



My activity book about
Water, the Desert and
the Cahuilla Indians

Cahuilla Story

The Cahuilla Indians have been in the area that we now know as the Coachella Valley for many hundreds of years. The Coachella Valley is part of the Colorado Desert. They lived on the valley floor, mountain passes and in the mountains. The Cahuilla were hunters and gatherers who produced clay pottery and woven baskets. The desert Cahuilla usually located their villages at the mouths of canyons where the weather was more mild and there was usually a reliable source of water. Trenches were sometimes dug from water sources to irrigate small crops that were grown for food.

The Cahuilla used many of the plants and animals around them for food, shelter, clothing and other items. Some of the plants they used were the mesquite, palm and oak trees, yucca, agave, cholla and barrel cactus. All parts of the mesquite tree were used including the flowers, pods, leaves, bark, roots and sap. Palm fronds were used to cover the roofs of their homes or kishes. Acorns gathered from oak trees were ground into flour and used to make breads and to thicken soups. Yucca fibers were used to make baskets, clothing, shoes and ropes.

The Cahuilla also planted and harvested other plants for food such as corn, wheat, pumpkins, watermelons and sunflowers. For hunting, a bow and arrow was often used. Antelope and rabbits were either trapped or shot with a bow and arrow to be used for food. Their skins were sewn together for shoes, clothing and blankets.

In areas where water wasn't free-flowing, the Cahuilla dug wells. Their wells were interesting because they were large enough for someone to walk down into them. The wells were about thirty feet deep and they were called walk-down wells because the Cahuilla women would walk down several steps before reaching the water level. They would fill large jugs called "ollas" (oi-yas) with water and carry them back to the village.

The Cahuilla used all of the resources around them very wisely. They never wasted or over used what they had, especially water.

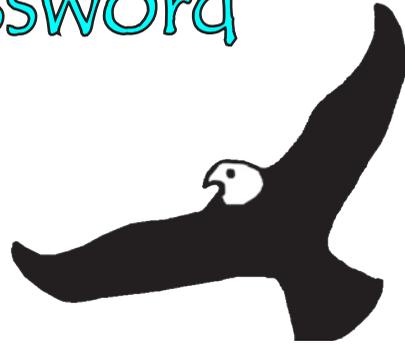
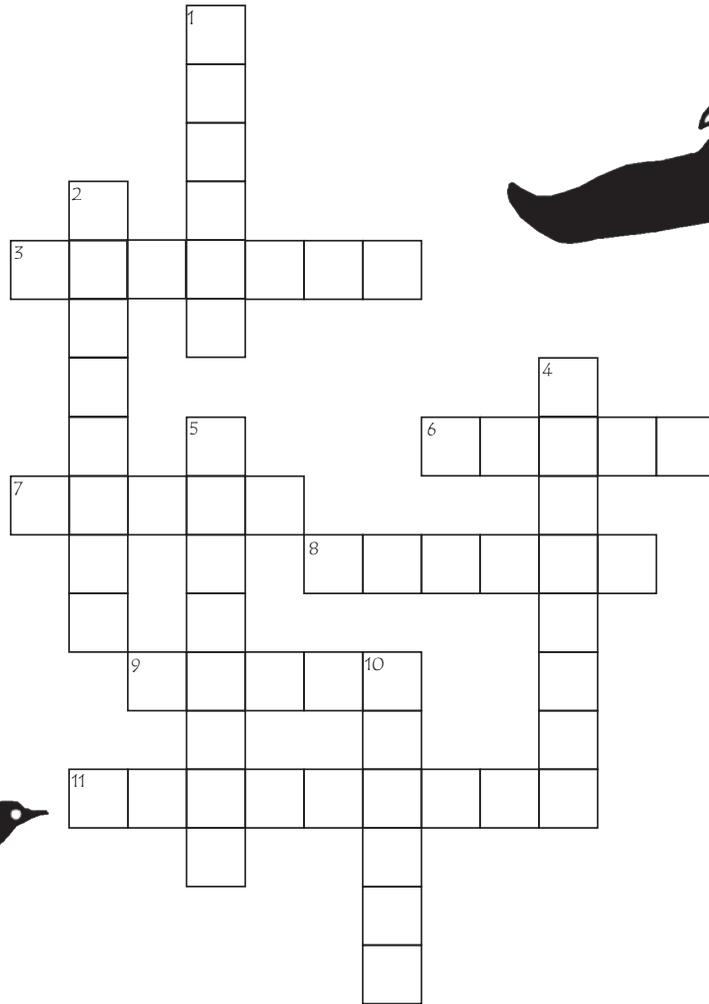
Find the hidden pictures



