



CK Reporter of the Week
Wesley Schlachter, Boulder

A small reason to visit DMNS again



Small, yet intriguing, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science's newest exhibit, "After The Asteroid," uses newly uncovered fossils to discover more of our age-old history.

This exhibit shows around 30 fossils found recently in Coral Bluffs near Colorado Springs.

This is a good addition to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science's arsenal of exhibits.

They have approximations of what the actual animal may have looked like, along with pictures of the changing landscape, comparing now to how it looked around 66 million years ago.

There is an informational video, but it was hard to listen with other patrons around

The exhibit is intended to tell a story of how the world recovered after the famed asteroid decimated

the dinosaurs, but I couldn't really draw as much knowledge from it as I wanted to, since the exhibit seems quite small.

This, unfortunately, resulted in the incomplete feeling I got: I was sad that I wasn't able to learn as much as I wanted to.



For that reason, I would not recommend that you go to the museum if this would be the main attraction.

However, if you rarely go and want to see a variety of things, or you have a membership and can go whenever you like, it is still interesting and the fossils are very well preserved, making it worthwhile.

This would not be the best exhibit for little kids who are impatient or don't like admiring the beauty of things: They will find it boring.

However, it was still a good experience and I'm glad I went.

These are some of the best-preserved fossils I'd ever seen, and many people will enjoy it.

This is a good addition to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science's arsenal of exhibits.



Story and photos by
Thatcher Mulholland,
14, a CK Reporter
from Broomfield

Poetry unravels a sad pattern of injustice

"Say Her Name," by Zetta Elliott, is a collection of poetry highlighting many injustices African Americans are facing in our country.

The book communicates specific issues by referencing numerous cases of police brutality, such as the cases of Tamir Rice, Dajerria Becton, and Sandra Bland; unjust trials, such as those of Bresha Meadows, Ahd Tamimi, and Cyntoia Brown; and killings, such as those of Trayvon Martin and Sabriya McLean; all of which have happened in recent history.

I would rate the book a ten out of ten because it is strong, rousing, and engaging.

This poetry collection shows Elliot's perspective on these various tragedies and several more, and it also shows her perspective of what happened in response, such as memorials and protests.

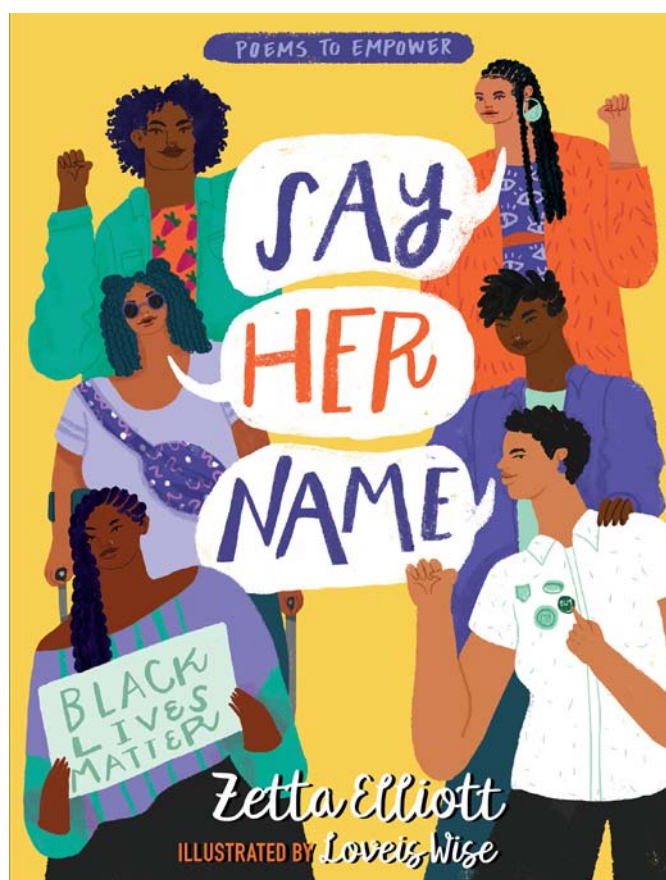
The book is well written and inspirational.

Elliott's use of real-world events, like the stigma around Afro-Textured hair ("natural hair"), conveys several feelings, including anger and sadness.

The poem "Don't Touch My Hair" references the school suspensions of several girls for how they wore their natural hair.

The message of pain that the poetry collection portrays is impactful and

highlights the unfortunately large number of people who get hurt by acts of violence.



The writing is impressive whether or not you have personally experienced the impact of brutality in our country; It is important for everybody to learn about the various events within the book, because otherwise they will continue to happen.

Elliott strongly communicates a message of hope for the betterment of society, which is important for everyone to understand, as all people need to contribute for society to improve.

I would rate the book a ten out of ten because it is strong, rousing, and engaging.

