



Introduction

instructions for success

this is a puzzle competition that will take place while you are at the aquarium.

the **grand prize** is a lifetime supply of skittles*

we recommend working in teams of 4 - 6 people, but there is no limit to the team size

you'll need 1 phone that is capable of sending texts. **always use the same phone.**

expect to receive about 20 text messages

to get started, **text your team name** to **617-981-4677** (12 characters or less)

*prizes of equal value is negotiable

You wake up.

>> **North**

You can't go north. You don't know where north is.

>> **East**

You can't go east. You're kind of dumb, aren't you?

>> **Look**

Look at what?

>> **Look around**

You look around you. You're in a corn field. Miles and miles of corn.

There's a barn in the distance with what looks like a penguin on it? You can't really see it too clearly.

>> **Inspect**

Inspect what?

>> **Inspect me**

You inspect yourself. You are wearing clothes. You are a young student, very fresh. You have two pockets, including a right pocket.

>> **Inspect pocket**

Inspect which pocket?

>> **Inspect right pocket**

You inspect your right pocket. There is a letter.

>> **Read letter**

(backside)

Dear Me,

(tl;dr: This is me/you from 2016. You don't remember anything. You screwed up big time, back/here in 2012, and now you have to travel through time to set things right. Your mission includes but is not limited to: solve puzzles, save the penguins, save the world. Optional side-quests: save the cheerleader, kill some mass murdering dictators, alert Benjamin Franklin that he's got the proton/electron thing backwards and is going to screw up the intuition of 8.02 students for quite some time.)

If you're reading this, that means you are four years in the future. It is now the year 2016 and the world has plunged into violent, senseless, zoological chaos. I won't go into details, but suffice it to say the complete and catastrophic destruction of human civilization at the hands of terrorist penguins is your fault. Entirely your fault. Well, I suppose it's actually my fault, but eh.

What? What's that I'm thinking? Penguins don't have hands? They do. They do now. They mutated hands. Flipper-like and unrelenting in their pursuit of fish. I hope you understand the gravity of the situation.

I assume you found this note in your right pocket before you checked your left. How do I know? Because I'm ... eh, lucky guess. In your right pocket is a handheld, solar-powered, low-carbon-emission time-and-space dilation device, standard issue of the Penguin Federation for Testing and Human Integration (PFTHI). It has been preprogrammed with nine destinations in time and space that PFTHI believes will give you necessary information to reverse the apocalypse. (To initiate time dilation, press the big red button on the device) PFTHI's research suggests that there is a small data packet to be uncovered at each destination; only with all nine data packets can we save the penguins and ourselves by reverting them to their original, fantastically cute forms. Only in this way can we hope to restore our world, and can you hope to atone for all the penguin stuff you messed up.

Toodles!

You

You have read the letter.

>> **Press button**

Press what button?

>> **Press the big red button**

Let's go.

>>

At this point, you should have a text response for how to proceed to submit an answer, type in the **puzzle number** immediately followed by your **answer**. eg: '6whales' would be what you would text if your answer to puzzle 6 was whales answers are always **one word**

If you are having problems receiving responses - text 617-710-7806 (with any phone)
If you cannot reach this number, find anyone wearing a top hat.



