neva-mind

Neva-Mind, Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 36, Issue 4, April 2012



"There is a prospect greater than the sea, and it is the sky; there is a prospect greater than the sky, and it is the human soul."

Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables* (1862)

Northern Nevada Mensa Volunteers

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Volunteer needed

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Volunteers Needed:
TEST PROCTORS
S.I.G.H.T. COORDINATOR
RECRUITMENT
MEMBERSHIP
SCHOLARSHIP
UNR PROCTOR



cover credits: *Bill Kositzky*



I was chatting with Anna Wright about the recent solar storm and mentioned that the only Aurora Borealis I had ever seen was following a similar solar event in August 2000. Camping at Pyramid Lake for some Perseid meteor shower viewing with Ed Hanley, I had my first digital camera with me and woke up about 3 a.m. to notice a strange reddish glow in the sky beyond the hills. I was able to capture a few images of that event so very rarely seen this far south. The next morning I posed Ed and his dog, Buddy, on the shore of Pyramid Lake for a nice silhouette and combined that image in Photoshop with the nighttime image of the Aurora. Anna said, "Well, I am looking for a cover shot for the *Neva-Mind* this month."

— Bill Kositzky

(Did any of you see or photograph anything unusual in the skies during these latest solar storms?) Looking up? Here's a NASA motion view of the moon as it appears throughout a full year:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=woTCsNNfYEE

— Anna

a note from the editor

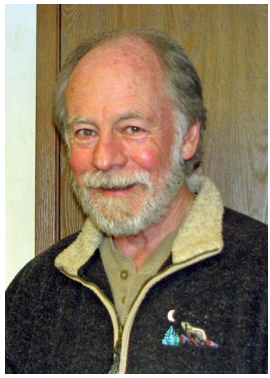
by Anna Wright



What's your hobby? What do you do to relax or reinvigorate? Do you go out and explore nature? Do you read, write, or create? Is music your passion or does quiet meditation fulfill you? Some folks collect, some folks garden, and some do volunteer work. I'll bet that some of us are crafters too. Mensans are such a diverse group! We'd like to know more about you. Next month we hope to feature you, doing the things that make you happy. Send me a line, a note, a picture or several! I'll help get you started. I've written a little bit about one of my hobbies to share with you. You'll find it on page 24.

I'm always interested in your input!
editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

from the locsec



by Bob McAllister

Opportunity

Recently I received an email from a fourth grade teacher who explained that she had accessed our newsletter, *Neva-Mind*, to show her students the excellent (award-winning) children's feature. She had included in her email to me a series of URLs that her class had apparently devised. Some had very interesting and commendable links. I wrote back, thanking her for relating her interest and appreciation of our newsletter's feature. We, Northern Nevada Mensa members, can vicariously appreciate that which constitutes our newsletter which has come along way. I say "vicariously" because though we can proudly point to our newsletter (awards-winning at the last AG), we really are appreciating the efforts of our talented editor, Anna Wright.

I read a book once (forget the name at the moment) that posited that, in the vein of the old Greek adage "The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world." There should be given some serious thought to the notion that those to whom young minds are entrusted are at the gateway of whether those young minds develop their natural curiosity and flourish. Those first teachers don't receive remuneration commensurate with that.

I'm reminded of my fourth grade teacher Miss Spindler. I remember her name not because of a good memory, but because she was memorably a good teacher. One day Miss Spindler took the class through an interesting experiment. Simply, we had shown to us that a prism would take sunlight and divide its constituent elements into the colors of the spectrum. Light wasn't white or vaguely pale yellow. It was what happens when all of the colors are combined.

Her presentation had me going home after school pondering this revelation. The thought struck me — if light could be divided into its parts, could not its parts be re-combined back into regular light? I cut with some scissors two approximately two-and-a-half-inch diameter circles from a piece of white paper. Each circle was divided into equal-sized pie sections. I colored seven of eight sections with different colors. The eighth was white. For some reason I thought to leave out black. Then I got a yo-yo. The yo-yo of choice for any self-respecting nine-year-old was Duncan. The colored circles were scotch-taped to the sides of the yo-yo. The yo-yo was sent to a state called "sleep." A hard throw sent the yo-yo to the end of its string where it sat and rapidly spun until "recalled."

Whoa! Miss Spindler would be interested in seeing this! I brought it to school the next day.

She made a bit of a production out of my getting up in front of the class and demonstrating how a bunch of colors could be blended back into (almost) white. Naturally, there were the inevitable protests from a couple of classmates who complained, “What’s the big deal? Anybody could do that!”

This brings me to a tale I once somewhere read that hearkened back to the yo-yo incident. I don’t know whether this is an urban myth or an actual event. After having been to the New World a second time, Christopher Columbus was being feted at an event in some European royal court. Columbus didn’t come from a landed gentry background and the court was attended by dismissive nobility to the manner born. He overheard a conversation amongst the miffed “superiors” that was perhaps voiced sotto-surreptitiously so that he would indeed overhear. They wanted to know, “What was the big deal about his discovery?” Columbus, a nobody, “Did what anyone could have done.” Columbus approached them and said, “Yes. Anyone could have done it, but it took someone to show the way.” Not to be deterred, the detractors continued their derision. Columbus then took a boiled egg from the hors d’oeuvres present and challenged any of them to balance the egg on its pointed end, no extraneous supports allowed. Many tried. A crowd grew. Some tried to spin the egg, like a top. It still fell over. When they finally concurred that it wasn’t possible, Columbus took the egg and gave its pointed end a sharp rap on a table. The now slightly flattened end allowed the egg to stand. The detractors began again with their contention, “Anyone can do that!”

Columbus’s response was, “Exactly my point! I takes someone to show the way.” ■



Congratulations!



Mensan, **Joe Kisenwether**, Ion Award winner at the February SaltCon 2012 competition. Joe's new game ***Rock***ed the competition! Read more about Joe's win at http://www.saltcon.com/



Jenny Beatty, whose cover article has been published in the *Aviation For Women* March/April edition.

You'll find our Mensa cover girl standing in the center of this photo.

