



Happy
Halloween



VAMPIRE BIRDS OF THE GALÁPAGOS!

Meet the world's creepiest bird — the vampire finch! These small brown birds live on remote islands in the Galápagos, off the coast of Ecuador. And yes, they really do drink blood!

During dry seasons, when food is scarce, vampire finches peck at the feathers of larger seabirds called boobies, sipping tiny drops of blood that ooze out. Luckily, the boobies don't seem too bothered — scientists think they've learned to tolerate it because the finches also help by picking off parasites.

This blood-sucking habit makes the vampire finch one of the strangest survivors in nature. They weren't always this way — their ancestors ate seeds and insects, but over thousands of years, they adapted to their harsh island home in the spookiest way possible.

So while bats and wolves get all the Halloween fame, these feathered “vampires” prove that sometimes the weirdest creatures are the smallest ones!



CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS:

- **VAMPIRE FINCHES ARE ONLY FOUND ON TWO ISLANDS IN THE GALÁPAGOS.**
- **THEY USE THEIR SHARP BEAKS LIKE TINY STRAWS!**
- **THEY'RE NAMED AFTER BRAM STOKER'S FAMOUS VAMPIRE, COUNT DRACULA.**

SPOOKY CRYPTOGRAMS

Solve the riddles using the code.

The squares with no icon are a blank space.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

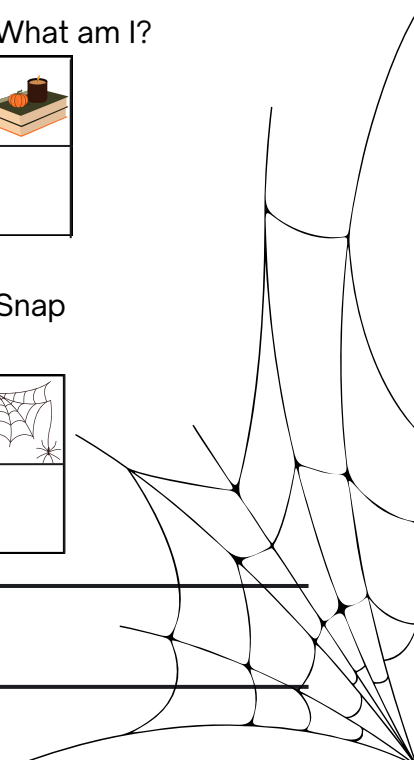
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

I'm a ball, but I can't be kicked, thrown or tossed. What am I?

I have four fingers and a thumb, but I will never be alive. What am I?

I'm often called wrapped up in myself. What am I?

Frankenstein's father has three sons. The names of two of them are Snap and Crackle. What is the third son called?



