Winter's Stellar Travel

by Dustin Foley

As you make vacation plans over the holidays, remember that wintertime lends itself to plenty of travel options besides planes, trains, and automobiles. These four interconnected puzzles each provide another mode of transport for you to consider.

Dog Sleds

These dogs are so excited about the Iditarod dog sled race that they're running all over this grid – up, down, left, and right, but not diagonally. Their paths never cross each other, but they do make several 90-degree turns. A dog's path will never loop back and touch a previous part of its own path. The dogs are shown here in alphabetical order, and the numbers represent their lengths.

10

















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Downhill Skiing



Words and phrases are skiing in straight lines diagonally down these seven mountains, like the words SNOW, KEN, ID, ON, NED, and SKIS in the example at the left. The ten clues for each mountain are ordered in the same way as that list of words for the example, starting and ending with the mountain's six-letter words. Some letters have been provided for you.

#1

- Stayed for a while (at a ski resort, maybe) - Still to come
- Powdered drink used by NASA
- Org. associated with Apr. 15
- Sodium's symbol
- O'Neill or Sullivan, e.g.
- Choke
- Lairs
- Scarlett's surname in "Gone with the Wind" Ventriloquist's primary asset
- Like Ricky Martin or Cheech Marin

#2

- Inhabitant of snowy climates
- Mesh tool used by cooks or Eratosthenes
- Duplicate
- Simple shelter
- Former spouse
- First person pronoun
- Creeping plant
- Retained
- Sitting Bull's tribe
- Deliberately abstain from

- #3
- Chopped, Scandal, or Taxi, e.g. (2 wds) Status level
- Enter a car, slangily (2 wds)
- Unruly mob event
- Columbus Dav's mo.
- First word of the Constitution
- Light switch setting
- Slam into
- Location
- Tossed
- #4
- Trainee of a sort
- Bullwinkle, for one
- Get ready, like a cook
- a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" - "
- Abbr. in email subject lines
- Psychic's power
- Sandals show them
- San Francisco-Seattle direction
- Mischievous, like a little goblin

#5

- Sudden jolt, or website for video game live streams
- Matrix
- Huge pile
- Place to rent a room
- Poet Eliot
- Pitcher Young
- Interact with a touchscreen, maybe
- Persia, today
- Certain small, brown birds
- Largest island in French Polynesia

#6

- Sky's twins
- Send out of the country
- Popular sandwich type
- Stephen King story with Pennywise the clown
- DC-NYC dir
- Type of people
- Breath freshener
- Strongly praise
- Common pet rodent

#7

- Annovinaly complex process or event
- Units of movie film length, once
- Onomatopoetic "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" band
- Body part with an anvil
- Multi-oz. unit
- Word often in similes
- Shady tree and common street name
- First word of many letters
- Restorative therapy
- Author who invented Big Brother



- "Quiet!"

Snow, Mobile

2

Each circle represents a pile of snow that needs to be moved in one direction horizontally or vertically. Piles labeled with numbers must be moved that exact distance. Unlabeled piles can be moved any distance (at least 1 space). The piles' paths may not intersect each other at all, even at start and end points, so it's useful to shade in all squares they travel through. After all piles have been moved, every heavilyoutlined region must contain exactly one pile.

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3



Pairs Ice Skating

After solving the previous three puzzles, you may have discovered a short word or phrase hidden in each of your solutions. Enter those three final answers across the top row of circles below, in this order:

- How a race might be decided
- What you might hear someone say on a mountain
- How much snow needs to get moved

When three skaters meet, the one without a partner stays behind, while the other two continue on their way. The numbers are just to help you keep track of the skaters' paths; you can ignore them if you'd like.

There was one mode of winter transportation I wanted to include here, but couldn't. The answer to this puzzle will reveal why I wasn't able to.