Read Jenny's article at http://www.wai.org/magazine/index.cfm

Loren MacArthur just can't stay home. A year after living in Mexico for four months, she's accepted a summer job in Alaska with the U.S. Forest Service. She'll be aboard the Disney ocean liner Wonder, which recently began summer cruises along the Inside Passage, telling an auditorium full of 400 guests about Alaska's tsunamis, volcanoes, earthquakes and disappearing glaciers. "Everybody's fascinated by an appalling disaster," she said, "as long as they're not in it – and Alaska's had plenty of those, thanks to its location on the Ring of Fire."

Loren also can't stop writing. After sending her Guanajuato journal to 34 attentive readers (she hoped), she'll write an Alaskan version covering such topics as the disappearance of 90 percent of the Aleutian Islands sea otters, her affectionate but sometimes cynical view of the Forest Service and her adventures off ship in Southeast Alaska. If you'd like to receive a copy, email her at lmacarthur1015@gmail.com and she'll put you on the list.



happy birthday!



5	**Denis Begin**	Reno
6	**H. Joseph Schiess III**	Reno
7	**Eugene Hysner**	Reno
7	**Shelley MacDonald**	Reno
8	**Stephen Dumolt**	Carson City
11	**Craig Ozer**	Reno
11	**Bryan Lang**	Reno



welcome!

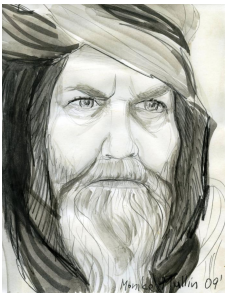
Curtis Freemont, Reno

Willkommen, Bienvenidos, Chaire, Irashaimasu, Dobro pozhalovat', Bienvenue



Childhood Heroes

by Ken Wright



Television was still new and watching it was a privilege for children of the 1950s and '60s. It didn't take a lot to fire imaginations that were used to doing all of the work anyway. Saturday mornings were great for heroes like Roy Rogers, the Lone Ranger and Sky King. They taught us that good could triumph over evil and doing the right thing was our duty. They also showed us that good guys; got the girls, could ride a horse, play a guitar and sing, had a cool friend named Tonto, and could fly a plane — all admirable qualities to a kid.

There is a lot to be said for being inspired by good guys and it was even OK if you didn't succeed at everything that they did. I found out that I couldn't play a guitar and my singing sounded more like a cat in pain. I could ride a horse because I was raised around them and it was a common thing where I grew up. None of my friends were named Tonto, but several were real Indians, and they all wanted to be the Lone Ranger when we played. Unanimously they said that Tonto sounded funny and didn't want that role, so I was Tonto. But we all liked and respected Jay Silverheels more than Clayton Moore because he was always loyal and trustworthy.

I grew up with a knowledge of aviation due to my father's occupation as an Air Traffic Controller in Miami, so I was more interested in the Cessna 310 that Sky King flew than the plot. It was usually bad guy grabs girl, good guy has to fly airplane to rescue girl, all have a narrow escape and good guy wins. Do you remember the name of the niece? How about the airplane?

Even more dominant in my memories and by far my greatest hero, was a man that I had read about in books, and who didn't appear in the Saturday morning lineup until much later. He was still a movie star and his name was Tarzan of the Apes!

Of those who portrayed the ape man since the Edgar Rice Burroughs books first came to film, my hero was number six and the undisputed king, Johnny Weissmuller. The yell heard 'round the world! He was and is still, the only Tarzan for me.

He was an immigrant child, born in what is now Serbia, and suffered from polio at an early age, which lead to his swimming for health and strength. Johnny Weissmuller was so good at swimming that he won five Olympic gold medals and one bronze medal, won 52 national swimming titles and set 67 world records.

I knew about the swimming accomplishments from reading about him, and hadn't we ALL seen him swim in his films! He could swim faster than a crocodile and was so strong that he could swim upstream against raging torrents.

It wasn't the swimming that inspired me as much as the decency, fairness and strength of character that Tarzan brought to the silver screen. He never allowed anyone or anything weaker to be mistreated. I could relate to that being smaller and weaker than nearly everyone that I knew at the time. The code of personal conduct that Tarzan lived by and the respect that he earned from all who knew him, was a model that I wanted.

That and to live in that really awesome tree house and have all of those animals as my friends. Forget mansions and fancy cars, I wanted to live in the jungles of Africa like Tarzan.

In December of 1965 Johnny Weissmuller was to help officially open the Swimming Hall of Fame in Ft. Lauderdale, FL., which he also helped to establish. Tarzan was going to be in one spot long enough for me to see and hear him. It was as kids today would say, an OMG moment.

Sure I was twelve years old and knew that Tarzan was a fictional character, but, this was TARZAN!

I tried to get a ride from family. Dad was working, so mother didn't have a car; my older siblings would rather have swallowed worms than haul me anywhere. Even my few older friends were working.

… my older siblings would rather have swallowed worms than haul me anywhere.

I asked my mother if I could go anyway, if I could find a way. Her answer was, "Don't be ridiculous!" and went back to her magazine. She didn't SAY “no” so I took that as a yes.

"Think!" I kept telling myself. "Tarzan wouldn't give up!"

If we were urban dwellers like people in New York City, it would have been so much easier and less mentally painful to solve this, but I was a country kid, albeit ensconced in *semi-surburbia*. But, I did eventually come to it.

The bus! I will take the bus. I had taken the bus to the beach and back hundreds of times. I even had to transfer from one bus to another. I was a pro, in my own twelve year old mind anyway. I could do this. Old ladies do this. Piece of cake!

I am going to shake hands with Tarzan and somehow become his friend and go to Africa and ... oh wait, he lives in Ft. Lauderdale now. Well, I'll get him to do the yell, that will be good enough, but if he WANTS to go to Africa, I'm with him!

There were no computers in those days. No easy find it online solutions to which bus runs where and when. I tried calling the city bus office, but being a twelve year old kid who didn't even know which department to ask for, I got the proverbial run around. I also made a big mistake when I stated up front that I was going to go see Tarzan. It became a joke and great sport for the employees to pass my call from one extension to another where they asked me if I knew Jane and could get them a date, or had I kissed Cheetah, or was I "Boy" looking for my

(Continued on page 18)

Mensa's annual Publications Recognition Program

I was pleased to nominate the following contributions (listed in chronological order) that were published in our newsletter as the best of *Neva-Mind* 2011. Thanks everyone and good luck! — Anna

Congratulations!



