

Is It Hunt Yet?

Every January, MIT hosts a huge puzzle hunt called the MIT Mystery Hunt. I've participated for several years; here are some of my memories, which unfortunately aren't in chronological order. (Note: You don't need to look up any specific puzzles from these hunts.)

One year, we didn't visit the actual campus, but an alternate "perpendicular" version of it. In one puzzle, someone named Joni took us in a big yellow taxi so we could listen to music on both sides now. (6/8)

One year, we traveled from a museum to a factory so we could reactivate some weird AIs. We had to go up a broken escalator that was temporarily stairs, and find a receipt for a donut and a red banana -- it was really comedic. (4/5 7)

One year, we explored a theme park and generated buzz for it. A physical puzzle required using a motorized tool to make very accurate crosscuts. (8/5 3)

One year, we investigated the mystery of the missing Shadow Diamond. In one puzzle, we identified various metals, particularly a set of armor made by elves. (6/7)

One year, we helped Miss Terry Hunter sort out her internal emotions. In one puzzle, we reversed the negative effects of things like risk, taxes, and climate change. (10/10)

One year, we drove across the U.S., helping mythological characters to make up for what happened to Pluto. One puzzle felt like a mix of electrical engineering and biology, where we were given cells and needed to make powerhouses for them. (4/12)

One year, we explored lands devoted to specific literary genres. One puzzle was a maze through the circulatory system, and we ended up between the heart's left atrium and left ventricle. (4/6 5)

One year, we worked with Jack Skellington over several days to fix a mess caused by molasses. One Japanese logic puzzle was on a grid made of 3 diamonds all touching at one corner, which we used to make cars. (4/10)

One year, we visited multiple dimensions and collected a bunch of Puzzmon (Puzzle Monsters). The first area we visited was so cold, our hands would have frozen if they didn't have any protective accessories. (6/7)

One year, when a tabletop RPG got out of hand, we had to battle the wizard Mystereo Cantos. In one puzzle, we read passages from the Torah to reach adulthood, using a "bar" or "bat". (6/7)