby! Come into the deep end," says Goofus.



Gallant doesn't pressure his friends to do things they don't want to do.

YOUR Goofus and Gallant Moments

I felt like Gallant when I helped my neighbors pack up their yard sale when it started to rain.

Keivan
Age 7 • Georgia

I felt like Goofus when I told my brother he could not play with me and my cousin.

Maddysen
Age 11 • Indiana

I felt like Gallant when I helped my Aunt Sally with her garden.

Charlie
Age 9 • Ontario, Canada





Friend to Butterflies

By Gail Skroback Hennessey

Liam López-Wagner, age 8, loves butterflies. Monarchs are his favorites. He wants to help them thrive. So, each spring and summer since 2019, Liam has been giving out free packets of seeds for plants that help butterflies.

Tell us about your project.

I started Amigos for Monarchs to give out free native milkweed seeds. I want there to be more of these plants where the monarchs lay their eggs. In 2022, we gave away 2,230 native milkweed seed kits. Each kit includes a note from me too.

Why focus on monarchs?

Monarchs are in danger because of habitat loss and the use of some pesticides. Milkweed is the only host plant that

monarchs use to lay their eggs. When the caterpillars emerge, they munch on the leaves. We need more monarch gardens to keep them from becoming extinct. We need to help these beautiful, colorful butterflies!

Why are butterflies important?

They pollinate flowers. If there were no pollinators like monarchs, bats, and bees, there wouldn't be flowers or many vegetables and fruits.

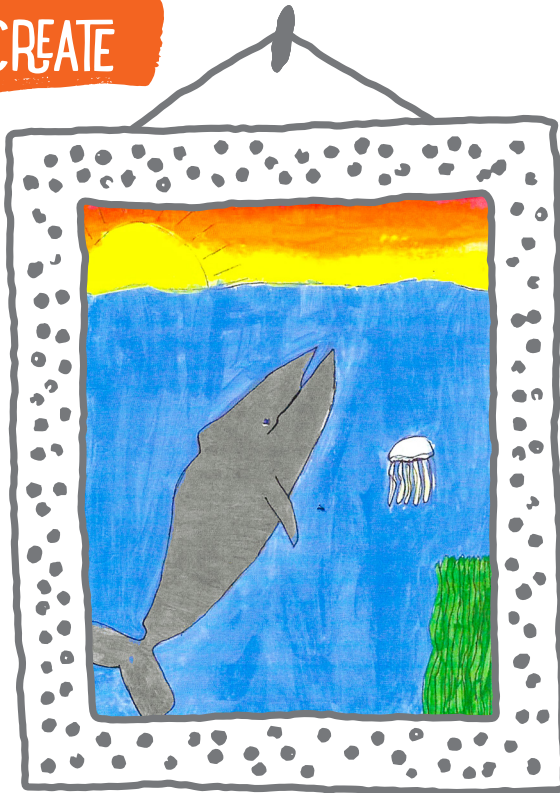
You and your family buy supplies, postage, and native milkweed seeds. How do others help?

They help by planting the seeds and learning to help the monarchs. Sometimes, I'll get a card in the mail with a \$1 bill or a few stamps too.

How did you get interested in butterflies?

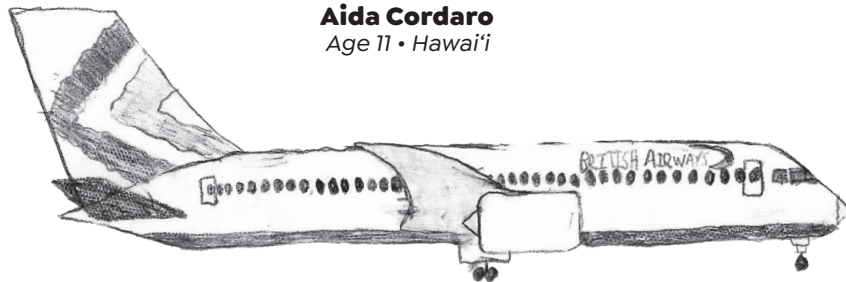
I've loved butterflies my whole life. I love their wings and seeing them in nature and in flight. It makes me feel good when I see more butterflies, and I feel happy when people help them. I will keep doing this project until there is enough milkweed, and the monarchs are saved. 🐛