PRP Nominations

Humor:

Slip 'n Slide Alaska Style	May	Ken Wight
Krackle Snap Pop	June	Ken Wright
Rocket's Red Glare	July	Ken Wright

Essay:

Minecraft	August	Travis McCord
My Blog	August	Julie Kriss
I'm Not Throwing Them Away	September	Ken Wright
More Valuable Than Gold	October	Ken Wright
Hiking Mt. Whitney	February	Frank Bursick

Puzzles:

Name That Ad! Crossword	May	Anna Wright
Events of the '60s	June	Travis McCord
Magazine Confusion	July	Travis McCord
Bass Ackwards Crossword	September	Anna Wright
Trivia Quiz - Goofs	October	Travis McCord

Art:

Bee Pollinating Flower	May	Anna Wright
Postcards from Murano	May	Mark Pipes
O! Say Can You See ...	July	Bill Kositzky
Burning Man 2011 Photo Essay	October	Bill Kositzky
Polar Bear Out of Bounds	December	Anna Wright

notes from your excomm

Minutes of your ExComm meeting on March 10, 2012

Present were LocSec — Bob McAllister, 1st Vice Secretary — Ken Wright, 2nd Vice Secretary — Gerry Lockhart, and *Neva-Mind* Editor — Anna Wright

The meeting convened at 5:35 p.m. at Loren MacArthur's home prior to regular local group monthly meeting.

McAllister:

Discussion regarding increasing local member involvement and targeting specific members with talents that we need to improve group functionality.

Request for continuation of 50/50 raffle at monthly meetings as begun by member A. Stewart previously. Wright, A. will approach member Stewart regarding continuation of the raffle program.

Wright, K.:

Suggestion for pursuing non-profit status for local group to facilitate savings and improve venue booking ability where non-profit organizations are given priority. Member Simkin was approached during the regular meeting and volunteered to research state and federal requirements. He will report findings. No motions made pending information.

McAllister:

Motion to move all future ExComm meetings to 5:30 p.m. (prior to the regular monthly meeting.) Second: Wright, K. Unanimous approval.

Wright, A:

Motion to fund Program Chair Arbib for deposit with National Automobile Museum for May Program: Private After Hours Tour of the Auto Museum. Second: McAllister Unanimous approval.

Wright, K.:

Report on status of Reno AG. Discussion by Lockhart regarding pending medical group excursion, similar to AG Mensa Steam Tour, which includes a meal plan in Virginia City and shuttle transportation in V.C. Lockhart to investigate who the coordinator or sponsor of medical excursion is so that we may compare venues and notes with them.

Lockhart:

Motion to adjourn. Second: Wright, A. Unanimous approval 6:00 p.m.

K. Wright

puzzle page

by Travis McCord

So, one time I'm in the offices of some publishing house when a guy I know comes up to me all excited. He's waving around a thick manuscript that he swears is going to be the next big thing.

When he finally calmed down enough that I could get a coherent sentence out of him he tells me the manuscript was written by an English professor looking to branch out. "It's an account of the adventures of a guy who taught there back in the 19-teens. It reads like a Indiana Jones story but 20 years earlier!"

"So, you've got an author over 100 years old?"

"No, he's got the guy's diaries, and since he's an English professor he decided to turn 'em into a novel. And it's *real!* This'll be great!"

By this time I'd grabbed the manuscript from him to take a quick look. I read this passage about ten pages in:

...

The natives had told Evan about the Lost City in the heart of the Sahara Desert. From their tales, the place couldn't be much further, but every step in the desert took the energy of ten anywhere else. He'd pitched a tent to keep the sun away, one with mesh sides for some defense against the ever-present desert heat.

It was 1912, the Titanic had just sunk, and he was one of many looking for the next King Tut and the nest egg it would bring. Sitting on his bedroll, he picked up his financer's contract from where he had laden it and quickly scanned it. A large sum of dollars were provided to buy help and material with the assumption that they'd find something museums would drool over and bid for.

Evan had been searching for the Lost City for a good three weeks, but the place had remained illusive. The only things he'd seen were fake oasises caused by the heat.

A sudden shift in the wind drew his attention back outside. No, not the wind — something <u>on</u> the wind. Something in the back of his mind said this means trouble, he dashed through the tent flap and looked to the east.

Complimenting the dying light was the sillouette of a great edifise which he hadn't seen before. It's exterior was just like what he'd read about in his history books, and yet somehow it's angles were just <u>wrong</u>, in a way he couldn't put a finger on.

He still knew that what he wanted was in there, tho, so he dashed back into the tent and grabbed the duffle bag. It was filled with enough gear and supplies for a good week alone. He started out the tent but then stopped and took a step backwards when he realized he didn't know what or who — or <u>what</u> — would be

waiting for him in there. With a hardened look in his eyes he turned back and retrieved his Browning Hi-Power from underneath his cot — a momento of happier times, strangely enough. He then bolts out the door to trek across the dunes.



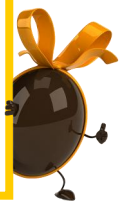
"Heh... it's not that great," I told him. "In fact, if you give this to your editor all you'll get is his bootprint up your backside."
"What?"
"This is what we in the editing business call *crapola*. It's fake."

Specifically, this passage has 19 grammar or spelling glitches and 5 examples of "Did Not Do The Research." Can you find them all?

Answers on page 26.

mindgames
AMERICAN MENSA LTD.

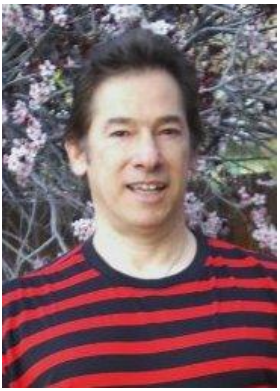
April 20, 2012 Herndon, VA
http://mindgames.us.mensa.org



Oregon Mensa Presents:

Oregon Mensa BeaveRG XIV, May 4, 5, 6, 2012
Red Lion Inn, 1021 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232
(503) 235-2100
Contact: W. Brewster Gillett, RG Chair
Stephen Darnell, Registrar





program listing

by Richard Arbib

April Monthly Meeting:
Saturday, April 14 at 6 p.m. sharp (Eat at 6 p.m., speaker at 7 p.m.)
Location: Bangkok Cuisine South, 5851 South Virginia Street, Reno, across the street from Meadowood Mall. The rear dining room is reserved for us.
Speaker: Noah Silverman of the Reno Bike Project, a non-profit organization promoting a cycling-friendly community.

