

Introduction

Welcome, Class of 2025, to the annual **aquarium puzzlehunt!**

To get started:

1. Form a team (with **4 to 7 people**). Your team needs **one phone** that can send text messages. **Always use the same phone!**
2. Then, **text your team name** to the Diving Supervisors at **(234) AQUAPUZ**, or **(234) 278-2789**.
3. Now, **go hunting for puzzles!** There are **8 puzzles** hidden in the aquarium; you can do them in any order. Each one has an answer that is a **word or short phrase**.
4. **To submit an answer**, text it in using the format: [puzzle number] [answer]. For example, if your answer for puzzle #6 was “fish”, you would text **6 fish**.
5. **The Diving Supervisors** at the front desk are available for help. General tips:
 - Look for patterns between the parts of the puzzle, and try to stay organized.
 - The title and the flavortext may have some subtle clues.
 - If you have a list of numbers between 1 to 26, try converting them with 1 = A, 2 = B, ..., 26 = Z.

The first 3 teams to finish the hunt will win **lovely prizes**. Best of luck, and have fun!

Dear brave divers,

You may be familiar with the Ivy League, a group of eight of our peer institutions. You may not know that in the ocean lies the Coral League, another group of eight universities, also known as the “Ivy Leagues Under the Sea.” We’ve been hearing reports from our Admissions Office that MIT has been losing students to the Coral League.

We want your help to figure out what the Coral League has that we don’t. Dive into the depths, seek out the eight universities, and maybe you can find some answers. We’re here to help you if you get stuck. Please work quickly, however—we don’t have enough oxygen to send you underwater for too long.

*Best of luck,
Diving Supervisors*

#2

Columbuoy University

by: CJ

At Columbuoy, the students' favorite genre of music is algae reggae. What's that, you ask? Well, it's made up of two parts. One is "algae." The other is "reggae."

One is "circa". The other is...

One is "begat". The other is...

One is "payee". The other is...

One is "axiom". The other is...

One is "elegy". The other is...

One is "column". The other is...

One is "rajas". The other is ...

One is "radius". The other is...

One is "beef". The other is...

One is "borscht". The other is...

season (6)

staffer (8)

brilliant person (6)

figure of speech (5)

Japanese warriors (6)

chewy candy (6)

sea animal (4)

coral habitat (4)

game plan (8)

boat (5)

Students at Corshell form connections by learning to deal with the **ups** and **downs** of life.

Go in reverse •		• Cut off decimal places
Stop dating •	D	• Land, as a plane would
Cause to stall •	F	• Lose emotional control
Gather, as cattle •	S	• Prevent from moving
Stop talking •	O	• Reject
Make a small fix •	L	• Surrender
Make louder, as music from a speaker •	L	• Turn off

S

E N

U S

P R

A R H C

O N O B U

G I E

L E

#4

Plankton University

by: Jenna

There's supposed to be lots of animals at Plankton U., but something isn't quite right.

Subject that trig and calc belong to (4)

Pinto or soy, e.g. (4)

Dawn's nighttime alternative (4)

Clean the floor with a broom (5)

Use or own jointly with others (5)

Not fake (4)

Mend (3)

Home for a bird (4)

Humiliate someone before they join a frat (4)

Bite vigorously (5)

