

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

Brilliant Star

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VOL. 48, NO. 3



NASA SCIENTISTS ANSWER
YOUR QUESTIONS

QUIZ: HOW POSITIVE
ARE YOU?

Spirit of Adventure

Brilliant Star

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Brilliant Star empowers kids to explore their roles as world citizens. Inspired by the principles of peace and unity in the Bahá'í Faith, we encourage readers to use their virtues to make the world a better place.

The Bahá'í Faith is the second most widespread religion in the world, with over five million Bahá'ís. It was founded by the Prophet Bahá'u'lláh ("Glory of God" in Arabic) in 1863. Bahá'u'lláh taught that all people are part of one human family, and all religions come from one God. Bahá'u'lláh's eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, interpreted His teachings and led the Bahá'í community after Bahá'u'lláh's passing.

Today, Bahá'ís work to bring love and justice to the world, and end prejudice and discrimination of all kinds.

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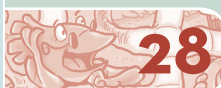
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DEAR FRIENDS,

When you peer into your future, what fascinating adventures await? What exciting choices and challenges will you face?

On your life journey, you get to decide if you'll travel with joy and hope, or with negativity. When you're optimistic and inspired to go after your dreams, you can more easily find your path of service. Do you look forward to the fun that each day can bring? Are you open to trying new things? What goals would you love to achieve?

Explore these questions and more in this issue of *Brilliant Star*. Quiz yourself about your positive outlook and zoom through a thrilling zip line maze. Build a fun wind whirler out of an empty water bottle, and create a personal adventure book. Make a mystery drawing with COD1, our new computer coding character. And get to know Collis Ta'eed, who cofounded a global tech company and the website, Baha'i Blog.

No matter where your path leads, your life can be an awesome adventure — if you see it as one. Happy travels!



LOVE, BRILLIANT STAR ☆



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🔍 Brilliant Star's Awesome New Website



Brilliant Star is zooming through cyberspace—and we want you to join us! Check out our new website as we share craft projects, music videos, how-to-draw videos, interactive games, and more. Our digital creation tool, Imagination Station, has fun and fabulous features you won't find anywhere else. With new navigation and improved compatibility with tablets and smartphones, you can explore from anywhere. Try out this online scavenger hunt to get started!

1. Bahá'ís believe that developing virtues is a life Y .
2. Andy Grammer's first collection of songs was called "The R Is Yours."
3. Our kid blogger, Jessie, lives on a farm and is taking care of a B named Moose.
4. *Brilliant Star* characters Zeke and Rhombus are from planet L .
5. When you click "About" you can find out how to become a Radiant Star or a youth advisor, called a T .

NEW HEIGHTS

“Reflect a while, and consider how they who are the loved ones of God must conduct themselves, and to what heights they must soar.” —Bahá’u’lláh

Do you ever get so busy with homework, sports, or music practice that you forget to think about life’s big picture? Sometimes it’s a good idea to pause and take a broader view. What are your dreams? What qualities are most important to develop? What do you want to achieve?

Scan the horizon for adventures and opportunities

that will help you become the person you want to be. Set goals for yourself. Are your daily pursuits taking you in the right direction?

If some of your activities don’t fit with your flight plan, consider cutting them loose. Set a course for your destination, then step aboard and soar into your brilliant future.

From these word fragments, connect eight pairs to complete words that help you soar toward your future.



Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

Exile to Baghdád

A Brief Timeline

The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

The highlighted
area marks the
time in which this
story takes place.

1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh
in Tihrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as
a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the
"Black Pit" of Tihrán

1853–1863

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq.
From 1854–1856, He
goes into the mountains
to pray in solitude.

1863 April 22

Declares Divine Mission
as Prophet-Founder
of the Bahá'í Faith

1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople
(Istanbul), then Adrianople
(Edirne), Turkey. Begins
writing letters to kings
and rulers in 1867,
urging world unity

1868

Last exile, to prison-
city of 'Akká, Israel

1877

Finally free to live in
countryside homes
of Mazra'ih and then
Bahjí, outside 'Akká

1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes
away at Bahjí.

Imagine spending four months in a filthy, pitch-dark dungeon. When you're finally released, you learn that you've been banished from your homeland, never to return.

That's what Bahá'u'lláh faced in December of 1852. He had been locked in the Sáyáh-Chál, or "Black Pit," of Tihrán, Persia (now Iran). There was no light, no heat, and no escape from the horrible stench. At times, a 112-pound (51 kg) chain hung around Bahá'u'lláh's neck.

He had committed no crime. He was imprisoned for being a Bábí, a follower of a Messenger of God called the Báb, or "Gate," who had been executed in 1850. The Báb taught that a new era was beginning for humanity, and that another Messenger would soon bring new teachings from God.

After the Báb's execution, two angry and crazed Bábís attempted to kill the sháh, or king, of Iran. An ineffective weapon was used, but the sháh was wounded. Bahá'u'lláh denounced their terrible act of violence. Still, He was swept up in a wave of severe persecutions directed at the entire Bábí community.

Bahá'u'lláh was ill and exhausted when He was freed, but He had to leave Iran in a month's time. It was the dead of winter, and a month wasn't long enough to recover and prepare. His wife, Navváb, sold the few valuables she had to pay for supplies.

On January 12, 1853, Bahá'u'lláh set out for Baghdád, in what is now Iraq, with His family and two officials. His eldest son, 'Abbás (later known as



A view of Tihrán, Iran, where Bahá'u'lláh suffered imprisonment for His faith in 1852.

'Abdu'l-Bahá) was eight years old, and His daughter, Bahíyyih, was six. The youngest, Mírzá Mihdí, wasn't well enough to make the journey safely, so he stayed behind with family. He joined his parents some years later.

Today, you can drive the 545 miles (877 km) from Tihrán to Baghdád in about eight hours or fly in one hour. But at that time, traveling by mule and on foot, the trip took three months!

The exiles trekked through snowy mountains with little protection from the bitter temperatures. 'Abbás got frostbite. "The cold is so intense that one cannot even speak," Bahá'u'lláh wrote, "and ice and snow so abundant that it is impossible to move."

Fortunately, Bahá'u'lláh was treated with kindness everywhere He stopped along the way. People offered Him gifts, which He gently refused. In the village of Karand, Iran, the governor greeted Him with reverence.

**“Blessed are the steadfastly enduring, they that are patient under ills and hardships,
who lament not over anything that befalleth them . . .” — Bahá’u’lláh**

As the travelers reached the border of Iraq, they rented an orchard as a place of rest. In that tranquil spot, spring flowers bloomed, water babbled in the brooks, and birds sang sweetly for the weary exiles. Bahá’u’lláh told the group that everything His enemies had planned had come to nothing.

Indeed, Bahá’u’lláh’s influence was unstoppable. He later announced in Baghdád that He was the Messenger of God that the Báb had foretold. Today, followers of His teachings of peace live in virtually every country in the world.



Bahá’u’lláh’s body was laid to rest in 1892 near ‘Akká, Israel, a holy place of pilgrimage for Bahá’ís from around the world.

Find words related to the story. Look up, down, backward, forward, and diagonally.