May Monthly Meeting: National Auto Museum tour and dinner at the Siena on Saturday, May 12. Meet at National Auto Museum at 5:15 p.m. sharp. We will have a one-hour private tour for Mensa group from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Then, we'll go across the street to the Siena to eat. Cost for tour is $15. The museum closes to the public at 5:30 p.m. You must be inside by then.

June Monthly Meeting: Barbecue at the home of Bob and Mary McAllister.

For more information contact Richard at Calendar@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

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Lunch Bunch: Fourth Tuesdays at 11:45 a.m.

- April 24, 168 Cafe Chinese Restaurant at 2303 S. Virginia St. #5, Reno (behind the Black Bear Diner)
- May 22, Zagol Ethiopian Restaurant at 855 E. 4th St., Reno
- June 26, Anna's Mexican Grill at 9570 S. McCarran Blvd. (corner of 4th St.), Reno

If you have any questions, contact Laura or Don at 826-5904.

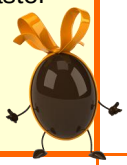
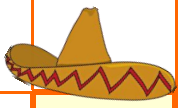
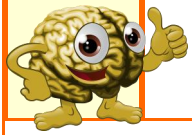
Supper Club: Third Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

- April 17, Great Basin Brewing Co., 846 Victorian Ave., Sparks
- May 15, Pizza and Trivia Night, Round Table Pizza, 801 W. 4th St., Reno
- June 19, Chinese Food and Challenge for Julie, CJ Palace, 129 Los Altos Blvd., Sparks

For more information contact Anne maytheroad@gmail.com.

★On the second Sunday of every month, **Symposi-Ms**. April 8, Symposi-M we will discuss "Teach Every Child About Food" by the award-winning British chef Jamie Oliver. Watch the 21-minute video at http://www.ted.com/talks/jamie_oliver.html and then attend the live Mensans-only online discussion at 3 p.m. central, in the General Chat room of the American Mensa online community (http://www.community.us.mensa.org).

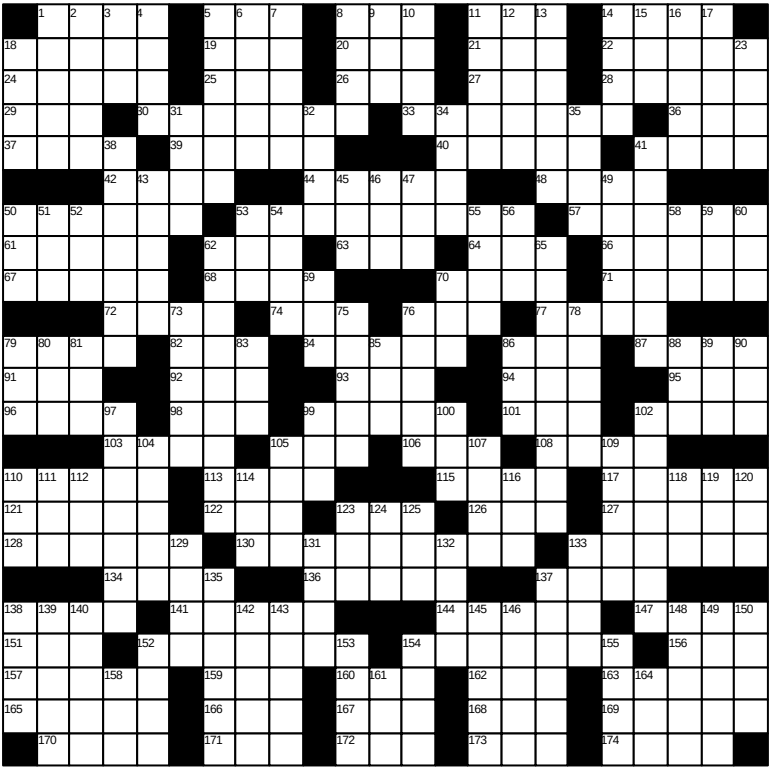
april 2012

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
1 April Fool's Day & Palm Sunday	2	3	4	5	6 Good Friday	7 **Game Night at Joe's** & Passover
8 ★ Easter 	9	10	11	12	13 Friday the 13th	14 **Mensa Meeting**
15 Income Tax Day	16	17 **Supper Club**	18	19	20	21
22 Earth Day	23	24 **Lunch Bunch**	25	26	27	28 
29 **Culture Quest®** 	30	May 1 May Day	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5 **Game Night at Joe's** & Cinco de Mayo

Game Night at Joe's Place: First Saturdays 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
•April 7 •May 5 •June 2
Potluck. 1047 Table Mountain Court, Sparks.
Contact: Joe (775) 338-6521 or joe_kisenwether@hotmail.com.

Hoot Tweets?... Hottest Woe?... Oh, Sweet Tooth!

by Hangar Twin?… Warning Hat?... No, it's Anna Wright.



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ACROSS

1 opps (with 33-a)
5 Ship initials
8 Exercise targets
11 Mongrel dog
14 dost
18 Rabbit
19 Attack
20 Cow speak
21 Only
22 so ore
24 Bye
25 Past
26 Canoe propeller
27 Formerly OSS
28 Northern Nevada town
29 Vase
30 hub king
33 ties too (with1-a or 150-d)
36 Scrap
37 Stag
39 Marseilles metric unit
40 Civil authority
41 Meat and potatoes dish
42 Swiss mountains
44 Passageway
48 Pleasant
50 no stem
53 hey bonito
57 Grief
61 Revolve around
62 Bone
63 Gauze
64 Legume
66 Side note
67 Intended
68 Acetic or lactic
70 Call
71 Pushed away
72 Mongolian desert
74 Separate (abbr.)
76 Obama's favorite computer
77 Spouse
79 Helps
82 Viper
84 Saying
86 Wear
87 Time period
91 Perish
92 Title of respect
93 Uproar
94 Card game
95 Snoop
96 Bluish white metal
98 Whichever
99 Befits
101 Peculiar
102 e ice
103 Competent
105 zep
106 Perceive
108 Leg strap in falconry
110 Bamboo bear
113 x wit
115 Air (prefix)
117 Having wings
121 Mid-Eastern dwellers
122 __ Diego