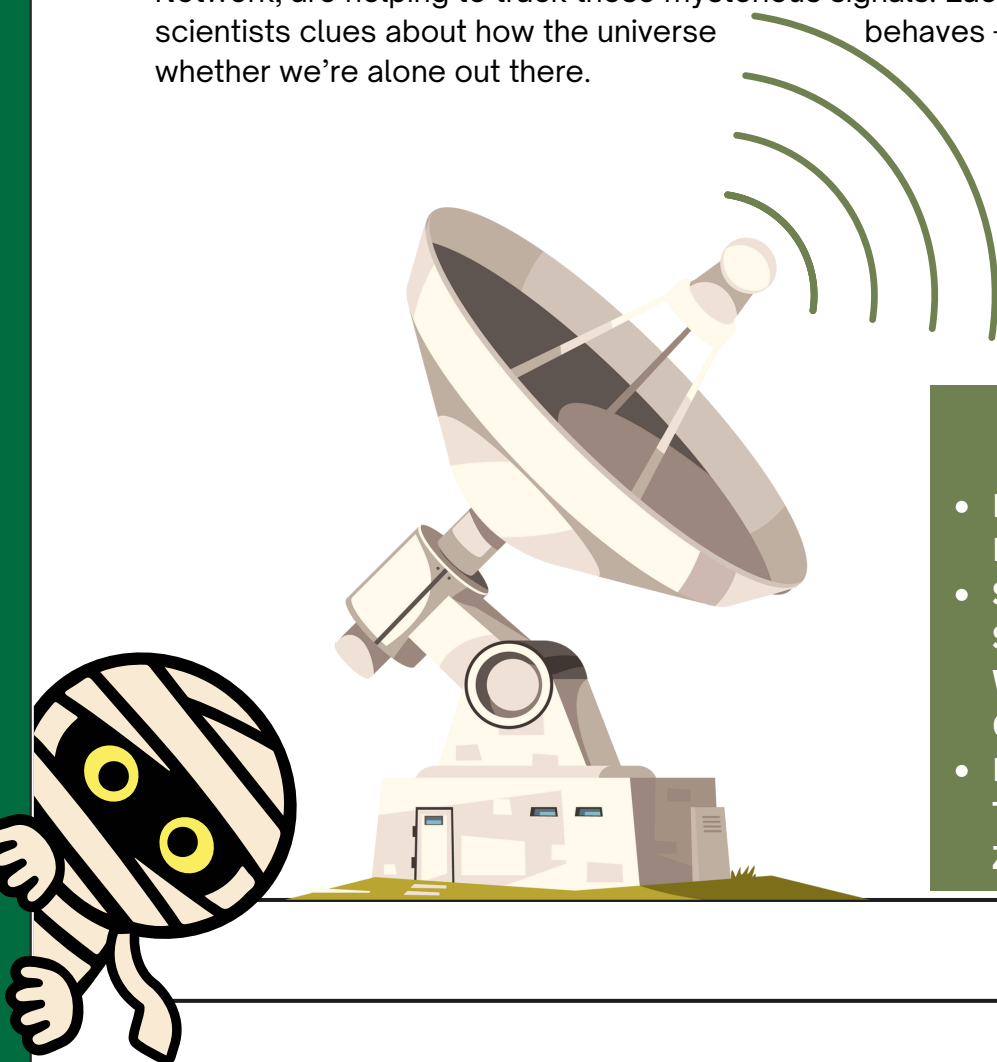
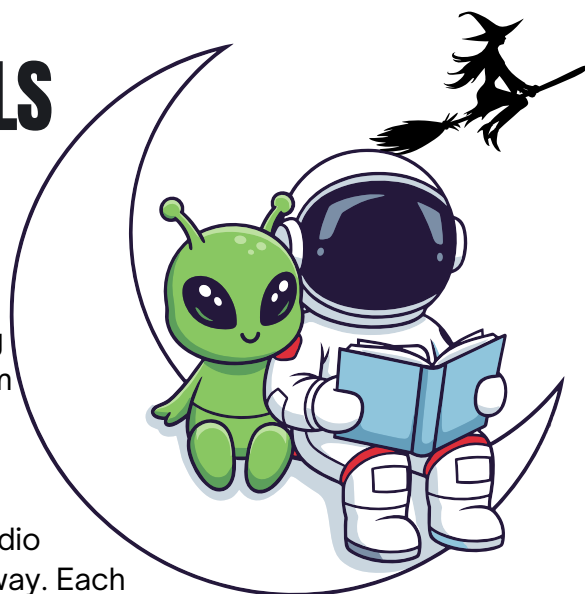
NASA HEARS STRANGE SIGNALS FROM SPACE

Deep in space, mysterious bursts of energy are puzzling scientists — and they sound like something straight from a science-fiction story!

NASA's astronomers have detected what they call Fast Radio Bursts (or FRBs). These are powerful flashes of radio waves that come from galaxies millions of light-years away. Each burst lasts less than a second but gives off more energy than the Sun does in a whole year!

No one is quite sure what causes them. Some scientists think they come from neutron stars — the leftover cores of massive stars that exploded long ago. Others wonder if they could be linked to black holes... or something even stranger.

NASA's latest telescopes, like the James Webb Space Telescope and the Deep Space Network, are helping to track these mysterious signals. Each new discovery gives scientists clues about how the universe behaves — and maybe, just maybe, whether we're alone out there.

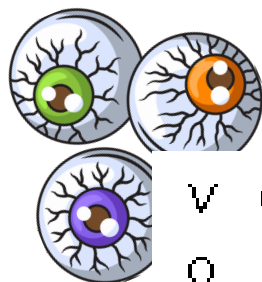


SPACE SIGNAL FACTS:

- FRBS WERE FIRST DISCOVERED IN 2007.
- SOME COME FROM THE SAME SPOT REPEATEDLY, WHILE OTHERS APPEAR ONLY ONCE.
- IF YOU COULD “HEAR” THEM, THEY’D SOUND LIKE A QUICK ZAP!