Whale

Aida Cordaro
Age 11 • Hawai'i



Stuart Kanagy
Age 10 • South Carolina

A Cat

A small, fragile creature,
graceful in its bones.
A long, floppy tail
and sharp, pointy ears.
Every one of these things
describes a cat—
mouse's worst fear.

Jonah S.
Age 9 • California

Staring Contest

I try not to blink
But then I start to think
All I have to do is stare
Kids are starting to glare
My eyes feel about to pop
Then the game goes stop.

Juliana Maisano
Age 10 • Florida

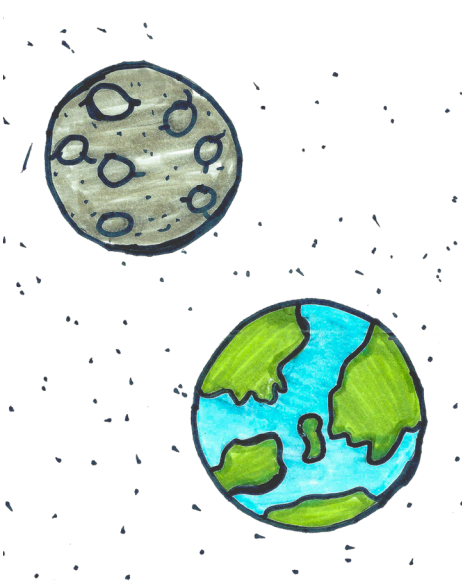
Carl is a cardinal who is cute
and is red as an apple.
He has dark brown eyes
like yummy dark chocolate.

Ava Chavanne
Age 8 • New York



This is my Uncle Grant's dog,
a Weimaraner named Luna.

Clay
Age 9 • Illinois



Earth and the Moon

Jordan Smith
Age 11 • Texas

The Ocean

The ocean—it is always changing,
just like us.
It goes with the flow,
like we should.
But sometimes, it can cause
damage to people's lives,
just like we can.
So be cautious of what you say.

Helen Wilkerson
Age 9 • South Carolina

Our Plant Corner

Madeleine Rodenbo
Age 9 • Michigan



**Yellow Flower
with Water Drops**

Skylar
Age 8 • Utah



**Playing the
Trumpet!**

Levi Schilling
Age 12 • Washington

Bunny

I call for her.
She rockets up the deck steps,
her tail thrashing side to side.
I beam at her as she trots over,
leaving wet paw prints on the deck.
She comes straight to me and runs
into my open arms,
leaving my gray shirt soaked
with rainwater.
As she licks my face to say hello,
I pick her up and pet her wet fur,
and realize there's no place I'd
rather be than with my dog, Bunny.

Veronica Cahill
Missouri

Music

A beautiful beat,
you sound so sweet.
It rings in my eardrums,
da-da-da dum, da-da-da dum!
I dance and prance to its tune
past noon, past night.
Now it's twilight.
I shut my eyes tight.
I can still hear the music.

Parvati Dabral
Age 9 • New York



**My Brothers and Me
at the Lake**

Rosalee Imsen
Age 8 • Oklahoma

Penguin Questions

Do penguins put on sweaters every day
so they don't get cold at play?
Maybe they have suspenders
that are sold to them by vendors.
I'd bet they have vests.
But do they have a press
to iron their clothes?
They must have others, I suppose.

Liam Stoltzfus
Pennsylvania

Frogs and Anime

I really like frogs.
I love drawing anime.
They're so cool,
I could talk about them all day.
Some people don't like that,
but that's OK,
because I'm different
in every way!