123 Highest trump in some loo games
126 Set
127 Wireless
128 Repudiates
130 trist bars
133 damn ms
134 Tack
136 rends
137 Caring
138 Juicy
141 one cc
144 Prophetic
147 Heavenly light
151 Kimono sash
152 Putting together
154 Pixies
156 __ Jima
157 Maggot
159 Little bit
160 Boat
162 Tattoo
163 Floral leaf
165 Film Award
166 Fib
167 Constellation
168 Pilot's rpt.
169 Service
170 Chows
171 Goof
172 Lender's abbr.
173 Concord e.g.
174 Let

DOWN



1 Priest
2 Declare
3 epi
4 Scorn
5 Practices
6 Vision
7 Scrub
8 Berserk
9 Feather scarf
10 Order
11 o acco
12 Solidarity
13 Infer
14 vode
15 Lode yield
16 __ cotta
17 so sad
18 Extol
23 Weary sound
31 Pixies
32 Shipshape
34 Bode
35 Eye part
38 TV stats
41 shy here
43 Gambling game
45 Charged particle
46 Her
47 Home space
49 Beach
50 Mater
51 Before
52 BB Assoc.
53 Pen brand
54 Same cite as previous
55 Heroic
56 Congressional vote
58 2011 animated film
59 Poem of praise
60 Tie the knot
62 satire sin
65 old man joy
69 Obscure
70 Dike
73 Elemental
75 National capital
76 m nits
78 Positive electrode
79 Wood tool
80 Three
81 Lair
83 Jimmy
85 Dozen
86 Couple
88 Keyboard abbr.
89 Copy
90 Grain
97 card buy
99 Gender
100 Ocean
102 Atlas items
104 Moisten
105 Liquid unit
107 Sashimi choices
109 Plastic wrap
110 Standard or average
111 To be
112 Arrest
114 Used to be
116 Lab animal
118 Sum
119 Tebow to friends
120 Goddess
123 Before (prefix)
124 Reduced (abbr.)
125 Clay
129 Trigonometric function
131 Soon
132 Invitation abbr.
133 Rodents
135 sent el
137 kat tik
138 loor
139 Offend
140 Approximate date
142 Preside
143 Beverage
145 Constellation
146 Dyes
148 Colossus
149 Expect
150 lol r (with 33-a)
152 rams
153 Festive
154 roks
155 Box
158 Basin
161 Cong. seat
164 First woman

Answers on page 26.

(Tarzan continued from page 9)
ape loving daddy? Finally a supervisor put an end to the sport and rattled off a list of numbers and connections that by that time, I was not prepared to copy down. He hung up the telephone when I asked if he could repeat that, but slower. I was NOT going to call them back. The one part that I caught was go south from Sunrise Boulevard on Atlantic. But how to get there was a mystery.

I grabbed all of the money that I had, which wasn't much, and headed out the door towards a gas station near by.

I grabbed all of the money that I had, which wasn't much, and headed out the door towards a gas station near by. There I got a city map and finally found Sunrise Blvd. I was determined to follow the map and hop from bus to bus until I got where I wanted to be. My first leg would be to catch the bus on Hollywood Blvd. to Young Circle. From there US1 or Federal Highway, as it was called there, would take me all the way to Sunrise Blvd.

The ceremony was set for early afternoon sometime and I was starting out in the morning so in my mind I had extra time. The ride to Young Circle took quite a while and should have been a clue that I was in for a very long day.

I waited at the bus stop for a long time until I finally asked a man if this was the right place to catch a bus for Ft. Lauderdale and he told me that he was catching the bus to Miami from there. Panicked, I went into a local business and asked the lady at the counter where the bus stop for Ft. Lauderdale was. She looked at me like I was kidding her and said, "You been standing at it for 30 minutes." I ran back outside just as the bus pulled up and the man I spoke to sat back down on the bench.

When it was my turn in line to step up into the bus, I stopped at the change box and asked the driver if he went to Sunrise Blvd. He said "No," and I nearly bolted out the door before he completed his statement, "... but I connect with the bus which does." This was harder than I thought.

Not being a veteran city bus rider, other than my short jaunts to the beach, I had no idea how many stops a route bus makes each day. We stopped at every corner and it took forever for people to get on and off the bus. It was already noon by the time I caught the northbound bus from Young Circle and my concept of distance was pretty much limited to what I could see. How far something was on a map and how long it would take to traverse that distance was rocket science to me then.

It literally took hours for me to get to Sunrise Blvd. and Atlantic Blvd., and then I had to go back south on Atlantic. I was down to my last few coins when I got to the spot on South Atlantic Boulevard that had signs pointing the way towards the big to-do. I walked in from the bus stop and that was good, I didn't

have to park a car that way. I couldn't see any available parking spots anywhere anyway.

I had no idea that nearly 5,000 other people would also be there and all wanting to be photographed with Johnny Weissmuller and the other Hall of Fame inductees, who ever they were. The ceremony for the ribbon cutting, etc., was over. The crowd was definitely in party mode and they were all dressed up and, adult.

The steam went completely out of me at that point and I was overcome with a "what have I done?" moment. It would have become an utter defeat for me had I not been sitting on a folding chair in the right spot, at precisely the right time.

Through a break in the mob of people I saw the dark hair, white suit, and broad shoulders of Johnny Weissmuller as he lead the crowd to a statue where he and two beautiful women pose for photos. I could hear a voice from the crowd saying that some reporter claimed that the famous Tarzan yell was actually a fake, made up of sounds from several people and sound effects.

In response to many repeated requests, the real, true Tarzan tilted his head back and let loose with a yell that stopped every single person within earshot in their tracks. When he stopped, the entire crowd burst into applause, including me. OK, I'm good. The entire trip was officially worthwhile.

… the real, true Tarzan tilted his head back and let loose with a yell that stopped every single person within earshot in their tracks.

I wish that could say that I got to shake hands with Johnny and we were best of friends until he died in 1984. But, that wasn't the case. Even more people crowded around him than before and he was swallowed up in the moving throng of humanity.

As it was, I was left with no money to get a bus back to West Hollywood and an almost certain beating for what I had done. But, it was worth it. I did what I set out to do and I heard Tarzan yell with my own ears!