WORDSEARCH: SPOOKY SCIENCE

Find the words listed below. Just remember, they can go in any direction: forward, backwards or even diagonally! Some words may even share letters.



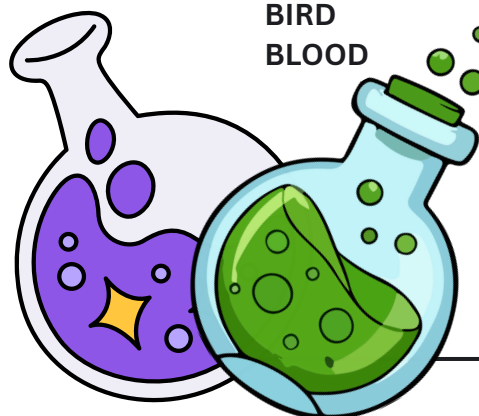
V	O	S	G	Y	A	S	F	A	S	N	Q
O	A	P	U	L	X	I	P	S	J	U	F
H	E	M	I	R	R	A	H	A	J	E	B
C	S	E	P	E	I	C	L	N	C	O	F
T	N	N	B	I	N	V	B	A	T	E	U
I	P	A	P	I	R	F	T	X	G	K	S
W	L	S	F	T	P	E	N	H	M	T	I
L	W	E	S	P	I	L	C	E	E	D	G
Z	U	O	E	I	B	M	O	Z	T	R	N
G	H	B	L	O	O	D	O	Z	E	I	A
G	T	E	N	A	L	P	Q	W	O	B	L
A	S	T	E	R	O	I	D	X	R	T	N

ALIEN
ASTEROID
BAT
BIRD
BLOOD

ECLIPSE
FINCH
FIREBALL
GALAXY
GHOST

METEOR
NASA
PLANET
SIGNAL
SPACE

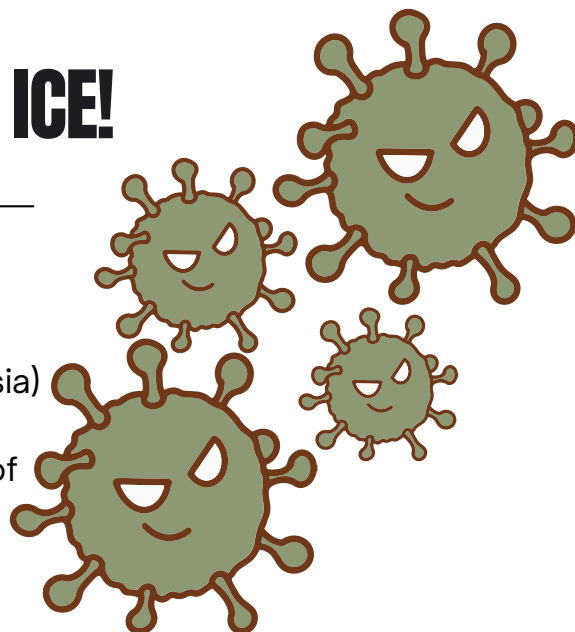
VAMPIRE
VIRUS
WITCH
ZOMBIE



ZOMBIE VIRUSES FROM THE ICE!