In this large picture find the olla, snake, fish, hunting bow, arrowhead, coyote, acorn, prickly pear cactus, road runner, owl, eagle, mesquite bean, rabbit and big horn sheep.

To find all the answers, read the "Cahuilla Story" on page 2.

Cahuilla Crossword



Across

3. You use clay to make this.
6. Water was collected and stored in these containers.
7. The Cahuilla were very careful not to waste this.
8. The oak tree provided these which were ground into flour.
9. The fibers from this plant were used to make clothing, shoes and baskets.
11. The Cahuilla were hunters and _____.

Down

1. The walk-down wells were sometimes _____ feet deep.
2. The Cahuilla lived in the _____ Desert.
4. Animal skins were used to make shoes, clothing and these.
5. All parts of this tree were used by the Cahuilla.
10. A bow and _____ was used to shoot some animals for food.



Animals of the Desert

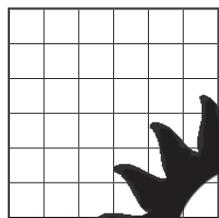
S Q U I R R E L R O B T L E O
A N O P K A N G A R O O R A T
N R C B L M T N R X B T A P A
T O O H Q I E T A O C K B U R
E A U P V Q Z R L O A E B P A
L D G R A C W A Y E T R I F N
O R A A I O H D R F S G A I T
P U R B L Y I W J D K N L S U
E N M B F O X O A P O Q A H L
R N S I U T V W X L W Y Z K A
A E B T D E F E A G L E B H E
D R A G O N F L Y J K A L M N
O H U M M I N G B I R D Q R S
T V B I G H O R N S H E E P U
W Y Z A C T O R T O I S E E D

ANTELOPE
BIG HORN SHEEP
BOB CAT
CHUCKWALLA
COUGAR
COYOTE
DRAGON FLY

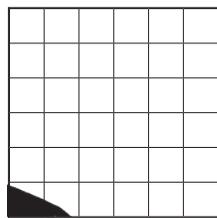
EAGLE
FOX
HUMMINGBIRD
KANGAROO RAT
LIZARD
OWL
PUP FISH

QUAIL
RABBIT
RATTLE SNAKE
ROADRUNNER
SQUIRREL
TARANTULA
TORTOISE

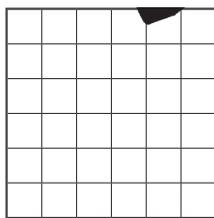
Picture Puzzle



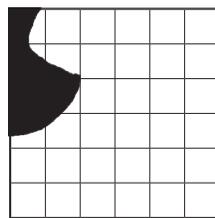
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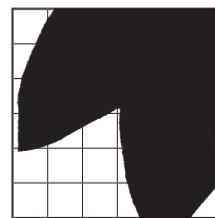
F5