#1 - Skylight

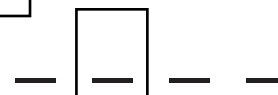
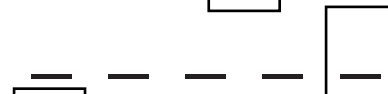
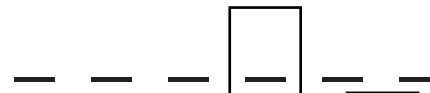
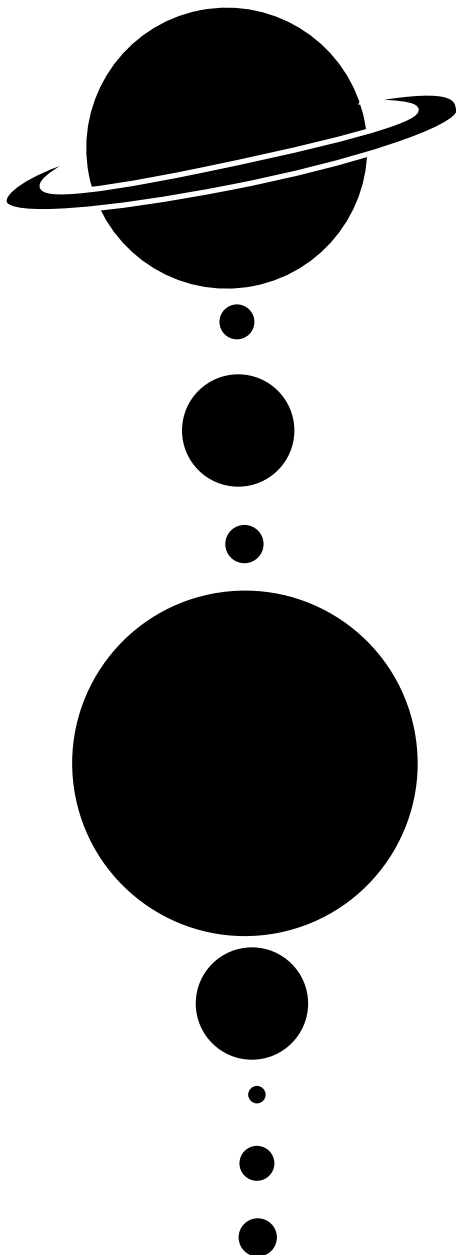
In the company of Clyde W. Tombaugh. Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona. 1930

"A time traveler, you say? Quite remarkable! I myself have been personally interested in extraterrestrials for some time, but to meet one is simply fascinating!"

>> I'm not a...

"You must excuse me, but I'm in the middle of something very important. There's a certain moving object we've discovered here, and we've just ruled out the possibility of asteroid! I dare say that this could be the rumored 9th planet! We're thinking about naming it after my mentor and founder of the observatory, Percival Lowell, or PL for short. Can you believe it? A planet! A real planet!"

>> Uh...in 2006 the International Astronomical Union...never mind





#2 - Factoids

*In the company of Mr. George Alexander Trebek
Sony Pictures Studios' Stage 10, Culver City, California, 2001*

"Hey, a time traveler! I need to ask a favor. It seems my question writers have messed up, big-time. They've given me a bunch of facts to turn into Jeopardy! clues but something seems wrong with this list.. Care to take a look?"

>> Fine, but in return you must permanently shave your moustache.

"...it seems I have no choice. All right, you monster. I'll do as you say."

>> Trust me, you'll thank me someday.

There are 6 MIT undergraduate dorms	D
There are six poker hands that beat a straight	A
There are more than 3 states in the US that start with "i"	B
10 quarters stacked flat on each other is higher than 1 quarter on its edge	E
Basketball is the only Olympic sport that starts with the letter "b"	T
The following logo colors make a rainbow: FedEx express, Subway, Chevron	I
The following keys are adjacent and/or touching on a keyboard - NBJ	N
The following dorms are adjacent - MacGregor, New House, Next House	O
All twelve characters from the original Super Smash Bros. carried over to Melee and Brawl. (Hint: First letters of names of original 12 start with L, M, D, L, S, C, N, Y, K, F, P, J)	C
There's an even number of keys on a piano keyboard	U
If you walk the full length of the Infinite Corridor, you will never walk through an even numbered building	H
One corner of the Rubik's Cube has red, green and blue.	A
You receive MIT's class ring, the Brass Rat, at the end of your sophomore year	L
If you want to average 60 mph over 60 miles, and you went 30 mph for the first 30 miles, you would have to go 90mph for the second mile	E
Harvard is across the bridge (across the river) from MIT	S
Fewer than 50% of the elements have a single letter abbreviation	A
Course 19 and 23 don't exist at MIT	R
There are more true statements than false statements on this quiz	D