Lola Nyanutse
Age 10 • Maine

MAKE

Use mementos from a trip!

Ask an adult for help with anything hot or sharp.

30 Minutes Fairly Easy



Show off a favorite photo in a creative way!

FUNKY Frames



Wiggle Eyes



Washi Tape



Fuzzy Sticks

Cardboard



Buttons



Paper



Felt



Craft Feathers

- 1 Cut out four 1-inch-wide strips of cardboard. Tape them together to form the frame.
- 2 Glue on decorations.
- 3 Cut out a piece of cardboard the size of the frame. Tape a photo to it.
- 4 Tape it to the back of the frame so the photo shows through the opening.
- 5 For a hanger, bend a fuzzy stick. Tape it to the back of the frame.

My friend is having a nighttime rain-forest party in her yard, and I'm going to be a panther. My parents say I'll need to wear a jacket to stay warm. How can I change their minds?

—Perturbed Panther in Pottstown

Ooey, Gooney Bridesmaid Shoes

By Lissa Rovetch • Art by Amanda Morley

Dear Perturbed,

When I read your letter, I thought of my aunt Olivia's wedding. Just so you know, she's not my actual aunt, but she has always felt like family because she's my mom's best friend. A while back, Aunt Olivia came over to announce her news.

"I'm getting married!" she said happily. "And I'd love for all three of you kids to be in the wedding."

She asked my sister, Indi, to be her flower girl, and my brother, Tex, to be her ring bearer. And she asked me to be a real, honest-to-goodness junior bridesmaid! Once we'd finished cheering and hugging and jumping all over the place, she plopped down a giant stack of wedding magazines.

"Now comes the fun part," she said. "I'll need your ideas to make it a special day."

"This is going to be so incredible," I said, flipping through the pages of flowers and decorations and dresses. "I promise to be the most perfectly perfect bridesmaid possible!"

"Oh, Zonykins," she said with a chuckle, "you know I don't care about perfect. Just be yourself and have a blast!"

Several months passed, and I'd kind of forgotten about the wedding until a pile of packages showed up at our door. Aunt Olivia had ordered all three of our outfits, including the shoes, and had them sent to us.

"Hmm," my mom said,

opening my shoebox. "These shoes do not look comfortable! They even have tiny heels. You will not want to walk in them for hours."

"But they're so pretty!" I said.

"I'm sure we can find some equally pretty sandals," said my mom.

I put on the shoes and took a few steps. "They're just my size. And I can walk in them, no problem at all. Is it OK if I keep them? Please?"

"I don't care about perfect. Just be yourself and have a blast!"

My mom looked uncertain. "Well, all right, since it's Olivia's wedding, and these are the shoes she chose. But you'll have to walk very carefully!" Then she added, "Let's pack a pair of comfortable sneakers, just in case."

I could hardly wait for the big day. I even spent hours making a festive decoration for my hair, using beads and pompoms from the craft box and a few bobby pins.

When the big weekend finally came, though, a few unexpected surprises came along with it.

On Friday, at the wedding rehearsal, everything went smoothly. But on

Saturday, the day of the wedding, things got a little, um, stickier.

When the big weekend finally came, a few unexpected surprises came along with it.

Just before the wedding began, storm clouds appeared out of nowhere, dumping buckets of rain. My special hairpins immediately slipped out of place, and I could barely get them to stay in my hair.

And even though the rain lasted only a few minutes, the dirt path quickly turned to gooney mud. So when the

procession finally started, I took a few steps, and . . .

"Arizona! What's the matter?" Whitney, the bridesmaid behind me, whispered. "Why did you stop? They're waiting for us."

"I—I'm stuck!" I whispered back.

"What do you mean, you're stuck?" she asked.

"It's my shoes! They're completely stuck in the mud." I started to panic.

That's when I heard my mom calling me. "Here you go, Zonykins!" She hurried over and reached across the mud to hand

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from page 35)

me my sneakers and a pair of socks.