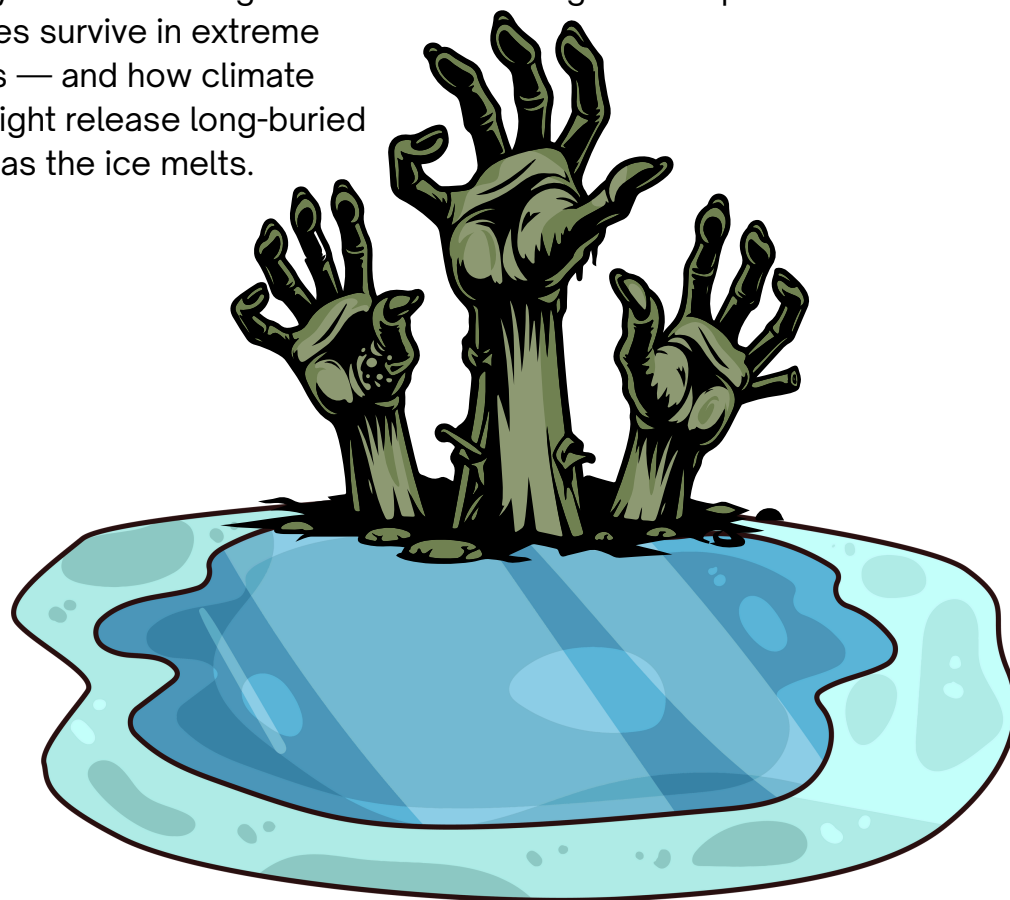
It sounds like something from a Halloween story — scientists have found ancient “zombie viruses” frozen in the Arctic!

Researchers in Siberia (a very cold region in Russia) discovered viruses trapped inside permafrost, a layer of ground that stays frozen all year. Some of these viruses have been asleep for more than 48,000 years — since the time of the woolly mammoth!