#3 - Telescope

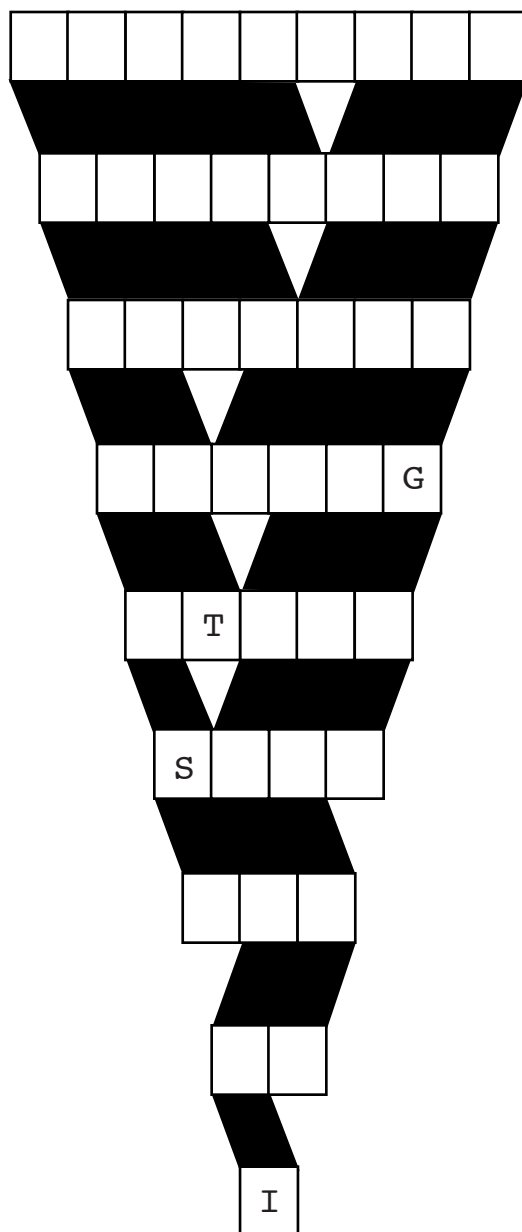
In the company of Sig. Galileo Galilei

The home of Galileo Galilei, Arcetri, Italy, 1636

(Correspondence translated from the Italian by the handheld, solar-powered, low-carbon-emission time-and-space dilation device)

"They called me a heretic. I'm under house arrest for the rest of my life, just because of a surprising discovery I made. You know what was surprising? The Roman Inquisition! That was surprising. I had heard of the Spanish Inquisition, you know, but the Roman Inquisition? I wasn't expecting that."

>> Well, you'll have a street named after you in Cambridge, MA





#4 - Two Player

*In the company of Ms. Lilliann Gisselle Bennett and her tour group
Smithsonian Institution, New Washington D.C., 2086*

"And here we have a display of human playthings and pastimes from the period before the Great Penguin War. Kindly donated by the Millsberry twins, Colleen and Cossette."

>> ...



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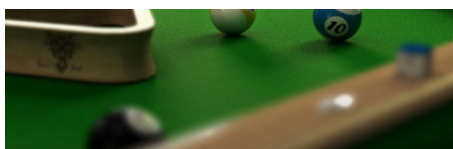
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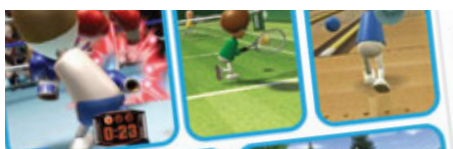
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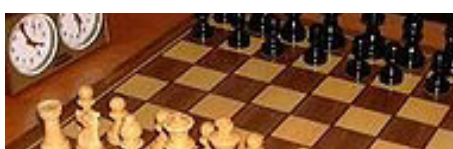
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#5 - Pidgin Carrier

*In the company of M. Joseph Ducreux. The painting studio of Joseph Ducreux, Paris, France, 1793
(Correspondence translated from the French by the handheld, solar-powered, low-carbon-emission time dilation device)*

"So you say that in the future, magical electronic copies of my self-portrait will be superimposed with humorous texts, highlighting examples of the verbosity of the English language?"