I suggest the poetry collection for anybody who enjoys poetry, is interested in reading about social justice or would like a good book full of inspiring poetry about many issues that people face in our country today.

I would recommend "Say Her Name" to readers 12 and older because of the sensitive topics this poetry covers.



By Jaden Sutherland,
14, a CK Reporter
from Denver



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Fun, but much of the challenge is in the directions

The smART Pixelator is a fun toy, but it also has challenges that may slow buyers. The Pixelator itself is crucial to have, as the app won't let you continue without it.

There are other products that this brand sells, but the Pixelator is what you must have.

The Pixelator is similar to a regular pixelator, or Lite Brite, but it has the steps broken down to make it easier. All the instructions are online, so you have to download the app.

I think the app was the best part of the product, because you got to make a profile, which was a lot of fun.

The app has all the different products, bracelets, beads, the 3D beads, sequins and the pegs.

The instructions were pretty good for all of the projects, except for the bracelets.

The bracelets had really cute designs, but the instructions on how to sew them together were at the beginning, so by the time you finished the long grueling bracelet, you completely forgot how to thread it together.

I tried to start the other bracelets just to see if they had the instructions, but it seemed like a one time instruction manual.

The unfinished bracelet is still in my room.

The bead projects were pretty cool, with instructions on things that were super detailed, like a tiger.

In order to work the Pixelator, you use your smart device to find a project that you want, and click on it.

Then the step-by-step instructions light up for the parts that you need to construct. It was fun, but the beads are super small and hard to get on the plastic sheet without knocking everything else out of place.

The kit includes a tool to help, but it's tricky to get the beads off, so it tips the whole art project over.

The pegs are much easier to use, but the instructions weren't clear on whether you need to iron the pegs or not.

Otherwise, the pegs were fine and they were easy to put on the board.

The cleanup was absolutely horrible, especially if you don't want the colors to mix.

I spent the entire afternoon putting all the colors in individual Ziplock bags. In hindsight, I should have just mixed the colors.

The smART Pixelators made really cool projects, and were great for a rainy day, but they were frustrating and the instructions on what to do after you finish putting the beads in their place were unclear.

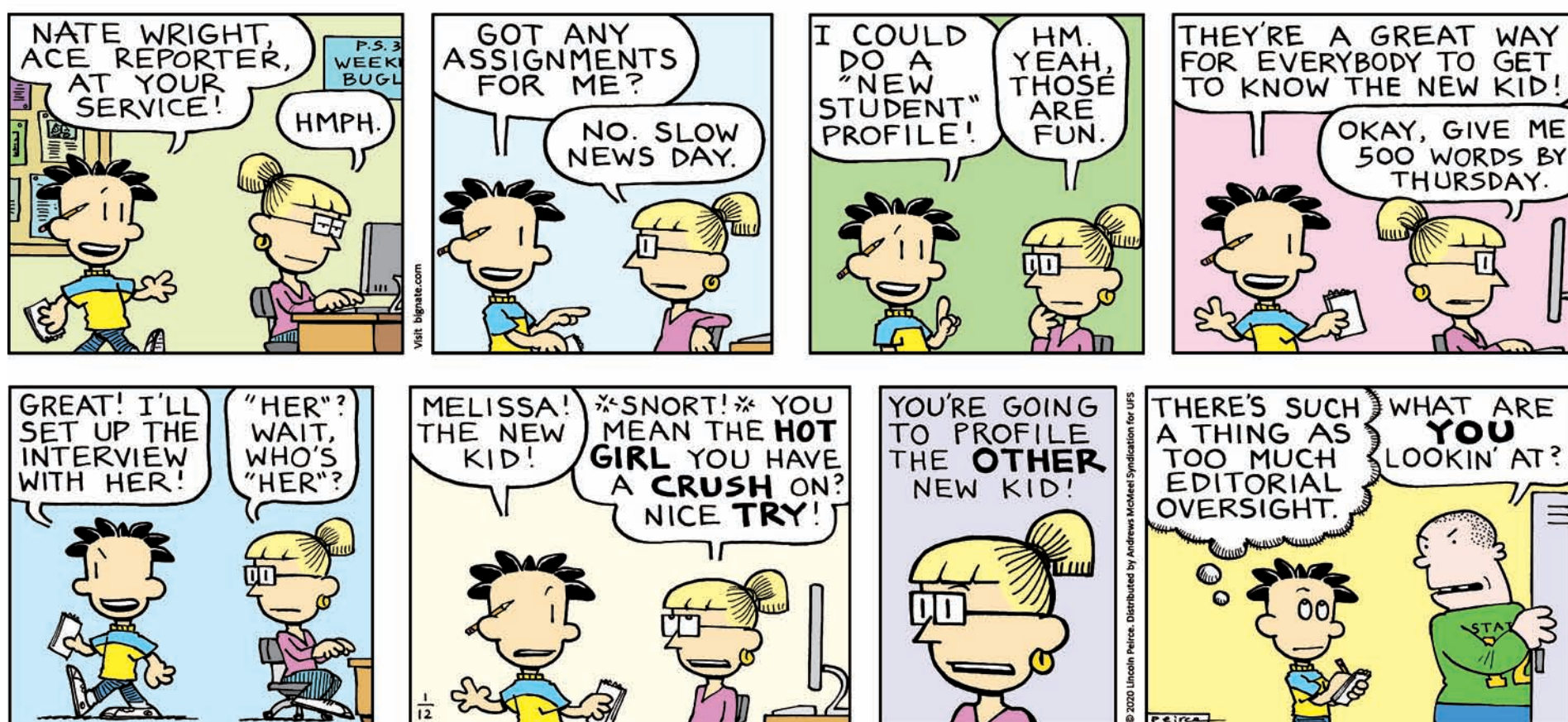
The only clear instructions were on how to set the Pixelator up.