BAGHDAD	J	G	O	U	X	T	H	F	Z	S	O	A	Z	S	E
GOLD	U	R	V	S	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	M	P	D	F
COMPANIONS	G	A	E	G	A	R	U	O	C	B	K	R	F	G	E
COURAGE	I	Y	K	V	P	Z	I	H	G	X	I	Z	H	O	R
DUNGEON	M	E	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	N	N	A	O	C	B
EXILE	V	N	D	F	A	R	B	A	G	H	D	A	D	H	U
HOMELAND	U	R	Y	P	C	E	E	B	M	L	N	L	U	J	O
JOURNEY	Z	U	M	N	E	L	D	N	A	L	E	M	O	H	P
KINDNESS	W	O	B	I	I	H	R	U	C	R	S	V	L	C	H
MESSENGER	C	J	W	X	I	Z	A	E	N	E	S	K	A	Y	F
MOUNTAINS	F	K	E	N	A	R	H	I	T	G	D	S	H	R	A
ORCHARD	B	I	A	M	N	K	C	T	Z	N	E	N	H	G	T
PEACE	I	P	R	A	C	W	R	C	M	C	I	O	E	P	D
REVERENCE	A	Y	Y	R	Q	H	O	E	L	M	S	W	N	G	G
SPRING	X	V	U	G	G	C	H	S	D	U	H	W	N	O	R
SNOW															
TIHRAN															
TRAVEL															
WEARY															
WINTER															

Make a Book of Adventures

"It is now easy to travel to any land, to associate and exchange views with its peoples. . ." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

Whether you take a bike, boat, plane, or train, you expand your universe when you travel. As you see new places and people, and try different things, you discover more about yourself and others.

On your journeys near and far, bring your creativity and make a travel book. When you record events with words, photos, drawings, and mementos, you'll

appreciate your experiences even more. Savoring positive memories can also boost happiness.

Your book can remind you of details you might otherwise forget—like how a sunset looked, the smell of a campfire, or the taste of food you've had for the first time. Include the date for each entry and collect souvenirs like ticket stubs, maps, or nature items. It's a fun way to preserve your amazing moments.

I'M MAKING MY BOOK ON THE FLY!



You'll Need

- four paper lunch bags
- scissors
- pencil
- stapler
- piece of thick paper equal to width of bag x 1 1/4" (3.2 cm)
- ruler
- hole punch
- five thin 11" (27.9 cm) ribbons
- decorative papers
- tacky glue
- markers
- stickers or stamps
- photos or postcards
- small souvenirs

- 1 Cut off bottom of each bag.



- 2 Fold each bag in half so short ends meet.



- 3 Optional: On the open end of the pages, draw a wavy line or other decorative edge. Cut along line through all layers.





- 4 To form book, stack bags evenly along folded sides. Staple along folded edge, for binding.



- 5 Glue decorative paper to front and back of book.



- 8 Glue spine around stapled edge of book.



- 6 Create a bookmark by punching a hole in top right corner of thick paper. Knot three ribbons to hole. You'll insert ribbons into pages as needed.



- 9 Decorate pages with colorful paper, stickers, stamps, or markers. Add photos, postcards, drawings, or text, and put small souvenirs inside pockets.



- 7 For book spine, draw lines $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.3 cm) from both long edges of thick paper. Fold up along lines.



- 10 Punch a hole in center of front and back cover's open end. Knot a ribbon to each hole and tie ribbons together, for closure.



Magical Treasures

"Man is the supreme Talisman ... Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom." —Bahá'u'lláh

If you discovered a magical object, what powers would you want it to give you? Maybe you'd love to travel through time, soar through the air, or move things using only your mind.

We all have talents and skills, like mysterious powers waiting to be released. You don't need a magical token to express them. With education and practice, you can polish your gems and use them to help the world.

What excites you and makes you want to learn more? What do you dream of being really good at? Pay attention to the things you enjoy most. You may discover a satisfying career or a way to help others that brings you joy.

You have abilities that only *you* can use to create a better world. Discover your own magic and bring it to life.

Search the library for nine magical talismans named for virtues that help us learn and express our talents.



Adventurous
Amulet



Brave
Bracelet



Coin of
Curiosity



Jewel of
Justice



Key of
Creativity



Loyal
Locket



Noble
Necklace



Responsible
Ring



Studious
Stone



CODING WITH COD1: MYSTERY DRAWING

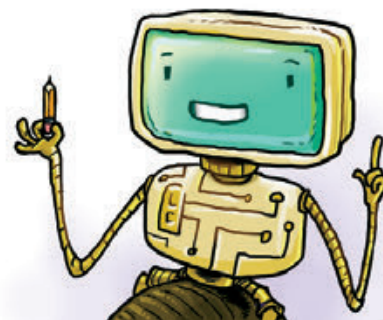
Hi, it's COD1! Check out my new drawing program. For each step in the code, draw along the lines in the grid (not through the middle of the boxes).

Use these commands:
L = Turn left
R = Turn right
F__ = Move forward__squares

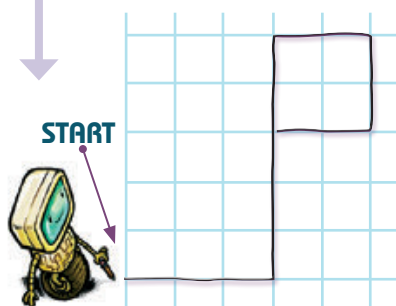
So "L, F7" means: Turn left, move forward 7 squares.

Continue without breaking the line.

When you get to the end, you'll have drawn something that can lead to adventure!



I did a mini grid as an example.
F3 > L > F5 > R > F2 > R > F2 > R > F2



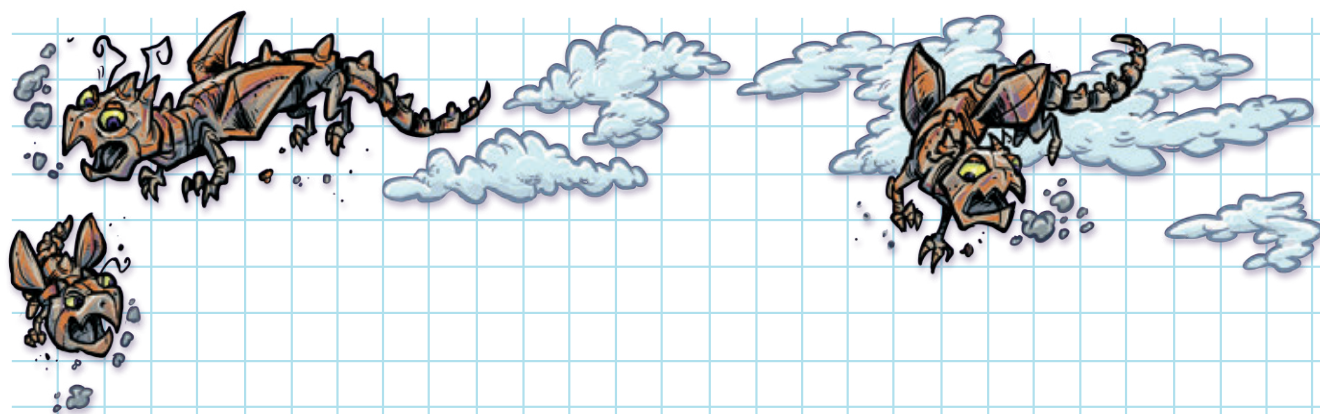
Did you know that coding computers takes creativity and imagination? Like a painter or a sculptor, a coder envisions something that doesn't exist, plans carefully, and takes steps to make it appear.

Computers are vital to lots of arts. Graphic designers and illustrators use apps to create cool magazines, comics, and books. Computers conjure amazing animations and special effects for movies and video games. Musicians use them to write songs or soundtracks for films.

Try out my fun art program. Use your pencil to follow each step in the code, and you'll draw a shape that can unlock adventure!

START

F1 > L > F11
R > F3 > R
F1 > L > F2
L > F1 > R
F3 > R > F4
L > F1 > L
F1 > R > F3
L > F7 > R
F2 > R > F2
R > F2 > L
F5 > L > F3
R > F1 > L
F1 > L > F4
R > F3 > R
F1 > L > F2
L > F1 > R
F3 > R > F11
R > F10 > R
F2 > L > F4
L > F2 > R
F10 > END



START



EXTRA FUN!