>> Affirmative

"I see. I shall then resolve to render this image of myself in a way that is humorous and outlandish!"

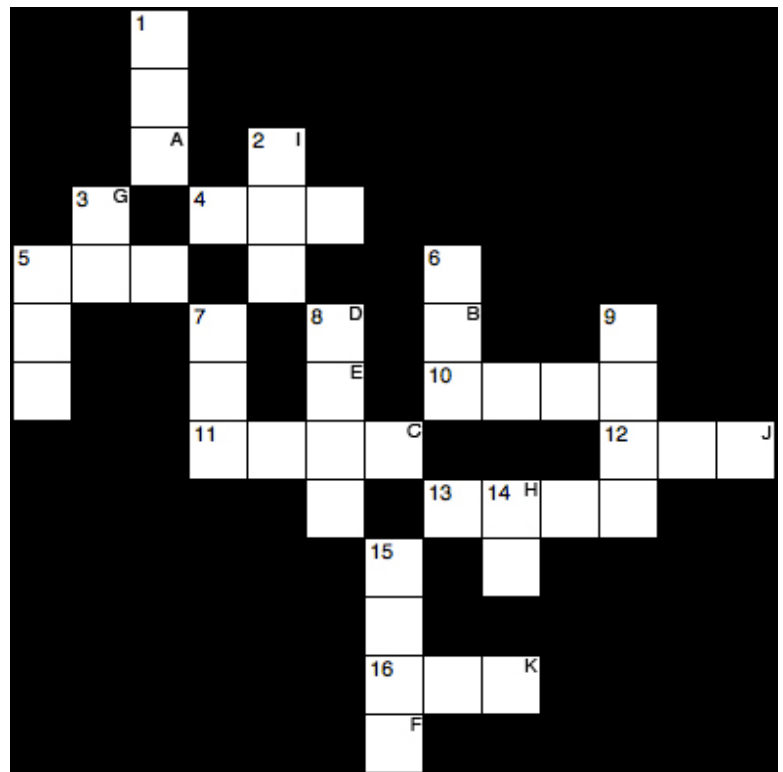
>> ...

ACROSS

4. unspecified return (3)
5. recreating spatial arrangement contingent on a short time passing (3)
10. posterior loss whilst rejoicing (4)
11. depart at once (4)
12. contributing to your knowledge (3)
13. intended future restoration of orations (4)
16. distanced from instrument of conveying letters (3)

DOWN

1. disregard my previous statement (3)
2. insignificant agenda item (3)
3. associated with the person/people that the speaker is addressing (2)
5. of tangential consequence (3)
6. vibrating gaseous molecules via diaphragm contractions (3)
7. must leave the local vicinity (3)
8. deemed inappropriate for working conditions (4)
9. angular momentum with uncontrollable diaphragm contractions (4)
14. conveyance of appreciation (2)
15. proceed at the greatest speed feasible (4)



What is this?

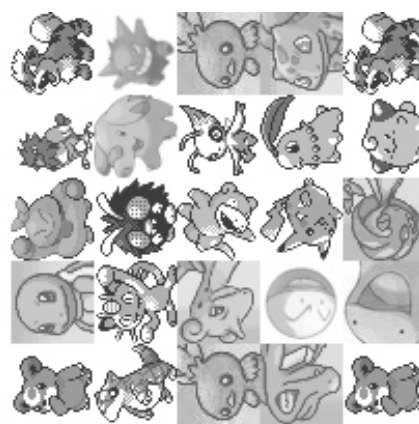
$\overline{A} \overline{B} \overline{C} \overline{D}$ & $\overline{E} \overline{F} \overline{G} \overline{H} \overline{I} \overline{J} \overline{K}$



(Correspondence translated from the Japanese by the handheld, solar-powered, low-carbon- emission time-and-space dilation device)

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>> That doesn't make any sense.
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>> ...prepare for trouble?
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#7 - Red Rover

In the company of Zxylex7mexh

Olympus Mons, Mars, 2012

(Correspondence translated from the Martian by the handheld, solar-powered, low-carbon-emission time-and-space dilation device)

"A time traveler! My grandfather was a time traveler. You could make a good living back then, but nowadays, eh. The government shipped all the time traveling jobs to the Asteroid Belt! I heard Earthlings are planning to land again here soon. Good for you. Good for NASA. You're so cute."