E3



B6



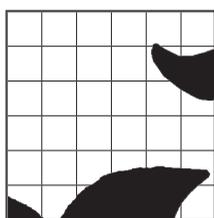
D3



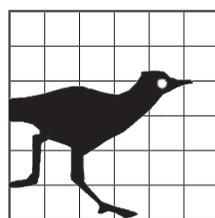
C3



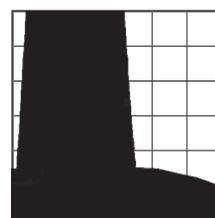
D4



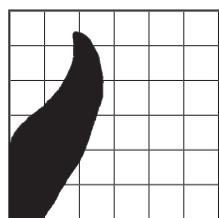
B4



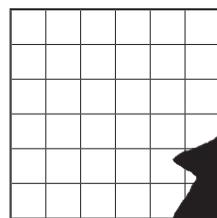
F2



F4



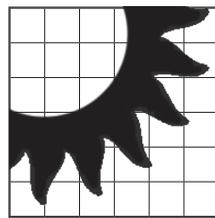
A6



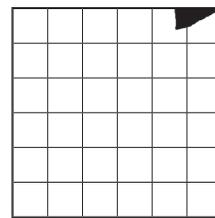
C2



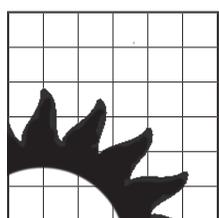
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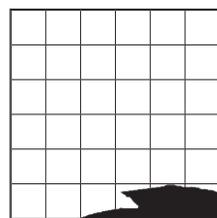
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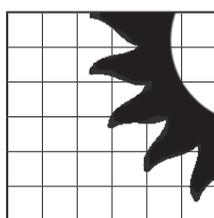
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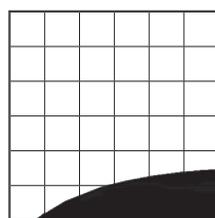
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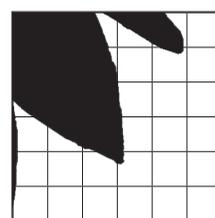
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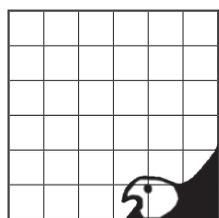
B1