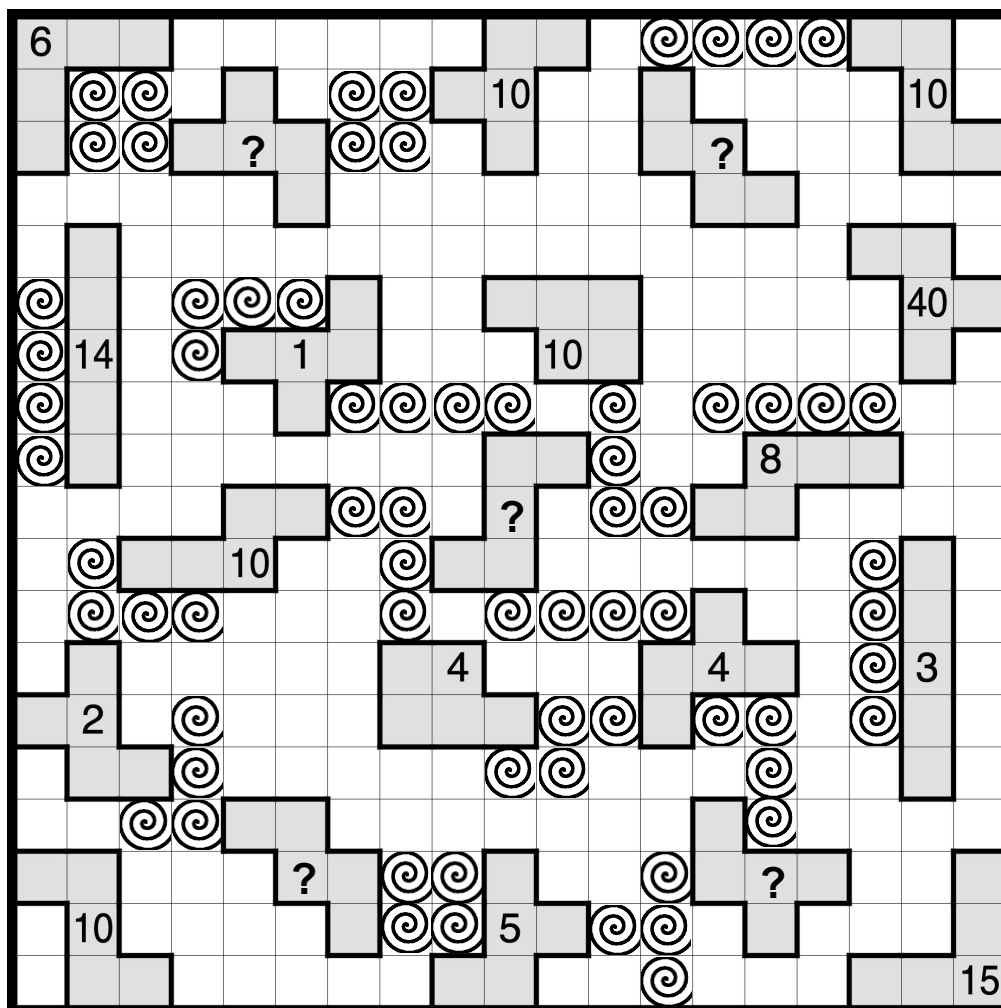
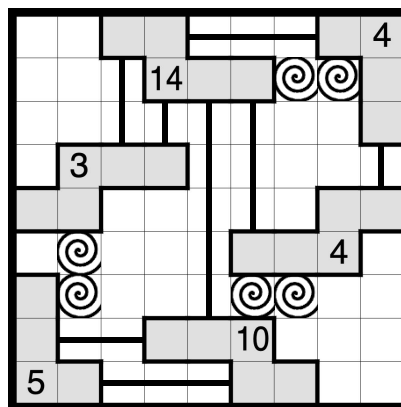
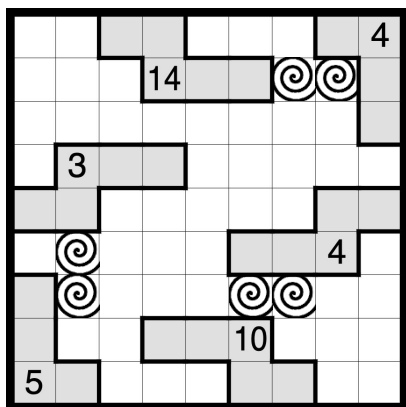
Tree that produces acorns (3)

#5

Sharkmouth University

by: Walker

The islands above Sharkmouth are all connected via noncrossing bridges, carefully placed to avoid whirlpools.



#6

Starboard University

by: Mihir

A big sign in front of Starboard proclaims "MDCLXXVIII condita est." You find it silly that this is written in Latin when they could have just written "Founded in 1678."

What you should find in the answers to these clues (V VIII)

Having negative second derivative (VII)

When day and night are equal length (VII) + Display at museum, gallery, or zoo (VII)

(Colored part of the eye (IV))² The twenty-fifth one is called the silver one (XI)

("To ___ and beyond!" (VIII))²

$\sqrt{\text{SI unit of time (VI)}}$

Programming language which is also a type of coffee (IV) × Wimbledon sport (VI)

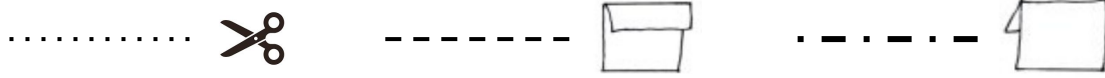
Shape of one strand of DNA (V) – Blast caused by a bomb (IX)

#7

University of Pearl

by: CJ

Is it University of Pearl, or University in Pearl? Whatever it is, it's still UPearl.



A large grid puzzle with various words and symbols. The grid is divided into sections by dashed lines. Symbols include arrows and the letter 'S' indicating specific paths or directions. The words and symbols are as follows:

- Top Left:** ROOM, WALL, ELEPHANT
- Top Middle:** UNIVERSITY, ASSISTANCE, CALLED, PLANTS, AND
- Top Right:** BIRD, SKI, RRR, STEAL, TEN, HOLE
- Middle Left:** SERPENT, LORE, PLACES, JACK
- Middle Right:** ISAD, FAIR, BOX
- Bottom Left:** SERPENT, ELEPHANT
- Bottom Middle:** SERPENT, PLAYS, TV, DUCTS, IES, R, AROUND
- Bottom Right:** HAND