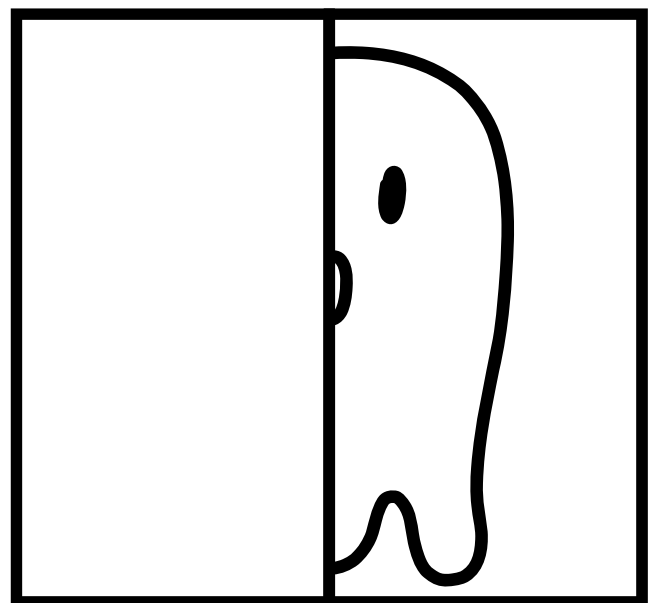
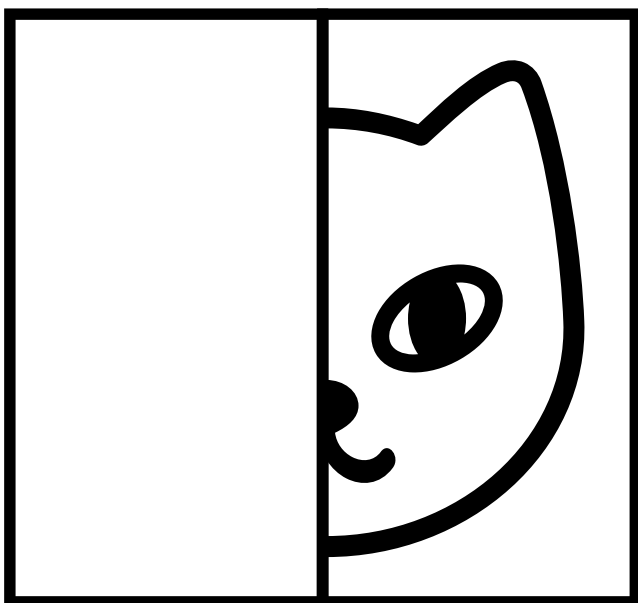
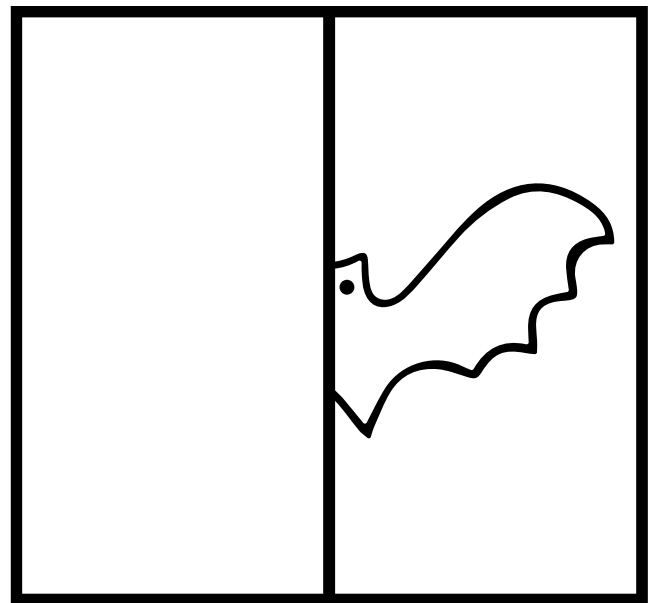
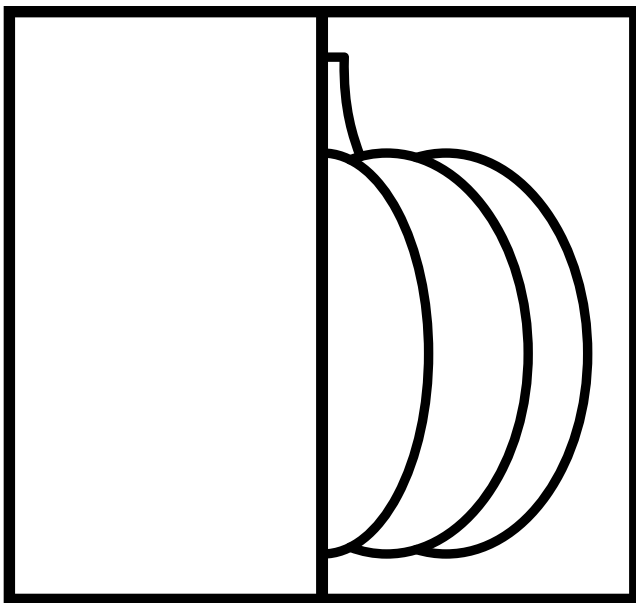
The scientists carefully thawed tiny samples to study them in the lab. Don't worry — these viruses only infect microscopic amoebas, not humans or animals. The team wanted to see if ancient viruses could still “wake up” after thousands of years... and surprisingly, some did!

Why study them? Learning about these frozen germs helps scientists understand how viruses survive in extreme conditions — and how climate change might release long-buried microbes as the ice melts.



HALLOWEEN HALVES

DRAW AND COLOR THE OTHER HALVES OF THE PICTURES BELOW.



A MYSTERIOUS GREEN FIREBALL LIGHTS UP THE SKY!



