



CK Reporter of the Week  
Kyra Warneke, Golden

## Think, plan before getting a pet



Nancy LaRoche helps a young guest become acquainted with a bunny at the Colorado House Rabbit Society photo/Julie Marshall

Live furry bunnies and fuzzy chicks are hard to resist. Lots of people like to get them as pets for Easter.

But if you take one of them home, you will need proper things to care for it, experts tell us.

If not, these animals will be sad their whole lives and could die painful deaths.

It's best not to even take one home during the holidays, says Nancy LaRoche of the Colorado House Rabbit Society.

"If you wouldn't get a reindeer for Christmas, you

shouldn't get chicks or rabbits as Easter presents or decorations," she says. "Animals aren't decorations or toys. They are living creatures, who have a lot of needs, just like we do."

Bunnies need lots of space and exercise, and they can live up to 14 years.

Bunnies must be handled safely, and they can get bored, so they need lots of toys and a companion.

They also need healthy vegetables to eat.

**"If you wouldn't get a reindeer for Christmas, you shouldn't get chicks or rabbits as Easter presents"**

**-- Nancy LaRoche**

"Many people take the time to learn about rabbits' needs, and make a commitment to care for them their entire lives," LaRoche says. "And if you can't, you should get a stuffed animal or a chocolate one instead."

There are important things you need to know about rabbits and chicks.

In order to get chicks, you have to contact your city to ask if it's okay.

Usually it is, but you can't tell if a chick is a rooster or a hen until they get older, and most cities don't allow roosters because they make lots of noise and disturb neighbors, so it's best to get an already grown hen than a chick so you don't get any surprise roosters!

Chickens need to be protected from the weather as well as from predators, such as opossums, raccoons, cats and dogs, and they need lots of space to spread their wings.

They also need shade, water and clean straw.

If you do these things, chicks and also ducks can make great pets, says Raul Arce-Contreras of Humane

Society International.

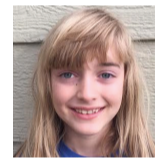
"Talk with your parents and think about how much time, money and care these little creatures require," he advises.



Many of the hens and roosters at Danzig's Roost Sanctuary in Bennett are abandoned Easter chicks. photo/Julie Marshall

He also reminds people that there are many abandoned chicks and bunnies in shelters who need homes, so it's good to look there if you decide a rabbit or hen is the right pet for you.

For more tips on raising bunnies and chicks, see our links at [ColoradoNIE.com](http://ColoradoNIE.com)



By Jazy Marshall,  
10, a CK Reporter  
from Lafayette

## Tiger exhibit might put you a bit on Edge

The new Amur tiger exhibit at the Denver Zoo, called "The Edge," contains three Amur, or Siberian, tigers, named Nikolai, Thimbu, and Nikita.

This exhibit is a lot of fun to visit.

The zoo keepers are informative and helpful. They talk about how the tigers are endangered and need our help to save them.

I am glad this opportunity has arisen for these big cats to be saved by humans as they are a big part of our ecosystem.

You can see the cats through a glass window, a metal panel that simulates the jungle, or through a chain-link fence.

Except for the area at the fence, you get to be pretty close to the tigers compared to other exhibits I have been to.

My favorite was the metal panel because you are only 3 inches of metal away from the tiger.

You can hear it, you can smell its breath, and you can see it the way that the animals in the wilds of Russia and northern China would see it.

The cats seem more relaxed, too, as this exhibit nearly doubles the tigers' outdoor space from their former home in the Felines Exhibit.

There are several parts to the enclosure that include a cat walk overhead that lets the big cats walk and lie on it, as well as sleep in the sun.

Both sides contain swimming pools.

One side, for cats in the prime of their lives, contains jumping steps, a huge post



Visitors to the Edge have only to look up to see who's looking down from the cat walk. photo/Denver Zoo

to climb to get up to the catwalk, and a log.

The other side, for both the younger and the old tigers, contains a ramp to get up to the catwalk, a smaller, more shallow pool, and a log and other things to keep them entertained.

The catwalk is above the heads of visitors, which made for a pretty funny moment, because some of the visitors thought the cats had peed on them but in reality, they were just shaking off water from the pool!

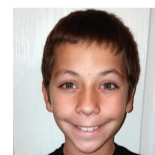
You don't really get wet, you just feel a mist.

I highly recommend a visit.

There are fewer than 400 Amur tigers remaining in the wild, and they are largest type of cat.

