

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!



Downhill Skiing

Words and phrases are skiing in straight lines diagonally down these seven mountains. Ten words fit in each mountain, ranging from 2 to 6 letters, but each mountain's clues are in random order. Some letters have been provided for you.

#1

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

#2

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

#3

- Chopped, Scandal, or Taxi, e.g. (2 wds)
- Columbus Day's mo.
- Enter a car, slangily (2 wds)
- First word of the Constitution
- Light switch setting
- Location
- Slam into
- Tossed
- Unruly mob event
- Ventriloquist's primary asset

#4

- "___ a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World"
- Abbr. in email subject lines
- Bullwinkle, for one
- Get ready, like a cook
- Mischievous, like a little goblin
- Psychic's power
- "Quiet!"
- San Francisco to Seattle direction
- Sandals show them
- Trainee of a sort

#5

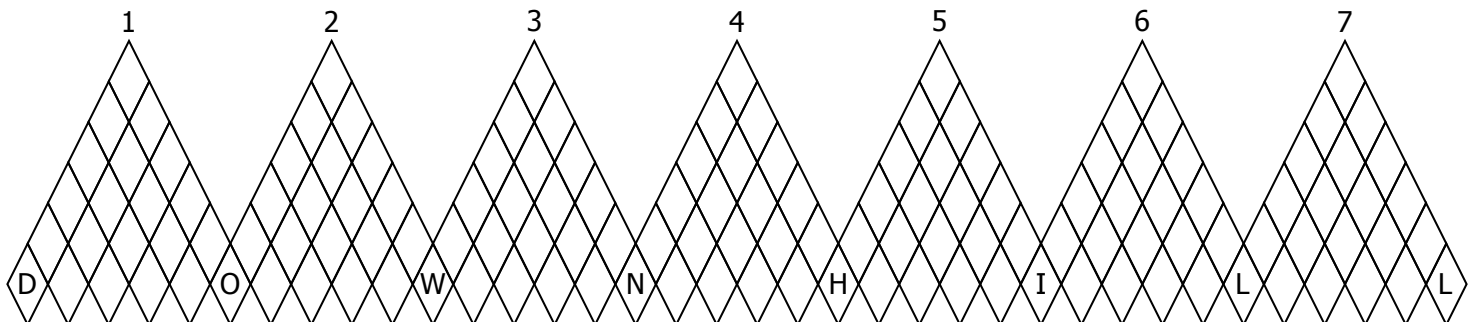
- Certain small, brown birds
- Huge pile
- Interact with a touchscreen, maybe
- Largest island in French Polynesia
- Matrix
- Persia, today
- Pitcher Young
- Place to rent a room
- Poet Eliot
- Sudden jolt, or website for video game live streams

#6

- Breath freshener
- Common pet rodent
- DC to NYC dir
- Popular three-part sandwich
- Send out of the country
- Status level
- Stephen King story with Pennywise the clown
- Strongly praise
- Twins in the sky
- Type of people