People in Portugal and Spain recently looked up to see something that could have come straight out of a Halloween movie — a bright green fireball streaking across the night sky!

The strange light was caused by a meteor, a small space rock burning up as it entered Earth's atmosphere. NASA scientists explained that the green glow came from nickel, a metal found in many meteors. When it burns, it creates a dazzling emerald flash.

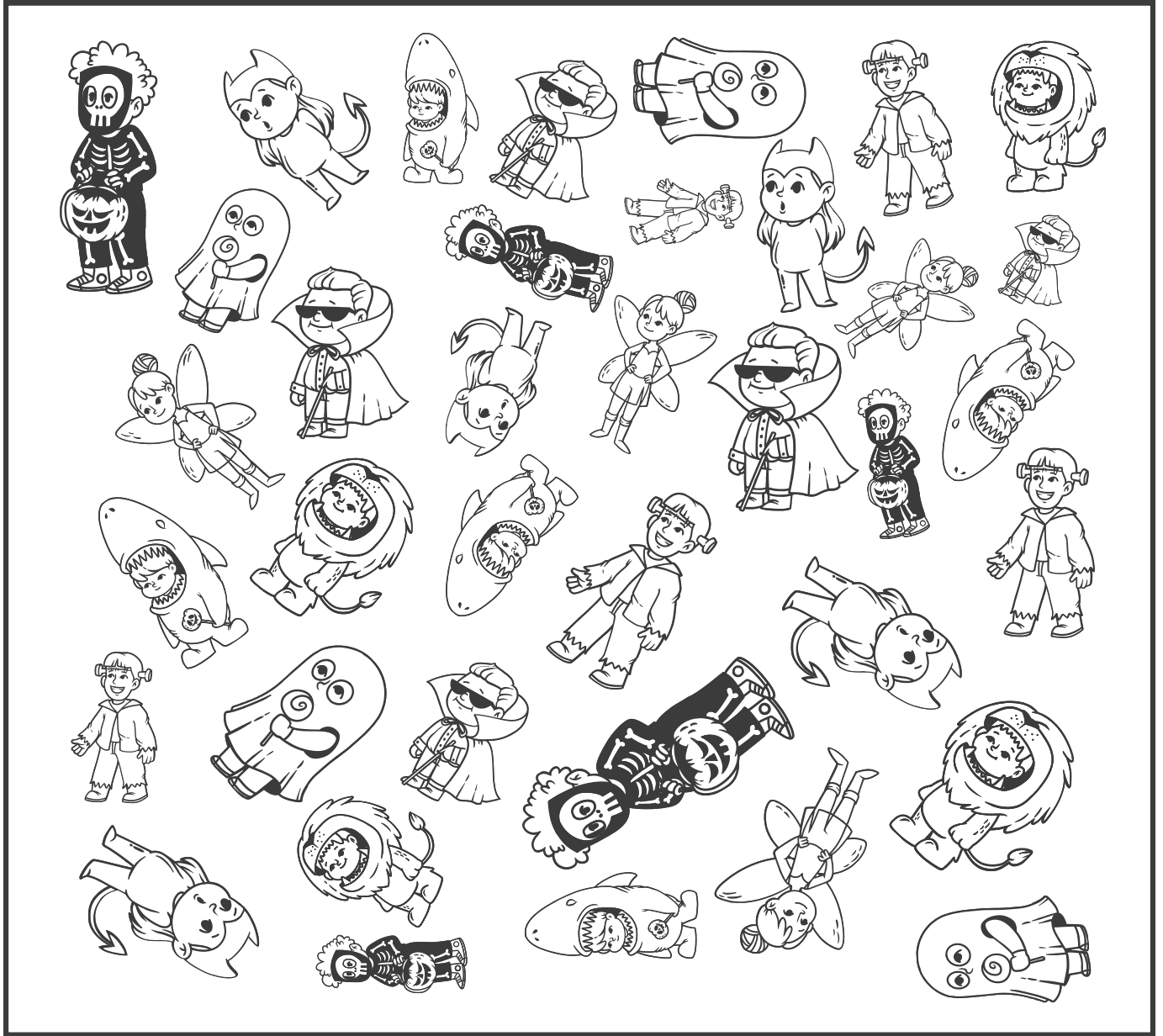
For a few magical seconds, the sky glowed bright green before the meteor broke apart and vanished. Videos from doorbell cameras and cars quickly spread online, with people comparing it to a “shooting star on steroids.”