Create your own design on graph paper. Then write down the code and challenge your friends to draw it.

STUART & GABRIELLA: PHOTO SAFARI



Hey there! Gabriella here, with my friend Stuart. Pack your camera and your curiosity—we're heading out for a photo safari! When we're on an adventure, I hunt for great photos. I look for interesting colors of light, cool patterns, and good moments. I look at one thing from different angles and distances to find the best shot. Sometimes I fly to the top of a mountain or tree for a spectacular view.

Taking photos helps us pay closer attention to Earth's awe-inspiring wonders. I feel a thrill of discovery when I capture a good image, and I can't wait to share it. Unscramble the clues below to identify my latest photos.



LAGNORFYD:



NAOEC VWASE:



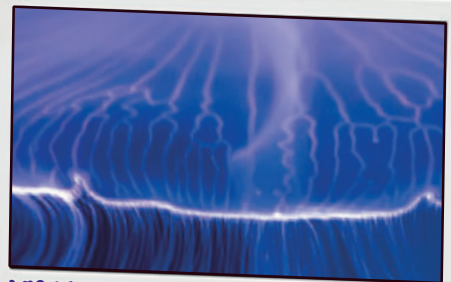
O CANUT:



OGEHGED:



VAESEL:



LFSJEHLY:



CBREGIE:



RFTOSE:



YFLTERTBU:

EXPLORE AND PROTECT THE EARTH AND ITS CREATURES

"All the members of this endless universe are linked one to another." —Bahá'í Writings

WE
ARE
ONE

EARTH-SAVING TIP

Upcycle Your Cards
Breathe new life into your greeting cards. Use them to create new cards or a fun collage.



WOW, REALLY?

Over one-third of food in the world is discarded, while about 800 million people worldwide suffer from severe malnutrition.

OUR CONNECTIONS



How do hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and bats help your family stay healthy? They're pollinators—they travel among flowers and spread pollen, a powdery substance that helps plants create seeds. Over 75% of flowering plants need pollinators, and much of our food depends on them, such as apples, pumpkins, and tomatoes. But pollinators are threatened by pesticides, habitat loss, and climate change. We can help by growing native plants that provide pollinators with food.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Tristram Stuart is a British author and founder of Feedback, a group that combats global food waste. He won the 2011 Sophie Prize for his activism on this issue. He says, "We . . . do have the power to stop this tragic waste of resources if we regard it as socially unacceptable to waste food on a colossal scale . . ."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



In this city on the Persian Gulf, you can visit Earth's tallest building, ride a camel, and ski indoors. Once a desert fishing village, the discovery of oil led it to become one of the fastest-growing cities. *Unscramble the letters to find its name:*

U A B I D , UAE

AMAZING ANIMALS



Second only to tigers in size, these big cats are the only ones to live in groups, or prides. Females hunt together. Males protect the territory and can roar at 114 decibels—as loud as an ambulance siren. *Fill in the blanks to find their name:*

 F R C N O S

RADIANT STARS

Getting to know kids who shine

Connect with kids around the world!
How are they like you? How are they different? Each of us has a unique story to tell. What's yours?

Miranda H.

Age: **12**

I live in: **New Jersey, U.S.**

I want to be: **Architect**

This career interests me because:
I am good in math, graphic arts, and I love to use my imagination. I would like to design a Bahá'í . . . Temple and build it! I would also like to design comfortable and affordable homes for people with housing needs.

Places I'd love to visit:
Bahá'í World Center and the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh



Virtue I admire most:
Humbleness

Hobbies or sports:
Tumbling, basketball, and swimming

Favorite animal:
Cheetah

Favorite Bahá'í activity:
Junior Youth Program

A hero or role model:
My parents, because they inspire me to be myself . . .

An exciting adventure or trip:
Going to the moon

If I could travel anywhere to be of service, I'd go:
Where people don't have a lot of opportunities like I do, and I would teach them about [the] Bahá'í Faith, how to have fun being spiritual through [the arts] . . .

Anisa T.

Age: **13**

I live in: **California, U.S.**

I want to be:
A computer coder

This career interests me because:
Computer logic comes very easy to me.

Virtue I admire most:
Caring

Hobbies or sports:
Gymnastics, acting, dancing, and singing

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Jr. youth programs, going to Feast,* and helping to teach children's classes

Favorite animal:
I like small dogs, especially . . . Pomeranian.

Places I'd love to visit:
Hawaii, Bahamas, and Canada



An exciting adventure or trip:
Going to . . . the Bahá'í House of Worship in Chile

New things I'd like to learn:
Play popular songs on the piano and become a better gymnast

If I could travel anywhere to be of service, I'd go:
To Bosch Bahá'í School and be a counselor

A hero or role model:
Olympic gymnast Gabby Douglas, because she has overcome so much to achieve her dream.



Ava Mae L.

Age: **12**

I live in: **Georgia, U.S.**

I want to be:
A movie director

This career interests me because:
You can make a movie about anything you want!

Virtue I admire most:
Happiness

New things I'd like to learn:
[To play] guitar and be in a movie

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Service projects

A hero or role model:
Anyone who wants to make the world a better place

Places I'd love to visit:
Los Angeles and Chicago

I like to help people by:
Any type of fundraisers!

An exciting adventure or trip:
Going to the Garden of Ridván

If I could travel anywhere to be of service, I'd go:
To Haiti and play with all the children there and make them feel special. 'Abdu'l-Bahá wants us to make everyone feel happy.

Three things I would bring on an adventure:
My phone, a multi-language dictionary, and my idea book

Whalen A.

Age: **11**

I live in: **California, U.S.**

I want to be:
Field biologist

This career interests me because:
I love nature.

If I could be famous for one thing:
Finding a new species

Virtue I admire most:
Kindness

Hobbies or sports:
Fishing, soccer, swimming, baseball, climbing trees

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Children's class, Ayyám-i-Há**

An exciting adventure or trip:
Visiting all the continents and catching a fish at each one

I like to help people by:
Making them laugh

A hero or role model:
My Uncle Kayhan, a field biologist/college professor

New things I'd like to learn:
Snowboarding, track and field

If I could travel anywhere to be of service, I'd go:
Help make fish ponds in Africa for protein

Three things I would bring on an adventure:
Camera, tent, fishing pole



“God has crowned you with honor and in your hearts has He set a radiant star; verily the light thereof shall brighten the whole world!” — ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Anamika K.

Age: **10**

I live in:
United Arab Emirates

I want to be:
An artist or a scientist

These careers interest me because:
I love bright colors and astronomy.

Virtues I admire most:
Joyfulness and creativity

Hobbies:
Art and music

Favorite Bahá'í activity:
Children's classes

Favorite animal:
The panda

Place I'd love to visit:
Toronto, Canada

I like to help people by:
Teaching them about the Bahá'í Faith

A hero or role model:
‘Abdu’l-Bahá



An exciting adventure or trip:
Rafting off [of] a waterfall while doing a flip

If I could travel anywhere to be of service, I'd go:
To China and help people learn English

New things I'd like to learn:
How to be a children's class teacher and how to play more musical instruments

Three things I would bring on an adventure:
A prayer book, a map, and a journal to write my experience

Sanjay P.

Age: **10**

I live in: **Washington, U.S.**

I want to be:
A carpenter

This career interests me because:
My dad is a carpenter.

Virtue I admire most:
Peacefulness

Hobbies or sports:
I [do] Irish dance and play basketball.