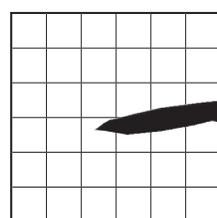
F3



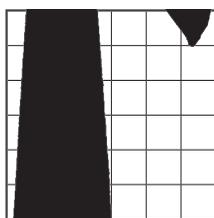
D5



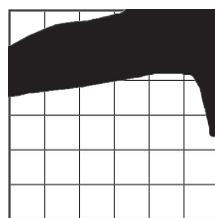
A5



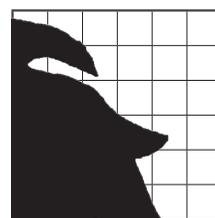
F1



E4



B5



C5

1 2 3 4 5 6

A

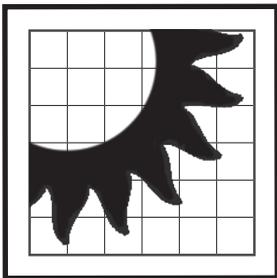
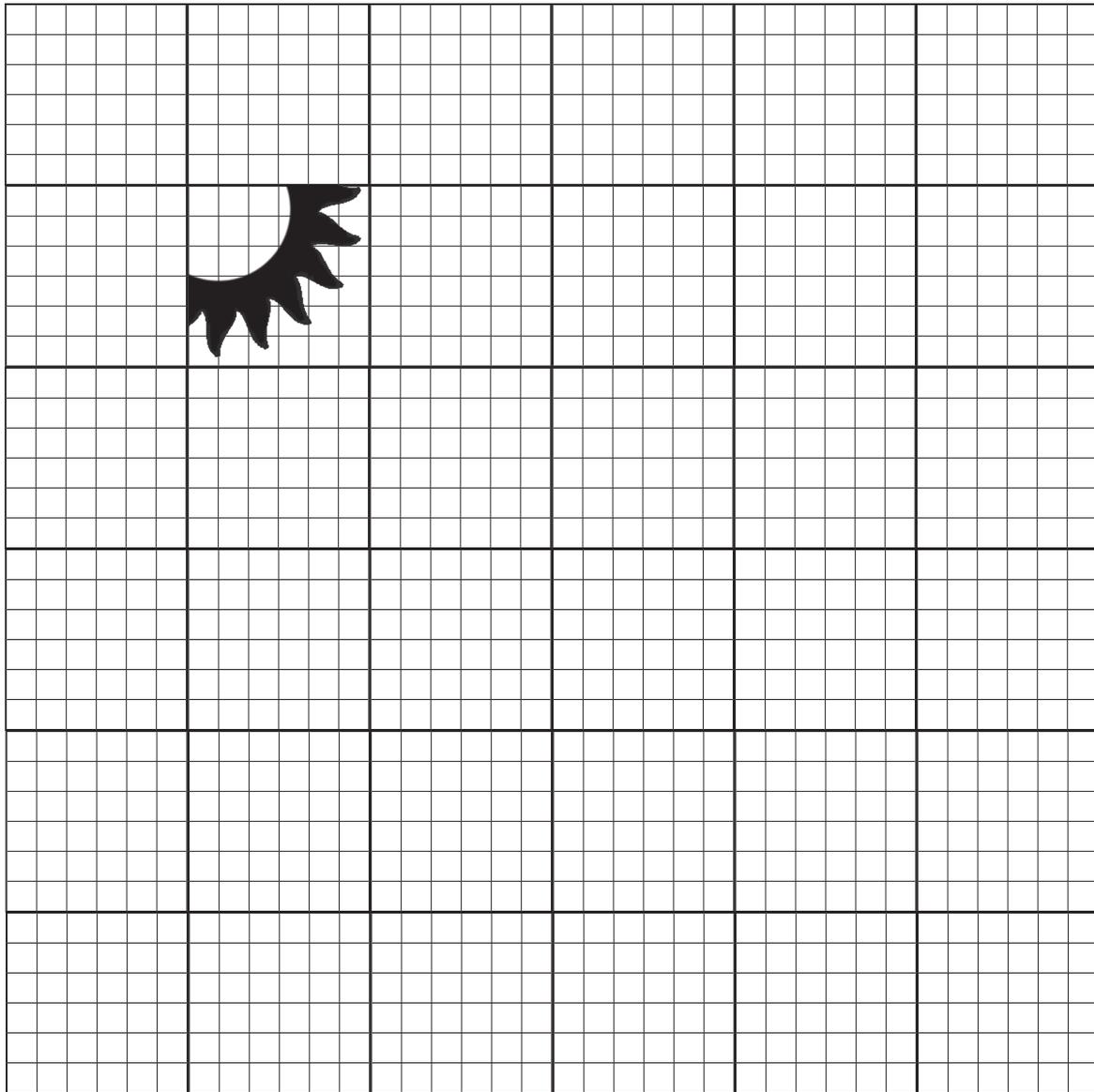
B

C

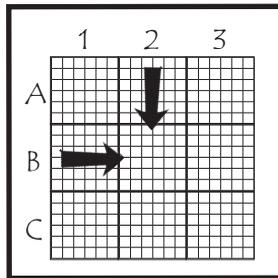
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E

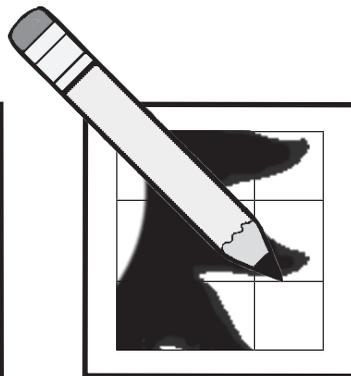
F



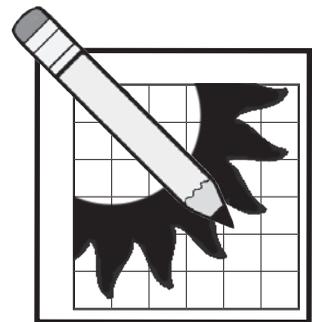
Complete the picture puzzle by filling in the squares as shown.



