

The Cold Hard Data - Answers

By Zoey Foley

Ice Boxes

Each box contains some subset of the digits 1234567, in order. For each of those digits, temporarily highlight the boxes containing that digit, in order to form the shape of a letter similar to the letters by the title of this puzzle. Those letters spell the answer, SUBZERO.

Weather Predictions

The y-axis of the graph represents the alphabet, where the first mark up from the bottom is A, then B, then C, up to the top mark being Z. The 5 lines each represent a weather-related word that is spelled out letter by letter from left to right. Each line hits the very bottom mark, labeled "?", which represents a missing data point. Based on the other letters the line goes through, the missing letters can be deduced.

If we take the lines in the order of the 5 patterns beneath the title, we get:

HAIL?TORM = HAIL(S)TORM

DRO?GHT = DRO(U)GHT

RAI?BOW = RAI(N)BOW

THU?DER = THU(N)DER

C?CLONE = C(Y)CLONE

The missing letters spell the answer, SUNNY.

What Do You Think Is Cool?

Within each category covered by a pie chart, some items are associated with warmth, while others are associated with the cold.

1. Warming appliances vs Cooling appliances
Warm: Microwave, Toaster, Stove, Radiator
Cool: Fridge, Fan
2. Summer months vs Winter months
Warm: July, June, August
Cool: December, January, February
3. Deserts vs Mountains
Warm: Mojave, Sahara, Gobi, Atacama, Kalahari
Cool: Everest, Fuji
4. Reds vs Blues
Warm: Crimson, Magenta, Ruby, Scarlet, Maroon
Cool: Navy, Cyan, Turquoise
5. Food served on fire vs Food served raw
Warm: Steak Diane, Bananas Foster, Crepes Suzette, Cherries Jubilee

Cool: Beef Tartare, Sashimi

6. Films set on the beach vs Films set during winter in New York

Warm: Point Break, Moana, Jaws, Lilo and Stitch, Baywatch

Cool: Home Alone, Elf

In each pie chart, filling in the wedges representing the “cool” items will create a shape that roughly looks like a letter of the alphabet. These letters spell ARCTIC, like the Arctic Circle, appropriately.

Animal Groupings

Each shading pattern represents a set of letters that can be arranged to form the name of an animal. If an animal name contains 2 or 3 instances of that letter, then the segment of the stacked bar graph is appropriately sized. In the order of patterns shown in the legend, which is also the top-to-bottom order of the bars as well as the animal name order from smallest to largest.

White: EORTT = OTTER

Striped: ABBIRT = RABBIT

Dotted: ACEEHHT = CHEETAH

Gray: AAADKRRV = AARDVARK

As indicated in the legend, look at the first letters of the animals in this order to get the answer, ORCA.

Floe Chart

Simply follow the instructions for each number from ONE to EIGHT:

ONE → Less → Odd → 3rd letter = E

TWO → Less → Even → Squared = 4 → -3 = 1 → Alphabetically = A

THREE → Less → Odd → 3rd letter = R

FOUR → Less → Even → Squared = 16 → -3 = 13 → Alphabetically = M

FIVE → Greater → -1 = 4 → Equals letters in its name → 3rd letter = U

SIX → Greater → -1 = 5 → Unequal to letters → -1 = 4 → 1st letter = F

SEVEN → Greater → -1 = 6 → Unequal to letters → -1 = 5 → 1st letter = F

EIGHT → Greater → -1 = 7 → Unequal to letters → -1 = 6 → 1st letter = S

The resulting letters, in order, spell EARMUFFS.

National Heat Index

The arrows form a path through different countries labeled with temperatures. For each country, take its letter at the position equal to the given temperature.

Portugal, 6 = G

Ireland, 2 = R

(The) Netherlands, 5 = E

Belgium, 2 = E

France, 4 = N

Italy, 4 = L

Germany, 5 = A

Denmark, 3 = N

Sweden, 4 = D

These letters spell the answer, GREENLAND.

The Cold Hard Data Metapuzzle

The answers to the 6 mini-puzzles are all different lengths from 4 letters to 9 letters. The diagram at the very top, next to the introduction, has rows of squares of length 4 to 9, where the answers can be filled in.

EARMUFFS

-----ARCTIC

-----ORCA

---SUBZERO

----GREENLAND

----SUNNY

There are only 2 columns of the diagram that are complete with 6 letters. These 2 columns reveal the problem you've encountered, a FROZEN SCREEN.