Favorite Bahá'í activity:
Children's classes

If I could travel anywhere to be of service, I'd go:
To Brazil and teach children's classes

Favorite animals and pets:
Elephants and dogs

Place I'd love to visit:
Nepal

I like to help people by:
Doing service for them, like picking up garbage

A favorite book or song:
My favorite thing to read is *Brilliant Star*, and my favorite song is “Buon Appetito” by Red Grammer.

A hero or role model:
My mom

An exciting adventure or trip:
Going to Antarctica

New things I'd like to learn:
How to slam dunk



How to be a Radiant Star:

1. If you're age 7–14, go to www.brilliantstarmagazine.org. From the top menu, choose “Discover.” Then click “Become a Radiant Star or Trailblazer,” and fill out the form. Or e-mail us at brilliant@usbnc.org. Include your name, age, birth date, mailing address, and phone number.
2. When it's your turn to shine, we'll send you questions and a form for you and your parents to sign.
3. Answer the questions and send them to us with the signed form, along with at least two good-quality, close-up photographs of your smiling face. Photos should be in sharp focus and show your eyes clearly. Please don't send color copies, low-resolution digital images, or copyright-protected images (like school portraits).

**Ayyám-i-Há is February 25–28 in 2017, days of hospitality, charity, gift giving, and preparing for the Bahá'í Fast.



AT CABLE WORLD NEWS ...

THOUSANDS AROUND THE GLOBE HAVE SERIOUS INJURIES DUE TO DISTRACTED PILOTS AND DRIVERS.

OFFICIALS SAY THE CAUSE IS THE **MIRROR ME** APP THAT IS CAPTIVATING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES.

AT UPLIFTERS' HQ ...

THE ERASERS **MUST** BE BEHIND THIS! ZAPPO, GIVE US AN UPDATE.

FROM GLOBAL INTERNET TRAFFIC, I SEE SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES FOR ITS ORIGIN.

SCOPE OUT THE HOTSPOT SITES IN YOUR COUNTRIES.

LIGHTNING AND LUNA, THE MOST SIGNALS ARE IN THE U.S.!



HEY, COLIN! MINNAH! WANNA HELP US WITH A REAL **MIRROR ME** MISSION?



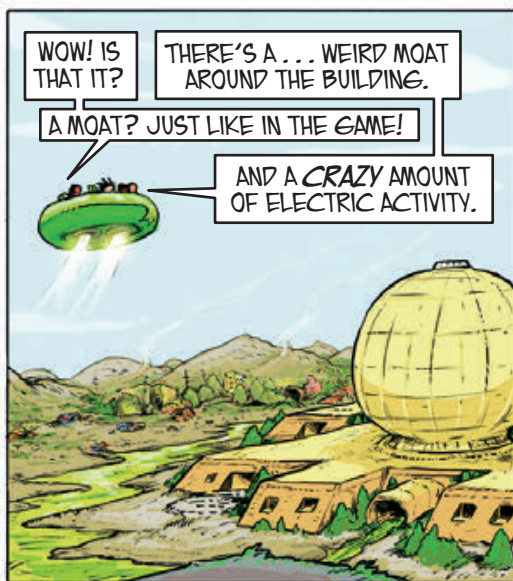
LATER ...

THIS APP COULD BRING DOWN **COUNTRIES** IF ENOUGH PEOPLE GET DISTRACTED.

WITH A GAME?

FOR SURE.

THERE'S OUR HOTSPOT.



WOW! IS THAT IT?

THERE'S A ... WEIRD MOAT AROUND THE BUILDING.

A MOAT? JUST LIKE IN THE GAME!

AND A **CRAZY** AMOUNT OF ELECTRIC ACTIVITY.



STAY OUT OF SIGHT. WE'LL GO IN.

CAN'T WE GO TOO?

NO! TOO RISKY.

TALK TO US WITH THIS, AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT WE SEE.



HEY, MINNAH! SHOOT SOME PICTURES FROM HERE. THEY MIGHT COME IN HANDY.

HUH? OH, SURE. I CAN'T STOP THIS GAME! I WISH I HAD THEIR SUPERPOWER TO RESIST IT.

I KNOW. LET'S HELP EACH OTHER FOCUS ON THE MISSION.



WATCH OUT! IN THE GAME, THE MOAT IS FILLED WITH ACID!

WE'LL FLY OVER IT.

WAIT, YOU NEED TO—

RELAX, WE GOT THIS!





ASK A SPACE SCIENTIST

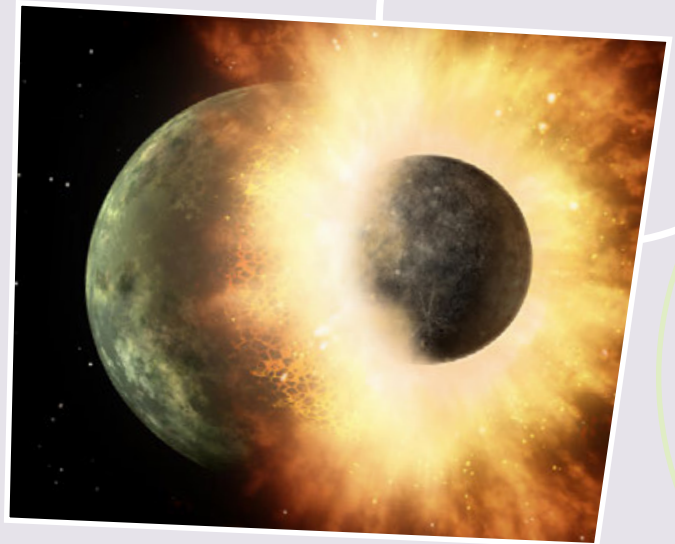
Our universe is full of mysteries, and some of the most mind-boggling are in space. Curious kids asked questions, and we sent them to two Bahá'í scientists who work for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Have questions about space? Send them to brilliant@usbnc.org (with your name and age).

Why is the moon necessary for Earth to function properly? —Isaac, age 14

Hi, Isaac,

You mostly notice the moon as the brightest object you see in the sky at night. Another effect of the moon that you can see every day is the tides in the ocean. Tides occur as the moon's (and the sun's) gravity raises and lowers the sea level. Because scientists believe that the moon was formed from the Earth by a collision billions of years ago, they can only theorize what the Earth would be like without it. They believe that without the moon's gravity, the rotation of the Earth would be much different than today. A day would be less than 12 hours long, and the four seasons of the year would be very different, because the moon's gravity also affects the tilt of the Earth's rotation axis.

—Steve



Scientists believe that the moon was created by a celestial body colliding with Earth billions of years ago. This is an artist's depiction of the collision.

BACH IN TIME

Dr. Sally Ride (1951–2012) became the first American woman in space in 1983. She cowrote seven books for kids and encouraged study of STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. She went to space on the space shuttle called:

H A E N E





Why does the sun look like it's going into the ocean?

— Quincy, age 6

Hi, Quincy,

Earth is shaped like a ball, and it spins all the way around once every 24 hours. You and I are stuck to one spot on the ball, and we ride along with the surface as it spins. The Sun is also ball-shaped, and shines like a giant light bulb, 93 million miles (150 million km) away. One side of the Earth is facing the Sun, and one side is facing away. The side facing the Sun experiences daytime, and the side facing away is in a shadow we call night. Remember, though, that the Earth is always spinning! To us, stuck to one point on the surface, that spin makes it look like the Sun moves across the sky. When we move from day to night, the Sun disappears behind the part of the Earth that is between us and the Sun. If we're standing on a western coast like California, that makes it look like the Sun goes into the ocean. But it's just an illusion; the horizon where the ocean meets the sky is only three miles away. The Sun is 31 million times farther.