Find where each grid box from the clues belongs on the puzzle using the letter of the row and the number of the column.

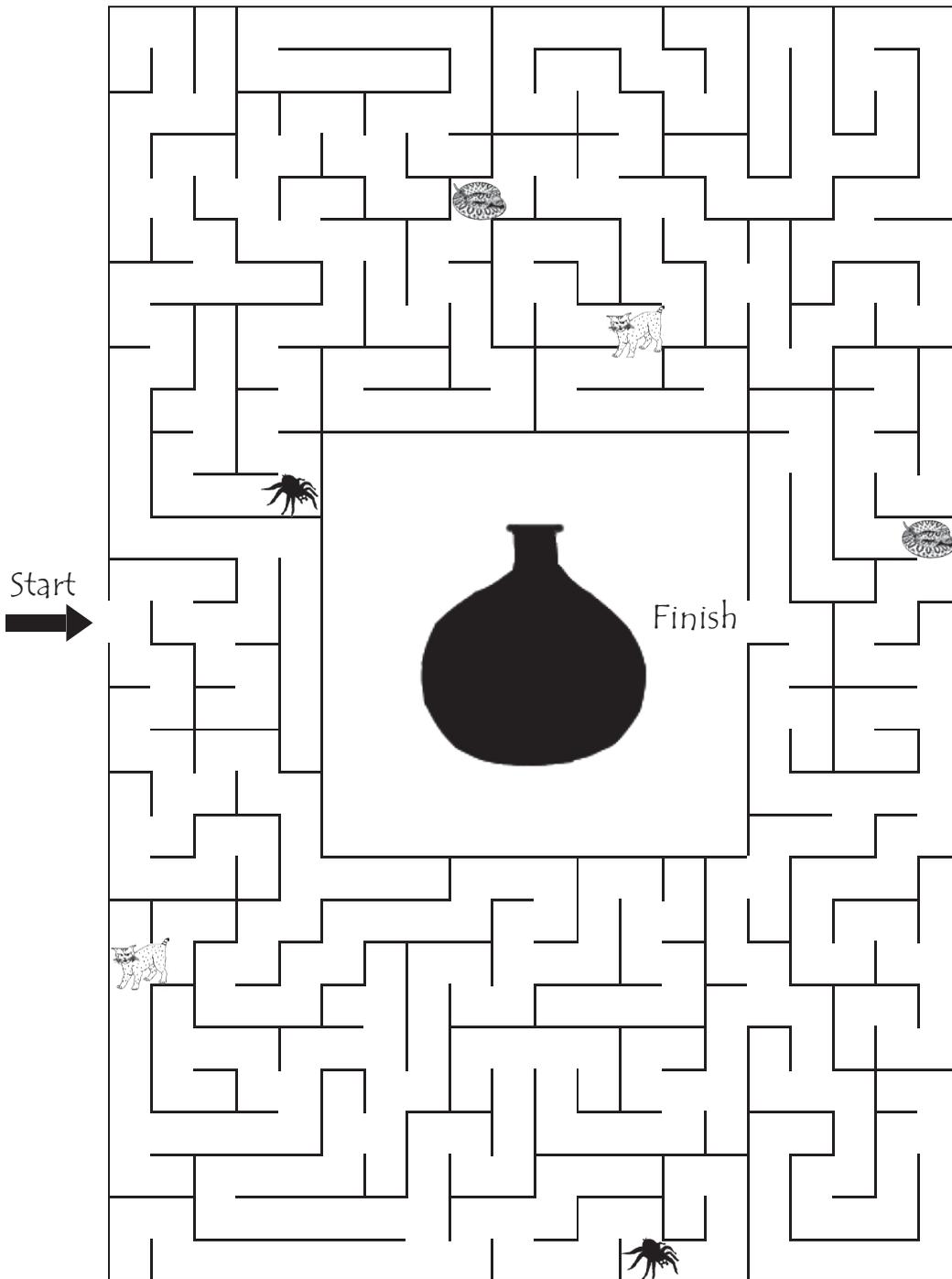


Copy the grid box exactly as it appears in the clue.