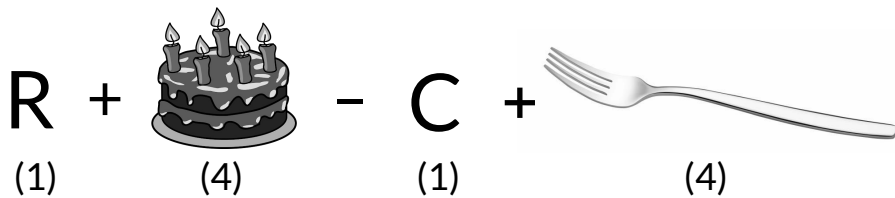
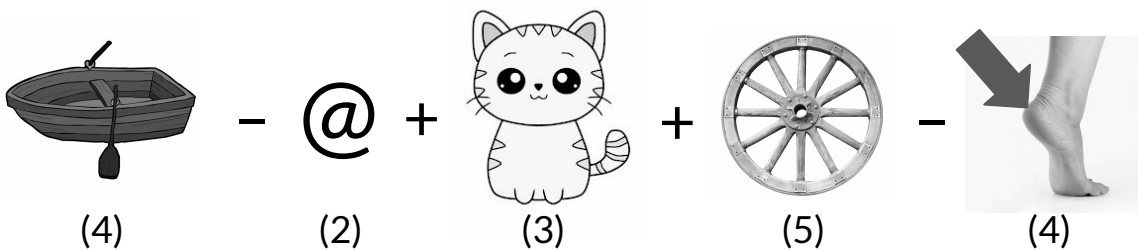
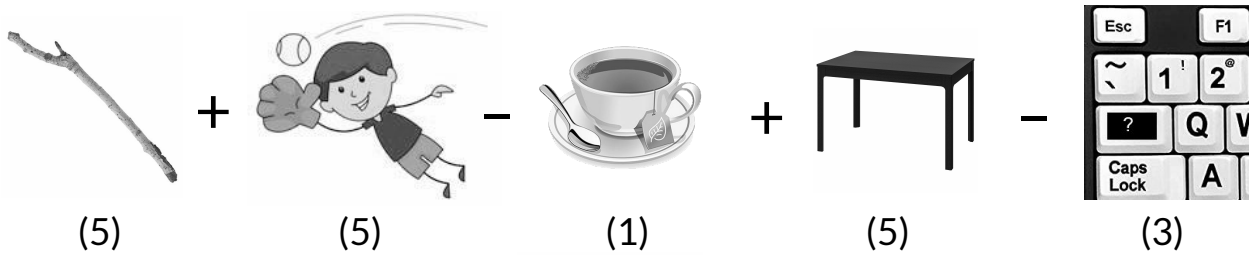
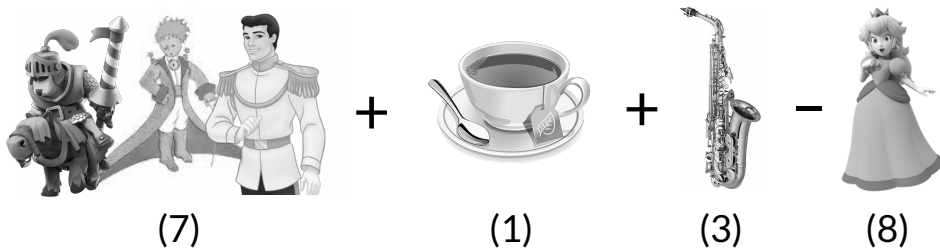
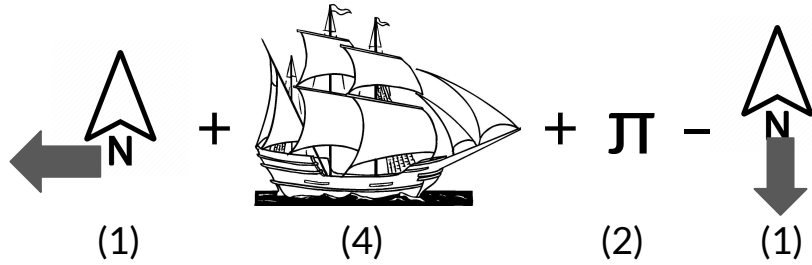
Arrows and 'S' symbols indicate paths: a vertical path from 'S' in 'AND' to 'S' in 'SERPENT', a diagonal path from 'S' in 'ASSISTANCE' to 'S' in 'SERPENT', and various horizontal and vertical paths in the bottom section.

#8

Whale University

by: Michael and Yuru

Whalies often prefer to communicate with pictures, not words.



Ivy Leagues Under the Sea

by: Everyone

*MIT's losing students to other schools! Maybe they should make some changes to cater to these water-loving first-years, who seem to prefer **boats** to **cars**. What course should MIT offer to rival the Coral League?*

Briny ∩ ---

Plankton ∩ -----

Corshell ∩ -----

Sharkmouth ∩ ----

Whale ∩ -----

Starboard ∩ -----

UPearl ∩ -----

Columbuoy ∩ -----

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