The name of this new exhibit,

"The Edge," was intentional as it shows how close to the edge you get to the tigers, how you see the edge of the forest, and how the tigers themselves are on the edge of extinction.



By Ben Vanourek,  
11, a CK Reporter  
from Littleton

YOUNG AMERICANS

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# The Civil War came west on this day in 1862

The Civil War was one of the most important and tragic moments in American history, as 625,000 men died over the question of slavery and whether states had the right to leave the nation if they disagreed with its laws.

But that war often seems to have happened east of the Mississippi, far from Colorado, in places like Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Vicksburg, Mississippi and Chickamauga, Tennessee.

However, this part of the country was touched by the war 155 years ago, and, on this day, a plan to seize the gold fields of Colorado and extend the Confederacy to the West Coast came to an end at Glorieta Pass, just northeast of Santa Fe, NM.

In the days before the Transcontinental Railroad, the West was very much out on its own, but Texas was already a state and had joined the Confederacy in leaving the United States.

There was not a huge rebel army in Texas, but it was large enough to plan a major move that might have given them a large advantage in the war:

If they could take over the rich gold fields of Colorado, they'd have more money to trade with other nations and keep the war going.

Once they took Colorado, they planned to head west to invade California, which also had precious metal, but something



Image: Pecos National Historical Park; Map: Google Maps

even more valuable to the South:

At the start of the war, the American navy began patrolling the East Coast and the Gulf Coast.

This made it very difficult for trading ships to come and go from Confederate seaports like New Orleans and Charleston.

But if the South controlled California, it would have a long seacoast and good ports for trading with the outside world.

The rebel army had little trouble taking the cities of Albuquerque and Santa Fe from the small American forces stationed there.

Their next step was to sweep through Glorieta Pass at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo mountains and head for Colorado.

But there the Texans found a surprise: A force of Colorado Volunteers who joined the Union forces to even out the numbers and make it into a much more fair fight.

There was a brief battle March 26, but the main fight broke out on March 28, and, although the Confederates thought they had won, they got back to their camp to find that a group of Colorado soldiers had circled around to destroy their supplies.

The rebels were forced to return to Texas, their plan to capture the Southern Rockies and California over.

Today, the site is part of Pecos National Historical Park, which also has the remains of a pueblo, a mission and other exhibits.

## Big Nate



## Sudoku

				1	
3		6			
		5	3		2
		2	5		
	2				6
6					4

Rules: Every row across, every column down and each of the six smaller boxes must contain numerals 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, one time and one time only.  
The solution to this week's puzzle is on Page 4.



## Brainteaser

Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta turns 31 today, so all our answers this week will begin with "G." Take a bonus point if you know her stage name!

- Eight pints
- A major river in India, it has religious significance to Hindus
- Major League Hall of Fame pitcher from Wasson High School in Colorado Springs, he won a World Series ring as a member of the New York Yankees.
- Protagonist of a classic Jonathan Swift story, he's most famous for his travels to the land of Lilliput where tiny people tied him to the ground.
- Pinocchio's "father"
- Colorado county named for an assassinated US president
- Colorado judge currently being considered for a place on the US Supreme Court
- It's not a search engine: It's a one followed by one hundred zeros
- TV comedy series from the 1960s about a group of shipwrecked tourists
- A popular tropical fish known for how easily it is kept in home tanks and how often it has babies, it comes in many colors as well as a breed called "swordtail."

(answers on Page Four)

## Tiny tardigrade reveals the secret to almost-eternal life

This odd-looking little creature has a lot of names, including "water bear" and "moss piglet," thanks to its pudgy, eight-legged body, which you can only see through a microscope.

Its real name is "tardigrade" and there are hundreds of species of them, living in water nearly everywhere in the world.

But what has been puzzling biologists about the tardigrade is that it not only lives wherever there is water, but that it continues to live even when that water freezes or boils or disappears completely, for several years at a time.

For awhile, scientists thought the answer was a sugar called "trehalose," which is also found in wood frogs, a species that can survive being frozen

through the winter and hop back to life in spring.

But not all tardigrades contain trehalose, so that couldn't be the answer.

Now a group of researchers reports that the secret appears to be "tardigrade intrinsically disordered proteins," a genetic material that, when things start to dry out, sends a signal throughout the tardigrade's tiny body.

At that point, it forms little glass-like balls that protect the tardigrade's proteins. When it's time to wake up, the balls disappear, the proteins are released and the animal bounces back to life.