B2 is done for you. Complete the others to reveal the picture.

In Search of Water

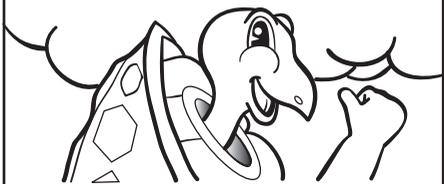


Help the Cahuilla find their olla so they can collect water at the well. Watch out for hazards along the way!

Warning: This comic contains hard words. Go to the back page for a fun exercise to help you understand them.

CVWD COMICS PRESENTS

Tutor Tortoise



As his Alter ego



Tortuga
(the battling tortoise)

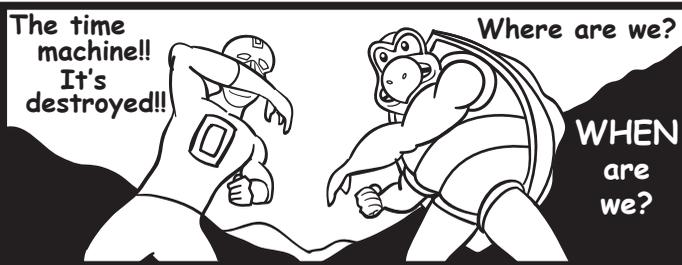
...and his sensational sidekick,
Xerophilous in...

TIME for TIME

When we last left the battling tortoise and his **stupendous sidekick**, they had narrowly escaped the evil clutches of **Monotreme** (the terrific twosome's duck-billed **nemesis**) by diving into their trusty time machine...



Alas, shortly after their daring escape, a power core meltdown ruined hope of further travel and left them stranded somewhere in the past.



My **timer** shows that we've landed in California...in 1507 A.D.



Impossible! How could anything survive this desert heat?



Thank goodness our **Universal Translation Device** survived the explosion! It'll help us talk to them.

We **MUST** talk to them! It's our only hope!



Welcome to our village O' large turtle man and **wacky sidekick**. Yes, we can help **sustain** your lives by supplying you with water...but first you must hear the amazing story of where this water came from.

Thank You



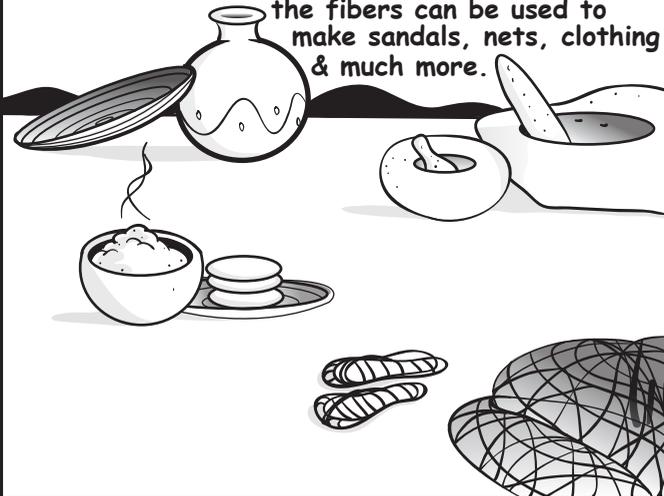
Years ago our village sat on the shores of a **vast** lake that stretched as far as the eye could see. The lake provided us with an **abundance** of fish. But for some reason, the lake began to disappear. Little by little the water receded until there was nothing left...



...Much of the water seeped into the ground. Now we must dig wells to get it.



We use the water to make baskets and pottery. It also helps us to process and cook food. We use water to remove fibers from the Yucca plant. the fibers can be used to make sandals, nets, clothing & much more.



