



# INTRO: FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Welcome, Class of 2023, to the annual frosh **aquarium puzzlehunt!** Here's how it works:

1. Form a team (we recommend **4 to 7 people**). Each team needs **one phone** that can send texts. **Always use the same phone!**
2. Then, **text your team name** to Mission Control at **(254)AQUAPUZ**, or **(254) 278-2789**.
3. Now, **go hunt!** There are **8 puzzles** hidden in the aquarium; you can do them in any order. Each one has an answer that is an **English word or short phrase**.
4. **To submit an answer**, text it in using the format: [puzzle #] [answer]. For example, to submit the answer "fish" for puzzle 6, you would text **6 fish**. There's no penalty for wrong answers, but please don't spam our server!
5. **Mission Control** at the front desk is available for hints. Some general tips:
  - Read the title and flavortext carefully. Stay organized, and look for patterns!
  - If you have a phrase and a number, try "indexing": taking the letter in the phrase at the position indicated by the number. (Ignore spaces!)

The 3 teams that finish the puzzlehunt fastest will win **fabulous prizes**. Best of luck, and have fun!

–Mission Control

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Message from L. Rafael Reif <office-of-the-president@mit.edu>

Sent Aug 30, 2019, 7:00 PM EDT

*To the members of the MIT community:*

*Today, we are proud to announce a long-term partnership between MIT and a new **cultural scholarship program** with the goal of enriching our values of workmanship, diversity, and creativity while fostering deep connections with other major institutions of learning.*

*For the 2019-20 fall semester, **eight students** have applied through this program and been selected to study at the Institute. Having met with these students myself, I can say without hesitation that they are full of potential and are brimming with enthusiasm to join the MIT community, despite their somewhat ... unconventional backgrounds.*

*As part of the application process, each student was asked to create an interesting **puzzle** through which they portrayed an aspect of their personality or culture. The admissions committee was very impressed with the results, and so I am pleased to be able to share these puzzles with you. I hope that you enjoy solving these puzzles and, in doing so, getting to know your new classmates.*

*Sincerely,  
L. Rafael Reif*

(This page is not a puzzle.)