Scientists hope to use this knowledge to keep drugs and vaccines, as well as organs waiting to be transplanted, fresh longer.

photo/Goldstein labs



# Beyond These Pages!

## Hot Links to Cool Sites!

### NASA's Space Place

<http://tinyurl.com/ckspace>

### NIE Special Report

<http://tinyurl.com/ckniereport>

### Headline Geography

<http://tinyurl.com/ckgeography>

### Pulse of the Planet

<http://tinyurl.com/ckpulseplanet>

## How to become a NextGen Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/colokidsreporter>



To read the sources for these stories  
 Chicks and Bunnies  
 The Battle of Glorieta Pass  
 Tardigrades  
 go to <http://www.tinyurl.com/ckstorylinks>

## Sudoku Solution

2	5	4	6	1	3
1	3	6	4	2	5
1	4	5	3	6	2
6	3	2	5	4	1
4	2	3	1	5	6
5	6	1	2	3	4

## Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. a gallon 2. Ganges 3. Rick "Goose" Gossage 4. Gulliver 5. Gepetto  
 6. Garfield 7. (Neil) Gorsuch 8. googol 9. Gilligan's Island 10. guppy

# Stories in the Stars: Boötes

## The Story

The first thing to know about Boötes is how to say it. A lot of people pronounce it like baby shoes – "booties" – but it has two long O's in it, one right after the other – "boh-OH-tees." Often, the second O has two little dots over it to show you that.

Boötes has many names. Most often, he's called "the herdsman," because he seems to move the stars around the sky like a herdsman moves cattle or sheep.

As the night goes on, Ursa Minor turns around on its tail, the North Star, and Ursa Major also goes around just below it. Boötes follows along behind them.

For watchers in the Middle East, the North Star was a sheep pen, and Boötes the shepherd. Because he is following bears and not cattle, however, he is also called "the bear watcher," and, in some traditions, he is hunting those bears.

Or perhaps Ursa Major is really a farm wagon, and Boötes is riding it around and around, or it's a plow, and he's endlessly working the fields of the sky – in England, they told his story both those ways for many years.

It seems strange to have so many stories about him and so few stories in which he is anybody in particular. But maybe that's because people were watching him before they began to invent those stories.

Boötes includes a very bright star, Arcturus, which helped ancient sailors and hunters keep track of the time at night. Long before clocks were invented, the North Star was like the center of the dial, and Arcturus went around it like a hand, telling them how late it was getting, and how long it would be before dawn.

Boötes is mentioned in Homer's *Odyssey*, as one of the constellations Odysseus watches as he sails, trying to find his way home. It's also mentioned in the Bible's *Book of Job*.

For Inuit people icefishing in December and January in ancient times, keeping an eye on Arcturus, which they called "Sibwudli," was very helpful. When you get that far north, the sun barely comes up at all in the middle of winter and it's easy to lose track of time.

So you can decide for yourself whether Boötes is a herdsman, a plowman, a bear hunter, a wagon driver or a big clock. But whoever he is, and whatever he's doing up there, he's certainly been a very important person for a very long time.

But people still pronounce his name wrong!



## The Stars

If Boötes is the Bear Driver, it only makes sense that you can find him by following a bear's tail! First, find the Big Dipper.

Then follow its tail from the main body to the end, and keep going in that same curved line for about twice the handle's length. There you will find a very bright star.

This red giant is Arcturus, and since you followed a curved line to find it, astronomers like to say "follow the arc to Arcturus."

To see the rest of the constellation, think of Arcturus as the bottom of an ice cream cone that stands up next to Ursa Major. Or you might think of it as shaped like a kite.

If you're planning to look at the sky for awhile, or if you're going to be outside doing something else, take a look at Arcturus and at Polaris. Try to remember where Arcturus is in relation to the ground.

Then look at other constellations and stars, or do whatever else you were going to do. Let some time pass.

Then look back at Polaris, and find Arcturus again by following the arc of the Big Dipper's handle.

Where has it moved to since you first saw it? Can you see how ancient hunters and sailors could use Arcturus and Polaris together to tell time?

Start at Arcturus and head towards the edge of the ice cream cone, on the side away from Ursa Major. About halfway up the "cone" part, you'll see two stars, one bright one and one not as large.

The bright star is Izar (Arabic for "veil") or Pulcherrima (Latin for "most beautiful") and, if you have a telescope, you may be able to see that it is a very pretty double star.

Izar's two stars are an orange bright giant and a white dwarf, so that, if you can get a good, sharp look through a telescope, the contrast makes quite a picture!

## NEXT WEEK: Scorpius

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For a teaching guide, go to <http://tinyurl.com/ckserial>



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