“Oh, Mom, thank you!” I cried as I quickly slipped out of my shoes and into the socks and sneakers. I stuck my beaded hairpins through the laces and yanked my fancy shoes out of the mud.

“I’ll take those,” said my mom. She stuck the shoes into a plastic bag.

Luckily, someone had dried off all the chairs, and the “getting married” part of the wedding went great.

“Those look much more like you!”

Even luckier, I was able to dance my heart out at the reception in my comfy shoes!

You might wonder why I was the only one who got stuck in the mud. Well, it turned out that all of the other bridesmaids were wearing sandals with flat rubber soles.

“Oh my goodness! I’m so sorry, Zonykins!” Aunt Olivia said when she found out about my fiasco. “I must have ordered the wrong shoes for you by accident. I would never dream of asking my bridesmaids to wear uncomfortable shoes!” She looked at my decorated sneakers. “Now *those* look much more like you!”

So, dear Perturbed Panther, I can definitely relate to wanting to look spectacular on special occasions. But there is a lot to be said for comfort!

Instead of trying to convince your parents to change their minds about the jacket, maybe you could find a compromise. Will they let you wear it unzipped? Could you find a cozy hoodie in a matching panther color?

You probably won’t be the only one with a jacket if it’s chilly. And if it gets downright cold, as it does here in San Francisco, you will be thankful for that extra layer!

Ciao for now,
Arizona



What does the expression "THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!" mean?

START!
Take your brain on a hike.



What connects you to the people around you?



What have you done lately that made someone SMILE?

Name some things you look forward to doing someday.



If foods are in DIFFERENT shapes than usual, do they taste the same?



WHAT do you think makes a song "CATCHY"?



ALWAYS ABOUT MUSCLES?

HOW IS TELLING A STORY DIFFERENT FROM TELLING A JOKE?

What would it be like if ANIMALS were all the same size as PEOPLE?



THE END

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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.

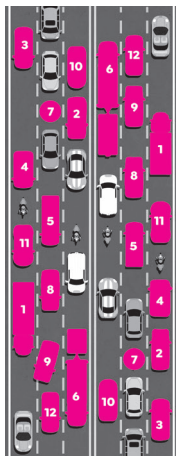
You can write to us at Letters@Highlights.com.

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

Traffic Check



PAGE 4

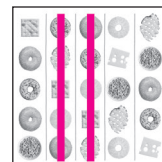
National Eyewear Day

blue frames dots on tips diagonal reflection	dots on tips nose pads round diagonal reflection blue lenses	dots on tips multicolor blue lenses
blue frames round	nose pads multicolor round	
blue frames square blue lenses	nose pads square	multicolor diagonal reflection square

Father's Day

C. A card is the most popular Father's Day gift.

PAGE 13 Stacks of Snacks



Bonus!

They all have holes in them.

What's for Lunch?

1. Rice.
2. Bread.
3. Pear.
4. Olive.
5. Chips.
6. Noodles.
7. Peach.
8. Prune.

PAGE 23

Catch Your Flight

The green path will get you to your gate in 37 minutes, before your flight leaves.

Jokes and Riddles

TEACHER: Christy, please spell wrong.
CHRISTY: R-O-N-G.
TEACHER: That is wrong.
CHRISTY: Isn't that what you wanted?

Isabelle Hedrick
Ohio

Why did the M&M go to school?
Because it wanted to be a Smartie.

Haylee
Alberta, Canada

MUFFINS spelled backward is what you do when you get them out of the oven.

Darby Hess
Pennsylvania

Why didn't the teddy bear eat dessert?

Because it was stuffed.

Dixi Pilskalns
Montana

When does a joke become a dad joke?

When the answer is a parent (apparent).

Rebekah Rand
Colorado

Take away my first letter; take away my second letter; take away all my letters, and I still remain the same. What am I?