I called my uncle and asked him to call my house and ask for my oldest brother to come and get me, which he did, and I paid for my brother's gas many times over due to his idea of interest charges. We also concocted a story that explained my absence from home and kept me from getting into trouble, which was a major bonus.

Would I advise twelve year kids to do what I did that day? No.

Am I glad that I did it? Oh, Yeah!

— signed: Still a Tarzan fan!



mensa for kids!

(and kids at heart) by Maurice Pollack and Anna Wright

The following two problems are modified versions of math operations that you might be familiar with. What are the missing numbers?

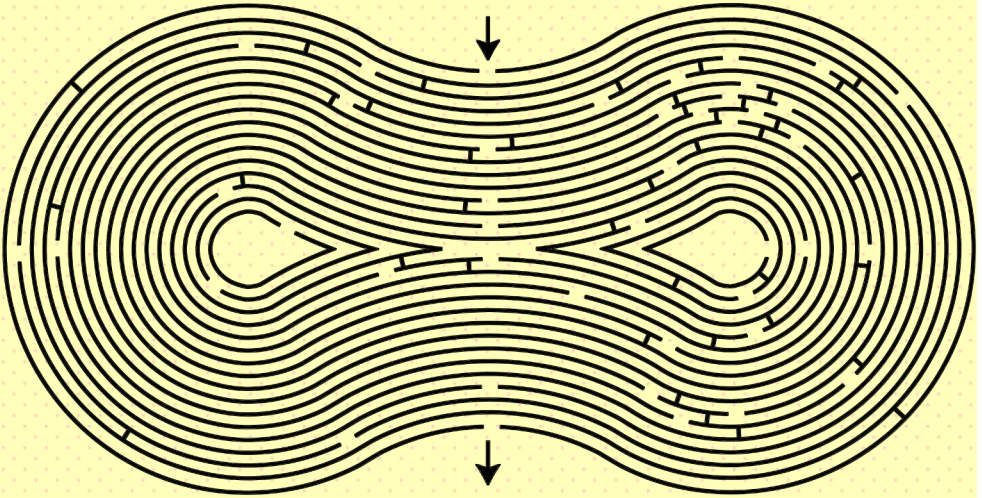
Problem 1			Problem 2		
3	one	3	5	one	5
3	two	?	5	two	?
3	three	27	5	three	?
3	four	?	5	four	625



Fallen Tiles:

Below is a quote by Charles M. Schultz for you to decipher. It was written on a set of tiles that have become hopelessly scrambled. Can you rearrange them so that his quote can be read again?

l o	e e d	h u r	a n	B u	e s n	t a	u n
e c	t e	d t	A l l	d o	h o c	t .	l i
h e n	t t l	o l a	i s	v e .	n o w	' t	y o



Answers on page 27.



Hi

We have been using your page for school and we like your links. :-) Thank you for letting us use them. We had the awe-some idea that we should send you other ones that we like to use as a thank you. Our teacher Mrs. Fowler thinks its very thoughtful of us and that you could maybe put them up on your page with the other ones. That's why we are writing to you. The ones we like are: [shown below — editor] Do you like them too? Please write back. :-)

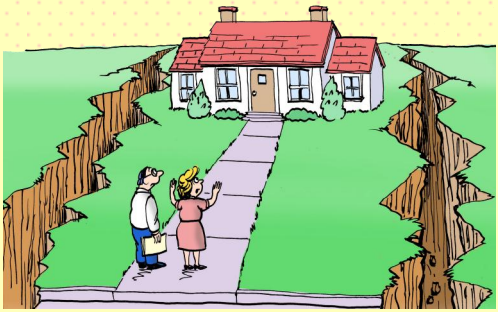
Mrs. Fowler's 4th Grade Class



http://www.fireplacespot.com/kids-volcano-facts

http://kids.discovery.com/games/build-play/volcano-explorer

http://www.kidsgeo.com/





http://www.lifeinsurance.org/safety-insurance/

http://free.ed.gov/subjects.cfm?subject_id=141

http://www.grdecoder.org/home-school-library-homework-helpers.html



Dear Mrs. Fowler and Class,

Wow! What great websites you have found! I am delighted to pass these on to our kids here in Nevada. I know they will enjoy them as much as I did. I am also sending them to our Web-mistress so that she can up-date our website. You rock!

Thank You,
Anna M. Wright, editor



from the rvc

by Debra Reiger, rvc8

This month I am going to talk a little about the 11 local Mensa groups that comprise Region 8. For good reason, our region is called the Pacific Intermountain Region. It runs from mid-California and mid-Nevada north to the Canadian border, and from the Pacific Ocean to the eastern borders of Nevada, Idaho, and Montana. Plus Alaska! We cover a lot of ground.

(These membership numbers are from the end of last fiscal year, which was March 31, 2011; we will have our new year-end numbers out soon.)

Here is a quick rundown of who and where we are here in Region 8. Alphabetically, with a mention of some (but certainly not all) of the cities in each "local" group:

- Columbia River Mensa has about 94 members, and is mainly in central Washington. Cities include Yakima, Walla Walla, and Pasco.
- Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho/Montana, with 230 members, includes Spokane WA, Billings (and all other parts of) Montana, and all of northern Idaho.
- Mensa Alaska, with 127 members in a very large geographical area, has members in Anchorage and Juneau and of course in other communities as well.
- Mensa of Western Washington, with 1219 members, is our region's 2nd largest group. Predictably, it covers western Washington, including the Seattle area, and also the Port Angeles/Forks area that is so exciting to the Twilight series vampire fans.
- Monterey County Mensa, with 112 members, is in a geographically small area with amazing seaside attractions. It includes Monterey and Salinas. John Steinbeck country!
- Northern Nevada Mensa, membership 182, is hosting American Mensa's Annual Gathering in Reno this summer. Lots to see and lots to do.
- Oregon Mensa, 922 members, is large in membership and in geographical size. This is a friendly group that is fun to visit.
- Redwood Empire Mensa, 229 members, is along California's northern coast and includes Mendocino County, Santa Rosa, Eureka, and lots of beautiful scenery.
- Sacramento Regional Mensa, with 640 members, is my home group and I love it here. The group stretches up to the Oregon border, down into the San Joaquin Valley, and east into the Sierra Nevada.
- San Francisco Regional Mensa, with 2130 members, is one of the 3 largest Mensa groups in the country (the rankings shift from time to time). In addition to San Francisco, it includes San Jose, Fresno, and some of the California central valley.
- Southern Idaho Mensa, 163 members, includes Boise and Pocatello and some of the most beautiful countryside that you will see anywhere.