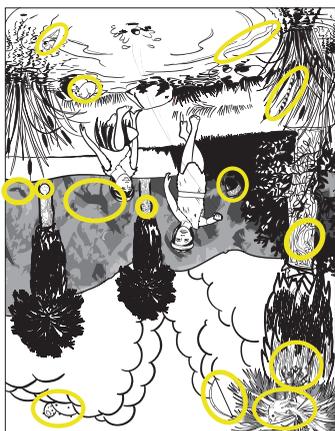
That's amazing!! Can you use water to fix our time machine?!

Oh good grief!

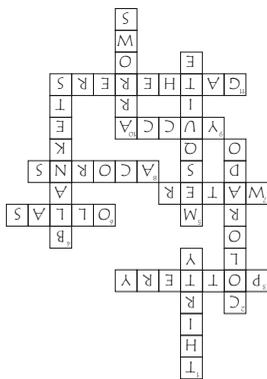


Dictionary Study

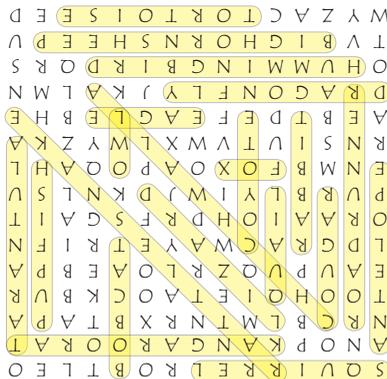
- abundance: _____
- alter ego: _____
- amazing: _____
- device: _____
- explosion: _____
- monotreme: _____
- nemesis: _____
- sidekick: _____
- stupendous: _____
- sustain: _____
- timeter: This is an imaginary word.
- translation: _____
- universal: _____
- vast: _____
- wacky: _____
- xerophilous: _____



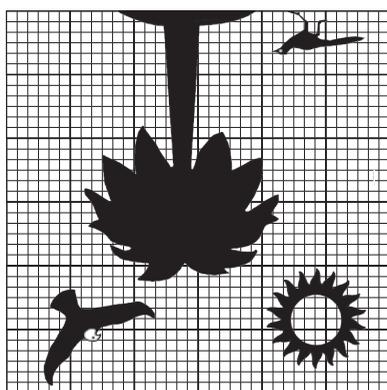
From page 3.



From page 4.

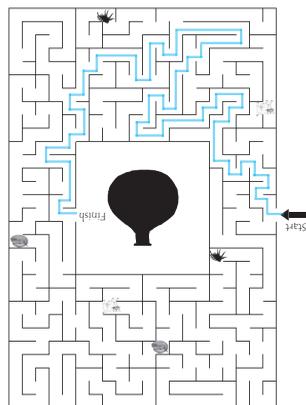


From page 5.



From pages 6 & 7.

- Complete the sentences, then use your answers to decode the message in the box below.
- The **C a h u i l l a s** were the first people to live in the Cahulla Valley.
 - K i s h** is the Cahulla name for house.
 - To carry water from canyon streams and walk down with, the Cahulla woman made **o l l a s** from **c l a y**.
 - The Cahulla were the first North American Indians known to dig **w e l l s**.
 - Cahulla women are known for making beautiful oiled **b a s k e t s**.
 - Sooks from desert **p l a n t s** were a nutritious and important **f o o d** for the Cahulla. The women would **g r a b** the sooks into flour.
 - Cahulla dug irrigation ditches lined with **f o c k s** to carry canyon stream water to their gardens.
 - The **m e s s a g e** is the most important word to the Cahulla. The **h e e d** provided food, shelter, building material and had many other uses. Hint: The numbers tell you the number of the letter in the alphabet.
- Decode the message and find out how the coyote is like the Cahulla!
- During the summer the **c o y o t e** has been known to dig wells **g r a b** feet deep in search of water.



From page 9.