The mail carrier.

Zainab
Massachusetts

What do you call a reference book about storms?

An en-cyclone-pedia.

Simon
California

Wacky Captions

LAUGHS FROM YOU

THE CIRCLE OF LIIIIIFE!!!
Emily
Age 11 • Arizona

CHECK OUT MY NEW DANCE MOVES!
Elijah
Age 11
American Samoa

OH NO! MY BALLOON IS FLYING AWAY!
Ava
Age 10 • Ohio

I CAN'T LOOK.
Emma
Age 10 • Iowa

One time, we were watching the Olympics. When they tried to show a replay, it was glitching. I said, "I don't think you're allowed to clone yourself." We laughed for so long!

Grayden Stabert
Age 8 • Pennsylvania

We were having burgers and pickles. The pickle jar was right by my water. I grabbed the pickle jar and drank pickle juice instead of water!

Bridgette
Age 11 • Texas

I was swinging a necklace around, and it started the record player!

Miriam
Age 7 • Virginia

➔ **SEND US YOURS!** SEE PAGE 38

DEAR HIGHLIGHTS



My mom never lets me record funny videos from the TV onto my dad's phone. She says my eyes are the camera. What should I do?

James
Kansas

I want to do band in the fall, but I don't know what to play.

Ady
Nebraska



We receive many letters from kids who disagree with rules in their families—especially about tech. So you are not alone.

Try talking this over with your mom to share how you feel and to try to understand her side of it. Maybe the two of you can come to an agreement. When two people disagree, they may be able to work out a compromise—a solution that satisfies both of them.

During your conversation, be calm and respectful. Getting angry or upset when you express yourself to someone can make the other person react with anger of their own. If you're calm, people are often better able to hear what you're saying.

If your mom doesn't want you to record any videos from the TV onto your dad's phone, try to accept her decision, even if it disappoints you. Enjoy the funny videos as you watch them on TV.

That sounds exciting! It can be difficult to choose an instrument, especially if you don't know a lot about each one.

Perhaps you and a parent can talk to the band teacher. Ask for ideas about how to choose your instrument. Maybe you could try out some of your choices. Hearing the sounds of the different instruments and thinking about what you enjoy listening to can help you make a choice.

Whatever you decide, we hope you'll have fun and learn a lot!

ADVICE FROM YOU

I need courage to try making friends with the kid next door. Any ideas?

Oliver
Florida

Every time you see the kid, say hi. It will build up your courage to have a conversation.

Maisy
Age 10 • Oregon

I would ring his doorbell and ask him if he wants to play basketball!

Alexander
Age 6 • New Jersey

→ HAVE A QUESTION?

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

1

FUN FOR THE ROAD

Wherever we go, we'll be sure to pack these travel Hidden Pictures! We love the bright neon puzzles and the gel pen.



2

DINOS IN THE DARK

Dinos glow? Yes! In this paint-by-sticker activity kit, dozens of glow-in-the-dark stickers help you create a giant dino museum scene to hang on your wall.



It glows in the dark too?

EDITORS' PICKS

Here are some cool things we love this month.

4

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

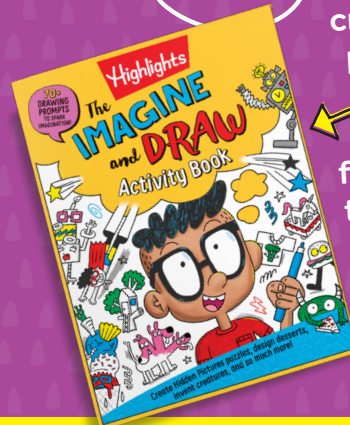
You already have the power to inspire others! This bright hoodie is just a reminder of how awesome you are.



3

ARTS & LAUGHS

Bursting with creative and funny prompts, this art book is like a playground... for your mind! And the more we draw in it, the more we treasure it.



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



WHAT'S WRONG?

It's up to you!