I hope to see you at the Oregon RG and the Reno Annual Gathering. ■

Greetings from your Space Nerd *by Ken Wright*



As I am very busy working on the upcoming Mensa Annual Gathering (AG) in Reno, I am not participating in any solar system presentations myself at this time. I am very pleased to inform you that Richard Manley, who I consider to be one of the very best Solar System Ambassadors in the game, has agreed to speak at The End of Time AG. Be sure to catch his talks: “Spinoffs” and “The Stars Above.” I know that you will enjoy them.

In the skies this April:

- April 6 - Full Moon. The Moon will be directly opposite the Earth from the Sun and will be fully illuminated as seen from Earth. This phase occurs at 19:19 UTC.
- April 15 - Saturn at Opposition. The ringed planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. This is the best time to view and photograph Saturn and its moons.
- April 21 - New Moon. The Moon will be directly between the Earth and the Sun and will not be visible from Earth. This phase occurs at 07:18 UTC.
- April 21, 22 - Lyrids Meteor Shower. The Lyrids are an average shower, usually producing about 20 meteors per hour at their peak. These meteors can produce bright dust trails that last for several seconds. The shower usually peaks on April 21 and 22, although some meteors can be visible from April 16 to 25. With no moon to get in the way this year, this really should be a good show. Look for meteors radiating from the constellation of Lyra after midnight.
- April 28 - Astronomy Day Part 1. Astronomy Day is an annual event intended to provide a means of interaction between the general public and various astronomy enthusiasts, groups and professionals. The theme of Astronomy Day is "Bringing Astronomy to the People," and on this day astronomy and stargazing clubs and other organizations around the world will plan special events. You can find out about special local events by contacting your local astronomy club or planetarium. You can also find more about Astronomy Day by checking the Web site for the Astronomical League.

Our featured mission for this month is seriously cool; Cassini-Huygens, “Unlocking Saturn’s Secrets.” http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/ On March 2, Cassini made the news again “sniffing” molecular oxygen around Saturn’s icy moon Dione. Scientists are excited about this as it proves that oxygen molecules are common in the Saturn system and from a process that does not include life.

http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.cfm?release=2012-056

There are some awesome photos to be found here.

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/cassini/main/index.html

As always friends, keeping looking up and thinking forward. ■

*UTC is also called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Subtract 7 hours to convert to Pacific Daylight Time (PDT).

What's Your Hobby?

by Anna Wright

I've collected spoons for a long time — not the metal ones with the state names that fit neatly into racks where you can see them all — but wooden spoons carved or decorated that say to me "An artist made me."

I bought my first spoon in Wales when I was traveling during the '80s. They are a very common tourist acquisition and you can find them sold in almost every store through out the entire British Isles. The tradition holds that a suitor for a young ladies' hand would carve it as a gift. I read the label that told what the symbols stood for: hearts for love, caged balls for the number of children wanted, horse shoes for luck and so on. It was my modest start at collecting.

I actually have eBay to thank for providing me with most of the rest of my collection. It supplied me with spoons from sellers located all over the world. eBay, as the saying goes, was both a blessing and a curse. I probably went a little overboard buying my two hundred, more or less, treasures. I console myself, though, with the knowledge that traveling to find such acquisitions would have been a great deal more expensive and the little snippets of information the sellers provide about the cultural history of these wooden spoons was something I would not have found in tourist shops.



I found out that Norwegian Wedding Spoons are made with a chain connecting two small spoons, the longer the chain, the more adept the carver would be as a future provider. I'm not sure I am convinced of this deduction, but the Scandinavian winters are long and cold. Perhaps it's a good thing to have an indoor hobby to while away the hours.

European woodcarving is a well-known art in Germany. I have my Black Forest examples too. I bought many beautiful carved spoons in Romania and what used to be Yugoslavia. Each area is different and after a while I could even begin to identify the various regional carving styles.



Antique Russian *khokhloma* spoon

Russian spoons are not as elegantly carved as others in Europe, but are brightly painted. It used to be the custom to bring the hostess a spoon on one's first visit to another's home. She would then display all of her spoons on a wall to show that she was, indeed, an exceptional hostess.

While traveling in Hawaii I fell victim to the "shopping mania" and purchased the most disgustingly tourist item, an enormous Tiki salad set. Not only did I regret it as soon as I got back to the hotel, I realized that transporting these "treasures" back home was going to be a serious problem. In fact, I was the only one from our travel group who was pulled out of line at the airport and made to open my suitcase for inspection. What a

laugh the inspectors had to find a gigantic Tiki face staring back at them. (This happened years before Homeland Security became the ruler of the skies. I cannot imagine the reaction I would get today.) I was totally embarrassed. I think it was less than a month later, said tourist items were quietly left at our nearest charitable donation center. What someone else would do with these monsters, I have no idea.



Dan tribe w*unkirile* spoon from the Ivory Coast.

Central and west African carved spoons are much larger than their European counterparts. According to tradition, every village had a special woman who had been selected to be the official hostess for her community. Her spoon would be carved with her facial image and hairstyle on the handle. During special occasions and ceremonies she would serve everyone, especially the guests, from the large communal cooking pot — a very big honor for her.

According to another tradition in southern Africa, a Zulu husband would carve a wooden spoon for each new bride. (He could have a maximum of three wives.) She could use this spoon for dishing out her own food from the cooking pot. The downside: without this spoon, she was not allowed to eat with the family and so could be doomed to starve.

I have a set of spoons from the Pacific rim area. I'm not sure, but they could be of Philippine origin or possibly from the Papua/New Guinea area. There are 11 spoons in the set, all carved with family members on the handles, even mothers holding small children. The tradition given to me states that each person of a wedding party must have a personal carved spoon to use at the celebration. I have been unable to identify just where these particular spoons originated, but time and more research will surely prove fruitful in the end.