— George



The sun is 93 million miles (150 million km) away from Earth. Its gravity holds the solar system together.



STEVE SCOTTI is a research engineer at NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia, U.S. He works to develop lighter, stronger materials and structures for aircraft and spacecraft. Watching the first astronaut launched into space inspired his interest in space exploration. He enjoys sharing his enthusiasm about science and space with kids.



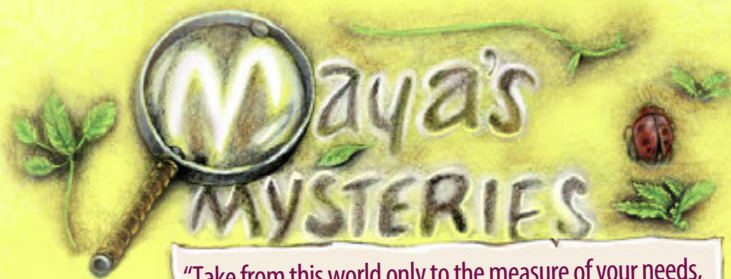
GEORGE HATCHER is an avionics engineer at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, U.S. He works on electrical systems of uncrewed rockets. He also studies planetary science at the University of Central Florida. Working for NASA is a dream come true for George. He's aspired to be an astronaut since he was three. He's one of 100 finalists in the Mars One Project, which aims to create a human settlement on Mars.

COSMIC QUIZ

About 95% of the atmosphere on Mars is made of this substance, which is also common on Earth:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| A) Argon | D) Ice |
| B) Oxygen | E) Nitrogen |
| C) Carbon dioxide | F) Cocoa powder |





"Take from this world only to the measure of your needs, and forego that which exceedeth them." —Bahá'u'lláh

I'M CHANGING TRASH INTO TREASURE!



TRANSFORM YOUR TRASH

New gadgets, clothes, and toys can be great, but they can be expensive, too. And how they're made can have a negative impact on our environment, such as pollution from factories. That's why I love finding fun ways to make my own cool stuff by **upcycling**.

Upcycling is taking an item that would end up in a

landfill, and transforming it into something new. With upcycling, there's very little waste or pollution. Like the time I made a wallet by taping together candy wrappers. Or when I made pillows out of my old jeans.

Have fun being creative with your own upcycling adventures. Try out the cool project below to turn plastic water bottles into colorful decorations!

MAKE YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLE WIND WHIRLER

You'll Need: Empty plastic water bottle (individual size) • colorful permanent markers • scissors • two 1" (2.5 cm) straight pins • clear tape • 24" (61 cm) string

- 1 Remove label and cap from bottle. Let bottle dry completely. Cut off bottom of bottle.



- 2 Color bottle with markers.



- 3 Carefully stick a pin through each side of bottle, just below its neck.



- 4 Starting from bottom, cut around bottle at an angle to form a spiral shape that's about 1" (2.5 cm) thick and stops at bottle's shoulder. Avoid cutting above pins or touching their sharp points.



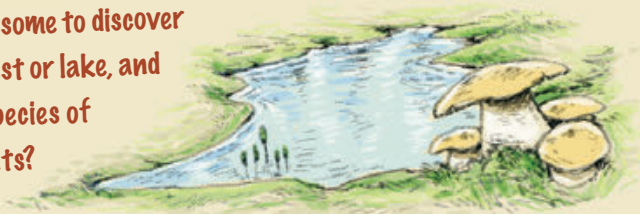
- 5 **A** Tape pins together where they overlap. Thread string through bottleneck, around taped pins, and knot ends together to make a loop. **B** Hang your wind whirler from a tree branch and watch it bounce and twirl!



's Outdoor Expedition



Wouldn't it be awesome to discover an untouched forest or lake, and search for new species of animals and plants?



Before photography, naturalists drew their findings. John James Audubon is famous for his watercolors of North American birds. What are you most excited to draw in nature?

Pack up your pencils and go on your own creative nature expedition. With observation, patience, and practice, you'll discover cool things!

Something with a fun pattern

Something colorful

Bird or insect

Beautiful plant, flower, or tree

Something I've never noticed before

How many of these can you find?

Creatures:

- ☐ Animal tracks
- ☐ Ant
- ☐ Bird
- ☐ Bird's nest
- ☐ Deer
- ☐ Feather
- ☐ Frog
- ☐ Horse
- ☐ Rabbit
- ☐ Squirrel



Growing things:

- ☐ Acorn
- ☐ Berry
- ☐ Evergreen tree
- ☐ Fruit
- ☐ Moss
- ☐ Mushroom
- ☐ Pinecone
- ☐ Rosebush
- ☐ Seed pod
- ☐ Wildflowers



Big and beautiful:

- ☐ Boulder
- ☐ Constellation
- ☐ Driftwood
- ☐ Giant Tree
- ☐ Moon
- ☐ Mountain
- ☐ Rock in a cool shape

Water wonders:

- ☐ Beach
- ☐ Cloud in a fun shape
- ☐ Lake or river
- ☐ Rain or snow

RILEY'S RAINFOREST



"Send down... from the clouds of Thy mercy the rains of Thy healing..."

—Bahá'u'lláh

Explore & Soar:

Amazing Avocados

By Andrea Hope

Tough, yet soft, an avocado is a fruit of contrast. Its thick, bumpy skin inspired a fun nickname—"alligator pears." On the inside, the fruit is smooth and full of vitamins, making it healthy and tasty.

While you may have already tried avocado in guacamole,

here are a few other ideas for adding avocado to your meals.



- Instead of mayonnaise, try spreading avocado on your sandwiches to enjoy its creamy flavor.

- Use mashed avocado as a substitute for butter when making your favorite pancakes or muffins.

- Mix avocado and yogurt to make a dip for raw vegetables.

- Throw some avocado into a fruit smoothie for an extra creamy texture.



Truth about Taste Buds

Have you ever wondered why you enjoy some foods, but not others? Taste, smell, and texture all contribute to what makes a food appealing to us or not. And those tastes are identified by your thousands of taste buds—tiny sensors, mostly on your tongue, that transmit taste to your brain.

About 15-25% of people are "supertasters," who can have up to twice as many taste buds as the average person. When you're young, new taste buds are made as old ones are destroyed. But as you grow older, fewer are remade. By the time you're an older adult, you may have about half of the taste buds you were born with!

But that's only part of the story. The foods you're exposed to help shape some preferences.

For example, kids in cultures that eat a lot of chili peppers get used to spicy food from an early age. You can also acquire a taste for foods you don't currently like. Scientists say it can take trying a food 10-15 times to start liking it. Why would you want to do that? Since different foods provide different nutrients, eating a variety of foods is healthy. It's also fun to be adventurous and try new things. Sometimes preparing food in a different way can surprise you. For example, blend spinach with eggs before cooking to make "green eggs." Or try a healthy recipe for brownies using black beans and no flour.

Take a chance on your changing tastes. Once in a while, try a few bites of a food you don't think you like. You never know—you might find a new favorite!

Curiosity Canopy



Did you know? Mexico has a long history with the avocado (*aguacate* in Spanish). Archaeologists found evidence of avocados being eaten there almost 10,000 years ago, and Mexico is still the fruit's largest producer. Today, avocados are enjoyed all over the world and even used to protect or moisturize people's skin and hair.

Everyday Adventures

“The power of thought is dependent on its manifestation in deeds.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

When you get ready each day, does your brain say “Ho-hum” or “Yippee”? You can add fun and energy to life by thinking positively about everything you do.