Fireballs like this aren't dangerous — most burn up long before they reach the ground. But they give scientists a chance to learn more about what's flying around our solar system.

So next time you're outside at night, keep your eyes on the stars. You never know when a fiery visitor might whoosh by!

I SPY HALLOWEEN

How many of each character can you find?



THE MANY MISFORTUNES OF EUGENIA

WANG

By Stan Yan

Meet Eugenia Wang—a smart, slightly grumpy, and totally misunderstood twelve-year-old who seems to have the worst luck ever. Her teachers don't get her, her classmates tease her, and to top it off, she's just discovered she can see ghosts! But the spirits she meets aren't spooky—they're confused, funny, and sometimes in need of help.

As Eugenia tries to balance homework, friendships, and her strange new ability, she discovers that her so-called “misfortunes” might actually be her greatest strength. When she's pulled into a mystery involving her school and the afterlife, she has to decide what kind of hero she really wants to be.

This graphic novel is filled with humour, heart, and a touch of the supernatural. The comic-style illustrations burst with energy and emotion, making it easy to feel every awkward moment and every brave choice. It's also an important story about belonging, identity, and learning to be proud of who you are—even when you feel out of place.



BEHIND THE BOOK

Author and illustrator Stan Yan created *The Many Misfortunes of Eugenia Wang* to share a story he wished he'd had growing up. Like Eugenia, Stan often felt like an outsider—especially as one of the few Chinese-American kids in his school. Through Eugenia's adventures, he wanted to explore what it feels like to be different, to stand out, and to finally realise that those differences are actually your superpowers.

Stan also fills the book with elements of Chinese culture, from beliefs about ghosts and spirits to traditions about honouring ancestors. These details make the story feel real and help readers understand how culture can shape who we are.

In his own words, Stan says he hopes Eugenia's journey “helps kids feel seen” and reminds them that everyone's story matters—even the ones that begin with a few misfortunes.

LOGIC PUZZLES

Logic puzzles are back! For those new to these, Logic puzzles are puzzles where you need to use clues, a grid, and some deductive reasoning to figure out who matches with what or what items go together.

For more information on how solve them please refer to page 7 in Edition 6 (it's available for free on our website).

Just remember to add in the ✕ and. ✓ in the correct boxes and you'll be able to find the answer in no time!

What is a 'Deductive Reasoning'?

Deductive reasoning is like being a detective. You start with some clues, and you use those clues to figure out the answer. It's about using your brain to piece together information, just like a puzzle!

TRICK-OR-TREAT TRAIL

	AMIR	BELLA	CHEN
			
			
			

Three friends—Amir, Bella, and Chen—each visited a different spooky house and got a different treat: Toffee, Gummy worms and Chocolate. Match each child to the treat they got:

Use the clues below to solve the puzzle:

Clues:

- Amir didn't get Gummy worms.
- Bella didn't get Toffee.
- The Chocolate bar wasn't given to Amir.
- Chen didn't get the Chocolate bar.

Your Answer:

Amir _____

Bella _____


Chen _____


RORY


SANA


THEO

MAYA









It's finally time to go Trick-or-Treating. Match each child to their costume: Rory, Sana, Theo, Maya ↔ Vampire, Mummy, Black Cat, Wizard.

Clues:

- Sana was the Black Cat.
- Maya wasn't the Wizard or Vampire.
- Rory wasn't the Wizard.
- Theo wasn't the Vampire.

Your Answer:

Rory: _____

Sana: _____

Theo: _____

Maya: _____

Match each helper to their start time: Nina, Oscar, Priya, Leo ↔ 5:00 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m.

Clues:

- Oscar started at 5:00 p.m.
- Leo began 15 minutes after Priya.
- Nina did not start at 5:30 p.m.
- The latest start (5:45 p.m.) was Leo's.