>> Are you going to vote in 2012?

"What, in America? I donated to Jill Stein, but she's got a Venusian's chance in Mare Erythraeum."

>> ...all righty then.

A word ladder puzzle is a chain of words linked by only one varying letter between each word. Every possible letter position in the original word changes once and only once.

Word	Hint
	House for Chickens
Chop	-
	Good Fellow
	Light Conversation
????	

Word	Hint
	afro descriptor
poofs	-
pools	-
	surveys
	medicine
?????	

Word	Hint
Set	
	Watch
	Start to a golf game
???	

Word	Hint
	pelvis
hit	
	headwear
???	



#8 - The Old Gang

*In the company of Lynda S. Williams, class of 2012
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Film Office (14N-428), 2011*

"Hey, you! You look trustworthy. Listen, my show opens in two hours but I have to finish making sense out of these images. Can you help me out? I think the answer's a word, and I'll pay you in root beer. Thanks! Also, you should catch Next Act if you finish early. Or you know, join it."

>> ...Next Act?



- 1 takes the 2nd last letter of the last word
- 2 take the first letter
- 3 take the 2nd last letter of the last word
- 4 take the 2nd letter of the 2nd word that is not "the"
- 5 take the last letter
- 6 take the first letter of the first word that is not "the"
- 7 take the first letter of the first word that is not "the"
- 8 take the second letter of the first word that is not "the"
- 9 take the last letter of the first word that is not "the"



#9 - Mobile Chef

In the company of Mr. Lee Kun-hee

Seoul, South Korea, 2012

(Correspondence translated from the Korean by the handheld, solar-powered, low-carbon-emission time-and-space dilation device)

"You've picked a wonderful time to visit, dear traveler. Business is excellent, with our product at the forefront of the market. And what a lovely dessert menu! Ganbei!"

>> Cheers, mate

2 cups water
3 cups sugar
1/2 oz. gelatin
1 cup juice
cornstarch
molds
lots of different food coloring

... makes anywhere from 100 to 200 ... sit for four to six hours, or until completely firm....



6 cups all purpose flour
1 3/4 cups sugar
2/3 cups shortening
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
1 tablespoon ground ginger
1 1/4 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 eggs

.. cut into desired shapes. Press candy pieces ... if desired for "buttons" ...



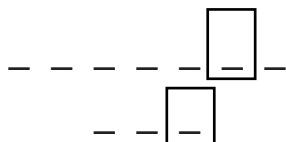
2 cups strained nonfat or whole milk yogurt
1/2 cup sugar

... few hours your yogurt will be so thick... take out of freezer and place in a large bowl...



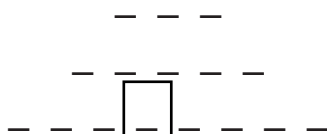
5 egg yolks, beaten
1 (14 ounce) can condensed milk
1/2 cup lime juice
1 (9 inch) prepared graham cracker crust

...sweetened condensed milk and lime juice. Mix well ... Top with whipped topping and garnish with lime slices if desired



3 one-ounce squares of semi-sweet baking chocolate
1 tablespoon butter
1 cup butter
1 cup powdered sugar
1 dash salt
4 large egg yolks
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 cups all-purpose flour
Ice cream

... once the cookies have cooled, sandwich ... between them



1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking soda
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1 cup water
1 tsp. vanilla extract
6 paper liners

... pans with paper liners ... makes about 6 ...