Are you dragging yourself down the hall to breakfast? What if you danced instead? Planning to hang out with a friend and not do much? Invent a new

game to play. Going for a walk? Snap a photo of each bird or creature you see, and try to identify them when you get back home.

Put your positive thoughts into action. Plan at least one everyday adventure, and share it with your friends and family. You’ll brighten your outlook and add joy to the world around you.

How adventurous are you? Answer the questions and add up your points.



1 I like to learn new sports or skills and practice until my abilities improve.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

2 I focus on being grateful for the good things in my life, even if I have challenges.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

3 I like to secretly do kind deeds to help someone else.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

4 I like to discover fun new facts, like finding out that jellyfish will eat peanut butter.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

5 I cheer for my friends at their sporting events and other activities they enjoy.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

6 I like to check out events in my community, such as parades, festivals, or concerts.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



7 I enjoy visiting new places I haven’t yet seen.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

8 I like to dream about cool places I want to travel to someday.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

9 I try new foods, even if I don’t think I’ll like them.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

10 I say hi to new kids at school or in the neighborhood and try to get to know them better.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

11 I tell jokes and make funny comments to cheer my friends and family.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

12 I find ways to add fun to routine tasks, like dancing down the hall instead of walking.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



MY SCORE

36–29 points Great job! You’re ready for adventure with a positive attitude that finds joy all around you.

28–21 points You’re working on seeking adventure and having a positive spirit. Keep it up.

20–12 points Try a few tips from the quiz to focus on the positive every day. There are fun opportunities around you.

Collis Ta'eed



When you think about your job in the future, do you imagine fun things like a Ping-Pong table and a basketball hoop? At Collis Ta'eed's company, Envato, having fun is serious business. Collis says, "It's not important to sit on your chair from 9:00 to 5:00. It's much more . . . about the results you produce."

Collis earned a degree in math and science at University of Technology Sydney. After college, he realized he was passionate about website design, so he taught himself those skills. In 2006, he, his wife, Cyan, and a friend started Envato. It's an online marketplace where people buy things like websites, logos, and videos to use in projects. The company has grown from a few people in a garage to a sunny office with 180 employees. In 2014, it was named "Australia's Coolest Tech Company." Collis and his family live in Melbourne, Australia, and they love having adventures around the world.

Q: What's your favorite childhood memory?

A: Probably playing with my dogs . . . At about age three, I moved to Papua New Guinea, and we always had a lot of dogs . . . maybe 10 or 11 dogs over the years . . . I loved playing with them.

Q: What was your most challenging experience as a kid, and how did you handle it?

A: Making some friends was very challenging. I changed school, and . . . making new friends when you've left all your old friends behind was a very difficult kind of adjustment . . . I dealt with it [by] just trying to be friendly . . .



Collis (at left in blue shirt) went to Hong Kong for a vacation with his family when he was about seven years old.

Q: Tell us about the company you and your wife started, Envato.

A: It is . . . a marketplace, like an eBay, but the things that people sell are things you use for website-type projects . . . So imagine PowerPoint templates, or a business card template where the buyer just buys that thing and then fills in the information . . . There's 50,000 people who are selling, and then two million people who are buying . . . There's all kind of stuff, like websites . . . animation or videos, stock photography, music . . .

I get to see [my wife] in the office every day . . . It's great. I don't know that it would work for everybody, but it really works for us . . . At the end of the day, we'll often recount various things, and we both really understand everything that's going on.

Questions and Answers with an Inspirational Bahá'í



Left: Collis and his wife, Cyan, live in Melbourne, Australia. **Right:** In the Envato office in Melbourne, Collis talks to one of the strategy analysts about future plans for the company.

Q: Envato won a 2014 award for being the coolest tech company. What makes it cool?

A: We try to run the business with values . . . based on . . . Bahá'í values . . . We try to make ethical decisions . . .

We do a lot of flexibility . . . It doesn't really matter if you're in the office. It doesn't even really matter if you're in the country . . . So we have a lot of our employees go work in other countries for a few months at a time.

Q: How do you think technology will change in the next five years?

A: Augmented reality . . . So a bit like Pokémon Go . . . The idea that you're doing something in the physical world, but there's elements of your digital worlds. When you look at your phones and see a picture of the world around you, you're seeing extra things that aren't there. I think that's a very interesting, new part of the future.

Q: What inspired you to cofound the website Baha'i Blog?

A: A friend of mine, Naysan, who also grew up in Papua New Guinea, was very excited to create . . . [and] to do something which we felt was a really high-standard Bahá'í publication, but also one that was very much geared towards Bahá'ís . . .

Our goals are . . . to produce more global content . . . We try to reflect as much diversity and perspectives as possible. And so with things like *Studio Sessions*, which are recording the musicians, we've been trying to go to as many countries as possible to record as many types of music . . . Our goal is really just to try to broaden as much as possible and to get more Bahá'ís blogging, and to get more Bahá'ís making music and making art.

Q: Some people think today's kids and youth are too focused on smartphones, tablets, and social media. What advice do you have for kids about using this technology?

A: I think that smartphones, media, and tablets . . . are just part of life today . . . I think in life, everything and anything should be taken in moderation and balance . . . Smartphones are great and tablets are great. They open up all sorts of opportunities. Should you use them exclusively? Maybe not. Go out and see the world.

Q: If you had one wish for *Brilliant Star's* readers, what would it be?

A: To have a full life, to experience a lot, to see the world, to meet lots of people, but also to . . . experience good things, bad things, and just have a very rich life. I feel like this life, while not the be-all end-all, is still a very meaningful one, and having a full life gives a person the opportunity to develop . . . their virtues, and to form . . . who they are.

THE AWESOME PARK NEXT TO OUR MUSIC CAFÉ IS SO MUCH FUN TO EXPLORE! MY YOUTH GROUP WENT THERE ON A NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT. I FOUND A HEART-SHAPED STONE, A CUTE FROG, A TURTLE, A HAWK, AND FIVE KINDS OF TREES. WHILE WE HUNTED, WE SANG THIS SONG.



ALL THINGS I FOUND

By Frances England

6

C#

I take my came-ra and my note-book on a walk with me. Ex-plore eve-ry cor-ner, eve-ry cu-ri-o-si-ty

10

C#

Out in the world I won-der do you see the pat-terns that I see? Sha-dow of a chain-link fence on the side-walk Jump o-ver it with me.

15

C#

Jump o-ver it with me. Jump o-ver it with me. Chorus: All the things I found All the things I found When I

took the time to look a-round. When I took the time to look a-round Interlude To verse 3 I

Verse 2

I see new things appear where they didn't used to be
I take notes and compare, a record for me to keep
I know this neighborhood like the back of my own hand
I pay attention. I listen closely to
Her sights and her sounds (3x)

Chorus

Break

Verse 3

I collect the rocks and the bottle caps I find along the way
The handwritten notes and the grocery lists people
thought they'd thrown away
Well I listen to the conversations of the people walkin' by
One by one they tell the story of
A neighborhood comin' alive (3x)

Chorus

Come Out of Your Shell

“If you meet those of different race and color from yourself, do not mistrust them and withdraw yourself into your shell of conventionality, but rather be glad and show them kindness.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

A box turtle basks in the hot sun along a lake in the Mexican desert. Suddenly, a noisy hiker approaches. The startled turtle pulls its head, tail, and legs into its protective shell.

Do you ever want to hide like a turtle?

Meeting new people can be scary. You may want to be friendly, but you might feel awkward. Maybe you’re afraid they won’t like you, or that you’ll say something

embarrassing. It’s natural to feel shy sometimes. But if you close yourself off, you miss out on getting to know interesting people. And they miss out on getting to know you, too.