Traditional Zulu spoon with beading

The American northwest native peoples, especially the Haida, have a tradition of carving unique long, slender-bowled spoons. The ones I have seen so far have either been in museums or, those that were for sale, were too dear for my budget. Acquiring one of those will eventually be a *coup* for me! I think I could make room in my collection for one more. ■



Wedding spoons from Philippines or possibly Papua/New Guinea.

Puzzle Page answers:

1. *"Sahara Desert" is redundant. "Sahara" means "desert".*
2. "further" should be "farther", since it's referring to physical distance.
3. *"ever-present desert heat": deserts can and do get cold at night -- the same conditions that let all the heat in during the day let it out at night.*
4. *King Tut wasn't found until 1922.*
5. "financer's" should be "financier's"
6. "laden" should be "laid".
7. "quickly scanned": "scanned" means to examine something in depth, which doesn't match "quickly". That should be "skimmed".
8. The verb in "A large sum of dollars were..." should be "was". (It refers to the sum, not the dollars.)
9. "material" should be either "materials" or "materiel"
10. "illusive" should be "elusive" or possibly "illusory"
11. the plural of oasis is oases
12. "Something … to the east": comma splice.
13. "Complimenting" should be "Complementing"
14. *"dying light" would be to the west, not the east.*
15. "sillouette" should be "silhouette"
16. "edifise" should be "edifice"
17. & 18. "It's" is misused twice: "It's exterior" and "it's angles"
19. "tho" should be "though"
20. "duffle" should be "duffel"
21. "backwards" should be "backward" (assuming the author is American)
22. *the Browning Hi-Power wasn't released until 1922.*
23. "momento" should be "memento"
24. "He then bolts...": wrong verb tense.

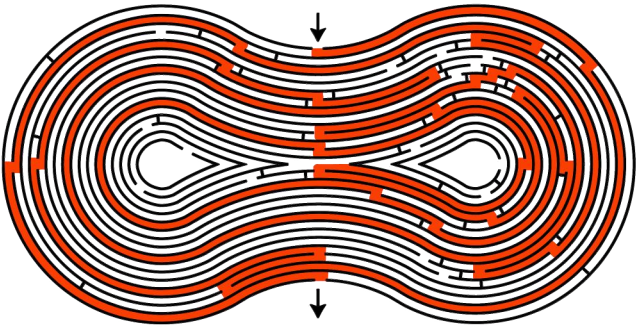
Sweet Tooth answers:

	1 P	2 O	3 P	4 S		5 U	6 S	7 S		8 A	9 B	10 S		11 C	12 U	13 R		14 D	15 O	16 T	17 S	
18 L	A	P	I	N		19 S	I	C		20 M	O	O		21 O	N	E		22 O	R	E	O	23 S
24 A	D	I	E	U		25 A	G	O		26 O	A	R		27 C	I	A		28 V	E	R	D	I
29 U	R	N		30 B	31 I	G	H	U	32 N	K		33 T	34 O	O	T	S	35 I	E		36 R	A	G
37 D	E	E	38 R		39 M	E	T	R	E				40 M	A	Y	O	R		41 H	A	S	H
			42 A	43 L	P	S			44 A	45 I	46 S	47 L	E				48 N	I	49 C	E		
50 M	51 E	52 N	T	O	S		53 B	54 I	T	O	H	O	N	55 E	56 Y		57 S	O	R	58 R	59 O	60 W
61 O	R	B	I	T		62 R	I	B		63 N	E	T		64 P	E	65 A		66 A	S	I	D	E
67 M	E	A	N	T		68 A	C	I	69 D				70 D	I	A	L		71 S	H	O	E	D
			72 G	O	73 B	I		74 D	I	75 V		76 M	A	C		77 M	78 A	T	E			
79 A	80 I	81 D	S		82 A	S	83 P		84 M	A	85 X	I	M		86 D	O	N		87 Y	88 E	89 A	90 R
91 D	I	E			92 S	I	R			93 D	I	N			94 U	N	O		95 S	P	Y	
96 Z	I	N	97 C		98 A	N	Y		99 S	U	I	T	100 S		101 O	D	D		102 I	C	E	E
			103 A	104 B	L	E		105 P	E	Z		106 S	E	107 E		108 J	E	109 S	S			
110 P	111 A	112 N	D	A		113 T	114 W	I	X				115 A	E	116 R	O		117 A	L	118 A	119 T	120 E
121 A	R	A	B	S		122 S	A	N		123 P	124 A	125 M		126 L	A	Y		127 R	A	D	I	O
128 R	E	B	U	T	129 S		130 S	T	131 A	R	B	U	132 R	S	T		133 M	A	N	D	M	S
			134 R	E	I	135 N			136 N	E	R	D	S			137 K	I	N	D			
138 R	139 A	140 C	Y		141 N	E	142 C	143 C	O				144 V	145 A	146 T	I	C		147 S	148 T	149 A	150 R
151 O	B	I		152 M	E	S	H	I	N	153 G		154 S	P	R	I	T	E	155 S		156 I	W	O
157 L	A	R	158 V	A		159 T	A	D		160 A	161 R	K		162 I	N	K		163 P	164 E	T	A	L
165 O	S	C	A	R		166 L	I	E		167 L	E	O		168 E	T	A		169 A	V	A	I	L
	170 E	A	T	S		171 E	R	R		172 A	P	R		173 S	S	T		174 R	E	N	T	





Mensa for Kids!



Fallen Tiles:

l o	e e d	h u r	a n	B u	e s n	t a	u n
e c	t e	d t	A l l	d o	h o c	t .	l i
h e n	t t l	o l a	i s	v e .	n o w	' t	y o

A l l	y o	u n	e e d	i s	l o	v e .	B u
t a	l i	t t l	e c	h o c	o l a	t e	n o w
a n	d t	h e n	d o	e s n	' t	h u r	t .

Missing Numbers:

The numbers in the first column are the “base” numbers. The numbers in the second column (the exponents) show how many times the base number is multiplied by itself. For example, 3 times itself TWO times is 3 x 3 = 9*

	Problem 1				Problem 2		
3	one	3	because $3^1 = 3$	5	one	5	because $5^1 = 5$
3	two	**9**	because $3^2 = 9$*	5	two	**25**	because $5^2 = 25$
3	three	27	because $3^3 = 27$	5	three	**125**	because $5^3 = 125$
3	four	**81**	because $3^4 = 81$	5	four	625	because $5^4 = 625$

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