#7

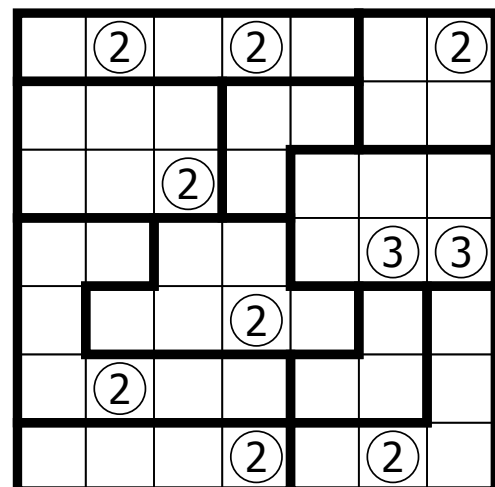
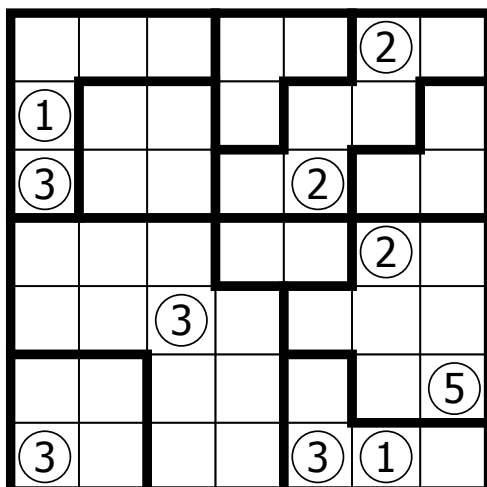
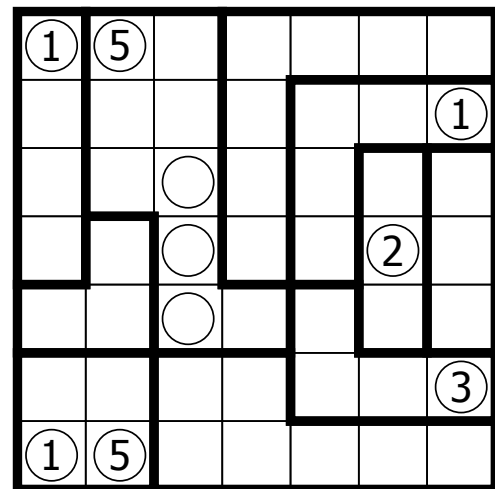
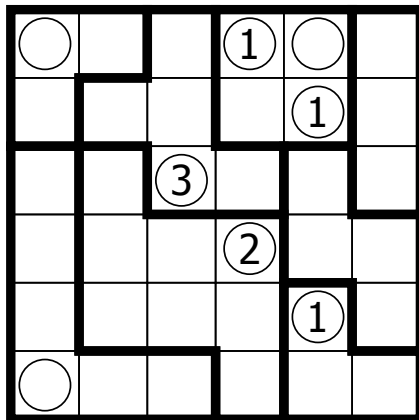
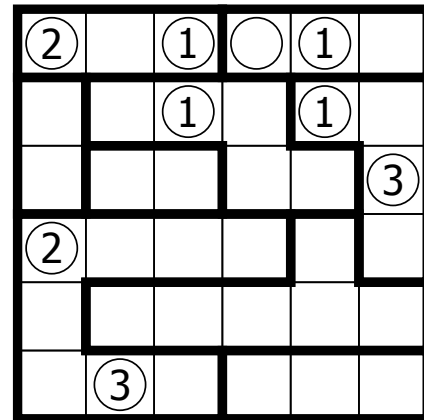
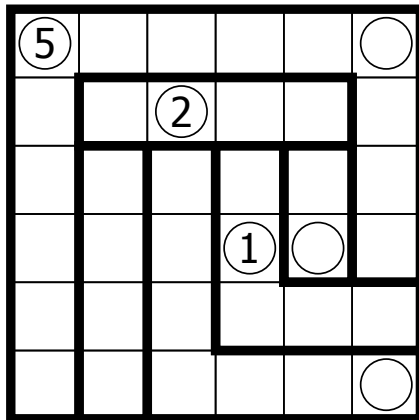
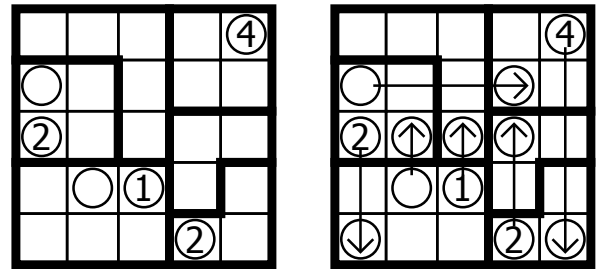
- Annoyingly complex process or event
- Author who invented Big Brother
- Body part with an anvil
- First word of many letters
- Multi-oz. unit
- Restorative therapy
- Shady tree and common street name
- Units of movie film length, once
- Onomatopoeic "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" band
- Word often in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



Snow, Mobile

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. After all piles have been moved, every heavily-outlined region must contain exactly one pile.

EXAMPLE



Pairs Ice Skating

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.

In the top row, enter the words or phrases that match these three clues, in this order:

- How a race might be decided
- What you might hear someone say on a mountain
- The amount of snow that was 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.