When you take a chance and tackle your fears, you might be surprised at how much fun you have. As you make friends with people from the desert to the ocean, you may find you don’t need your tough shell after all.

Find 21 box turtles hidden in the Mexican desert.



SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

Agnes Alexander (1875–1971)

By Gail Radley



In her youth, Agnes Alexander believed she was “extremely timid,” but through faith and determination, she became a great adventurer.

She was the youngest of five, born in Honolulu in 1875. Agnes felt happiest with cats and horses. She worried that, unlike her grandparents, who had moved to Hawaii to teach their religion, Christianity hadn't stirred her heart. She left Hawaii (which wasn't yet a state) to attend college in the U.S.

After traveling to the U.S. and Europe with friends in 1900, her life changed. In Italy, Agnes met a Bahá'í, Charlotte Dixon, who was joyful after visiting the Bahá'í leader, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, in Israel. Hearing about the Bahá'í Faith brought a spiritual awakening. It “came to me that it was the Truth,” Agnes said.

Agnes traveled to Paris, staying three months to learn from the Bahá'ís there. Then 'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote her, “Be ... a divine bird, proceed to thy native country ...”

First Bahá'í in Hawaii

In December 1901, when she was 26, she returned to Honolulu, realizing, “I was ... the first Bahá'í to touch that soil ... God raised me up to carry His Message to these islands.” Despite disapproval from her family, Agnes shared her new religion with others. Soon there was a Bahá'í group.

When Agnes's parents died in 1913, she left Hawaii to visit North America. Then 'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote that “Divine confirmations,” would come by turning “toward Japan.”



Agnes Alexander traveled to Japan in 1914. She helped to share the Bahá'í teachings there for over 30 years.

Global Adventures

In 1914, World War I began. Agnes was headed to Japan, and her ship sailed at night without lights to avoid being seen by nearby warships. She became one of the first two Bahá'ís living in Japan. In Tokyo, she learned Esperanto, a world language. She also

learned Braille, a script for the blind. They helped her teach the Bahá'í Faith. In six trips to Japan, she served there around 32 years and spoke in many cities.

One day, while praying, Agnes related, “like a flash of light, a great joy filled my heart ... I would go to Korea and take His Message.” In 1920, over a month's time, she spoke with community leaders and to

audiences of up to 900 in Korea.

In 1923, Agnes was in Japan when a catastrophic earthquake struck. Huge waves flooded the land and fires raged. About 140,000 people died. Many more were left homeless, including Agnes. She traveled to Korea, China, the Philippines, the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

In 1957, Agnes was appointed a Hand of the Cause of God.* She was also elected to the nine-member group leading the Bahá'ís of North East Asia and served six years.

Whether journeying through China by donkey-cart in winter, facing multitudes in Korea, or slipping past warships, Agnes changed her timidity to courage. No wonder that when she left this earth in 1971 at age 95, the Universal House of Justice called her a “shining example.”

Temple of Light

When you're in a place of worship, how do you feel? Peaceful? Grateful? Closer to God? In most communities, Bahá'ís meet in homes or centers. But there are also Bahá'í Houses of Worship around the world—places of meditation and prayer for people of all faiths.

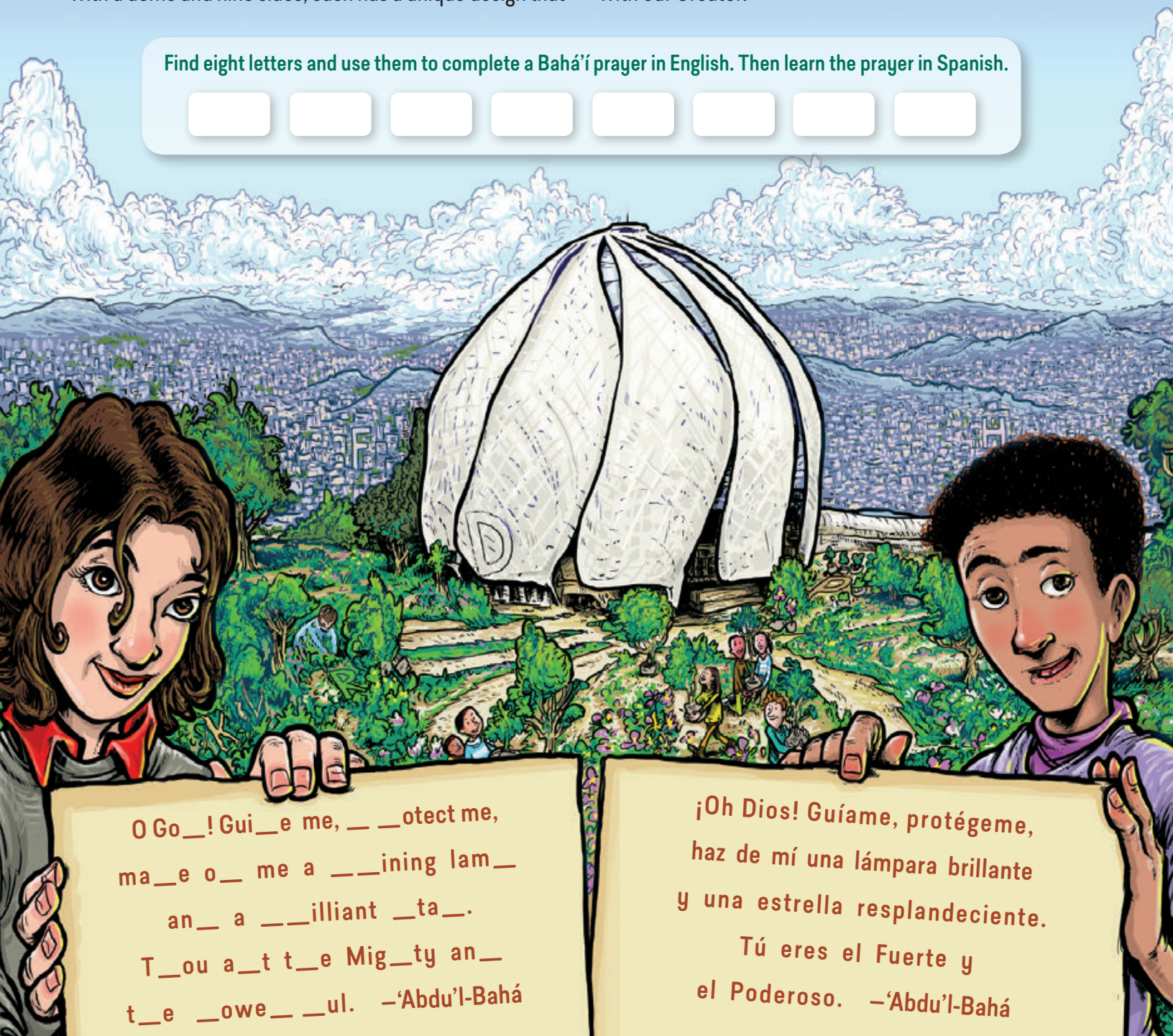
Eight Bahá'í Houses of Worship have been built. Along with a dome and nine sides, each has a unique design that

fits with the local culture and natural setting.

The newest temple is near Santiago, Chile, in the foothills of the Andes Mountains. Like all Bahá'í temples, it will be surrounded by nine gardens.

Someday, a Bahá'í House of Worship will stand in every community, offering tranquil spots to connect with our Creator.

Find eight letters and use them to complete a Bahá'í prayer in English. Then learn the prayer in Spanish.