Your Answer:

NINA: _____

OSCAR: _____

PRIYA: _____

LEO: _____

NINA

OSCAR

PRIYA

LEO

5:00

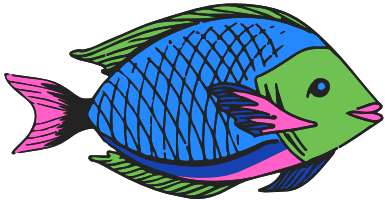
5:15

5:30

5:45

CREEPY, CRAWLY & KINDA GROSS!

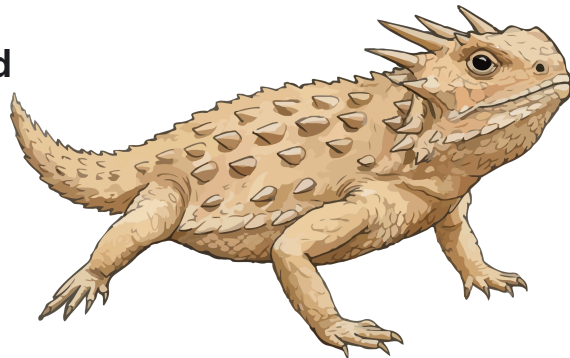
Get ready to say EWW — to these amazing but super-gross animal facts! Which one do you think is the weirdest?



Parrotfish sleep in slime sleeping bags.
Slimy bubbles hide their smell from sharks.

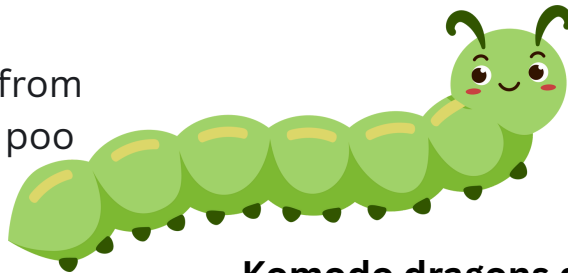
The horned lizard can shoot blood from its eyes.

It sprays it at predators to scare them off — gross, but effective!



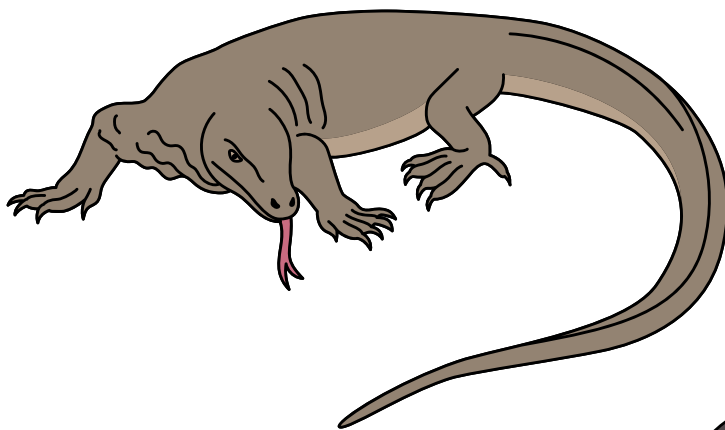
Some caterpillars disguise themselves as bird poo.

It's a clever way to stop birds from eating them — no one wants a poo sandwich.



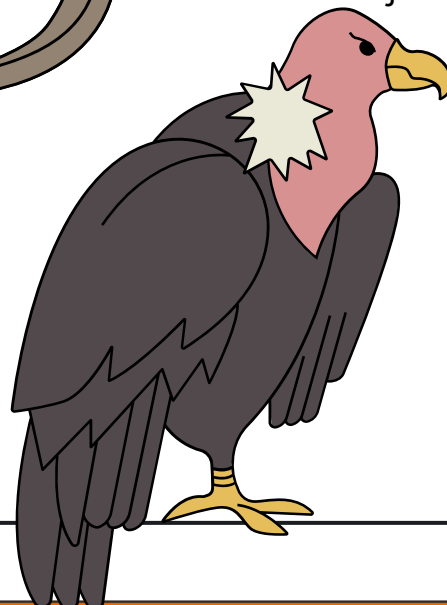
Komodo dragons drool deadly spit.

Their mouths are full of bacteria, so one bite can infect and weaken prey until the dragon comes back to finish the job.



Vultures eat so much rotten meat they sometimes vomit — on purpose!

They do it to scare enemies or to fly away faster after a heavy meal.



TRICK
OR
TREAT