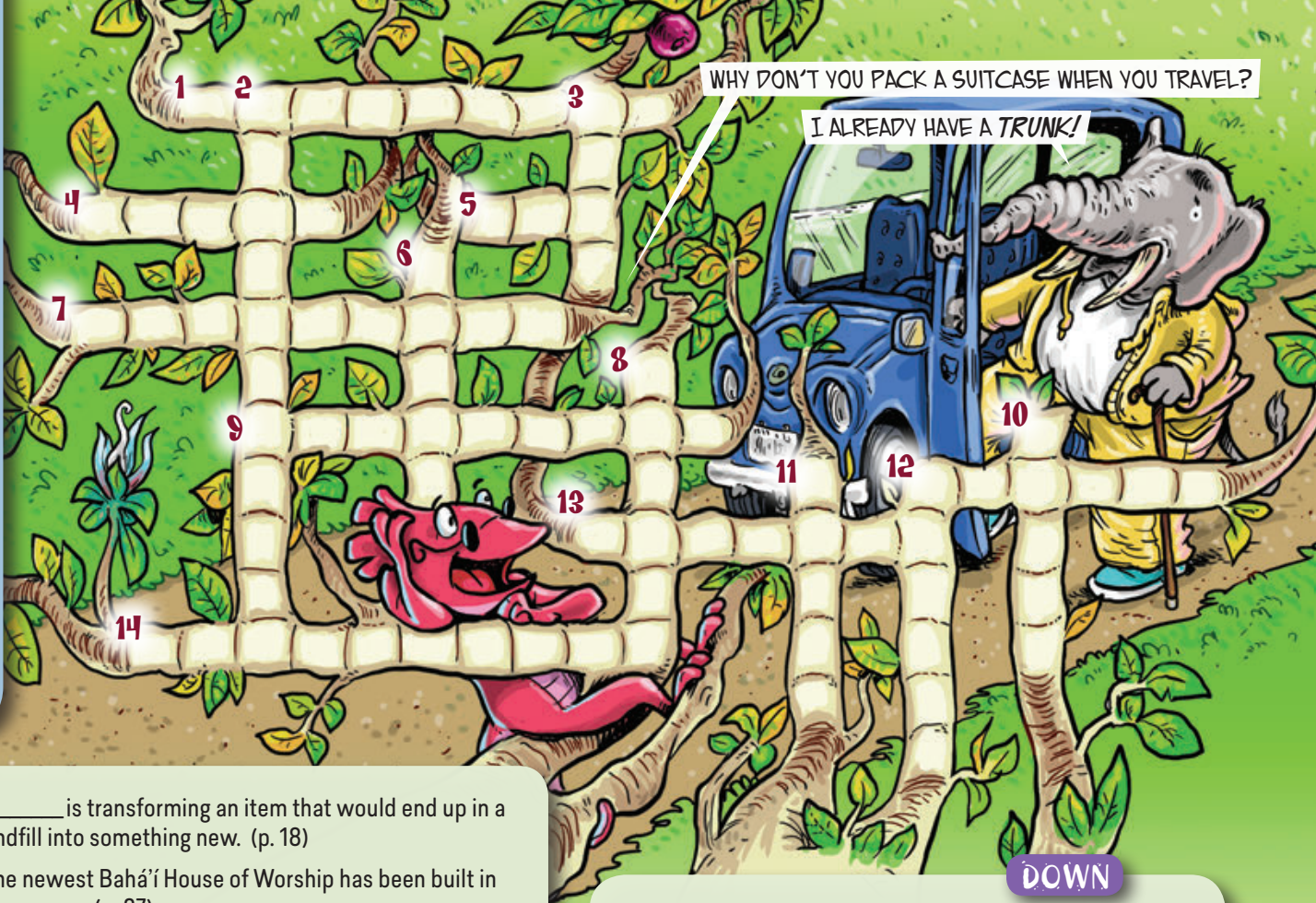


O Go__! Gui__e me, __otect me,
ma__e o__ me a __ining lam__
an__ a __illiant __ta__.

T__ou a__t t__e Mig__ty an__
t__e __owe__ul. —'Abdu'l-Bahá

¡Oh Dios! Guíame, protégeme,
haz de mí una lámpara brillante
y una estrella resplandeciente.

Tú eres el Fuerte y
el Poderoso. —'Abdu'l-Bahá



WHY DON'T YOU PACK A SUITCASE WHEN YOU TRAVEL?

I ALREADY HAVE A *TRUNK!*

ACROSS

1. _____ is transforming an item that would end up in a landfill into something new. (p. 18)
4. The newest Bahá'í House of Worship has been built in _____. (p. 27)
5. At Collis Ta'eed's company, Envato, having _____ is serious business. (p. 22)
7. The song Treble Chef shares encourages us to explore every _____. (p. 24)
9. Plan at least one everyday _____, and share it with your friends and family. (p. 21)
12. Taking _____ helps us pay closer attention to Earth's awe-inspiring wonders. (p. 10)
13. Aguacate is Spanish for _____. (p. 20)
14. Miranda and Sanjay like to play _____. (pp. 12-13)

DOWN

2. Hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies are all _____. (p. 11)
3. All Bahá'í Temples have a dome and _____ sides. (p. 27)
6. The moon affects the _____ in the ocean. (p. 16)
8. You expand your universe when you _____. (p. 6)
10. A _____ envisions something, plans carefully, and takes steps to make it appear. (p. 9)
11. Agnes Alexander was one of the first two Bahá'ís to live in _____. (p. 26)
12. We all have talents and skills, like mysterious _____ waiting to be released. (p. 8)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



Brilliantstarmagazine.org is a website that will uplift many, many youth and children through beautiful and inspiring songs and articles . . . It's a safe, creative place to explore, with drawing videos and game ideas that are fun and active. While listening to "Unite" and "Invincible," I got goosebumps all over. They're both moving songs that I instantly loved.

—Dara H., age 13, Dominican Republic

ANSWERS

KEY: T=Top, C=Center, B=Bottom, L=Left, R=Right

Page 3: 1) Commitment, 2) Determination, 3) Excellence, 4) Innovation, 5) Leadership, 6) Organization, 7) Perseverance, 8) Reliability

Page 16: Challenger

Page 17: C) Carbon dioxide

Page 8: Amulet at BC, Bracelet at TL, Coin at BL, Jewel at CL, Key at CR, Locket at TR, Necklace at CR, Ring at BC, Stone at CL

Page 25: 1 at TL, 1 at TC, 3 at CR, 4 at BR, 2 at BC, 2 at BL, 4 at CL, 4 at C

Page 10 (left to right): Dragonfly, ocean waves, toucan, hedgehog, leaves, jellyfish, iceberg, forest, butterfly

Page 27: B at TL, S at TR, H at CR, P at BR, K and R at BL, F at CL, D at C. "O God! Guide me, protect me, make of me a shining lamp and a brilliant star. Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful."

Page 11: Dubai, African Lions

ZIP INTO ACTION

"Rejecting the low sights of mediocrity, let them scale the ascending heights of excellence in all they aspire to do." —Bahá'í Writings

It feels great to zip into action! There are lots of ways you can reach new heights of service and help your community. Maybe you'll create art for a neighborhood gathering, make treats for a fundraiser, or share your skills with others.

When you rise to a challenge, it can be tough. You may feel


nervous or worried about failing. But like a trusty helmet and safety harness, your family and friends can assist with your adventures. Praying for guidance can also keep you on track.

The next time you have a chance to soar in service, take a leap. Then enjoy an exhilarating ride!

START

Find your way through the forest and reach the party platform using zip lines, ladders, or bridges.

END



“He urges you to make up your minds to do great, great deeds . . .
The condition of the world is steadily growing worse, and your generation
must provide the saints [and] heroes . . . of future years. With
dedication and will power you can rise to great heights!”

—Bahá'í Writings

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