I would give this a three out of five stars for these reasons.



By Izzie Intriago, 11, a CK Reporter from Aurora

Big Nate



Sudoku

		4	3		
6				4	
2		5			4
			5		
	1				
	3				2

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 3.



Brainteaser

Rapper and star of "NCIS: Los Angeles" LL Cool J turns 51 today, so our answers will begin with S for James Smith (Ladies Love Cool James!).

1. Chopped, pickled cabbage, often eaten on hot dogs
2. Author/illustrator famous for his "Busytown" children's picture books
3. Major US city on Puget Sound, near the Canadian border
4. Though made of brass, this curved, keyed instrument has a reed and is a woodwind
5. Lizardlike amphibian with smooth, damp skin
6. Religious group associated with northern India in which men are expected not to shave their beards and to wear their hair uncut, long and under a turban.
7. Town in which the fictional Simpson family lives
8. Type of dog with long ears and a silky coat, used to flush game birds out of cover for hunters
9. Brightest star in the night sky, also called the "Dog Star"
10. It might surprise you that, if you go through this Chaffee County city, you'd still be nearly in the middle of Colorado.

(answers on Page Three)

Set out your lawnchair and prepare for a treat in just 63 years

How old will you be in 2083?

The reason we ask is that most things we predict will take place in space happen over so many thousands of years that, while they're interesting, they're nothing any of us are likely to see.

But astronomers have been keeping an eye on a faint star they call V Sagittae, or V Sge for short, which has been getting brighter for about 130 years.

V Sge is a binary star, meaning two stars orbiting each other, and they're apparently starting to conflict.

Astronomers now predict that sometime around 2083, V Sge is going to suddenly become a nova and the brightest star in the heavens, brighter than Sirius

or the planet Venus.

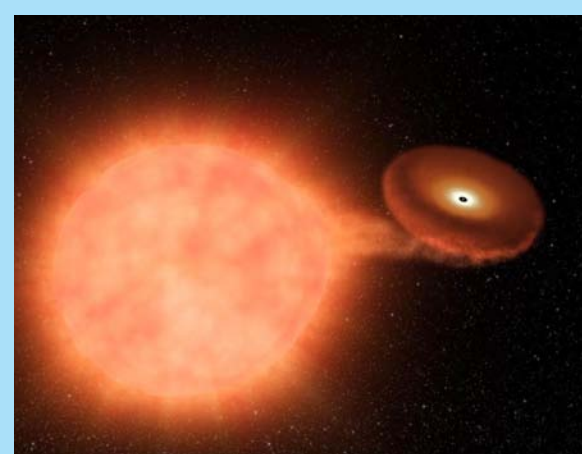
It won't be as bright as Betelgeuse will be when it goes nova, which we told you about in our New Year's Eve issue.

But that event is scheduled for sometime in the next 100,000 years. This is happening soon, not just in space terms, but even in Earth terms.

Here's something else cool: Sagitta, "the Arrow," is one of the dimmest, smallest constellations, and you need a telescope to even see V-Sge now.

But, with that telescope, you can see it from anywhere on Earth except Antarctica, so this will be a lightshow for everyone to enjoy!

Illustration/ NASA



Beyond These Pages!

Hot Links to Cool Sites!

NASA's Space Place
<http://tinyurl.com/ckspace>

NIE Special Report
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How to become a CK Reporter!
<http://tinyurl.com/COkidsReporter>



To read the sources for these stories

Nova
 Earthquake

go to <http://www.tinyurl.com/ckstorylinks>

Earthquakes hit Puerto Rico



Homes are damaged after an earthquake struck Guanica, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020. A 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck Puerto Rico before dawn on Tuesday, killing one man, injuring others and collapsing buildings in the southern part of the island. (AP Photo/Carlos Giusti)

Barely two years after being struck with one of the most damaging hurricanes in history, Puerto Rico was rocked last week by a large earthquake.

The tremor cracked sidewalks and roads and damaged many homes, leaving people sleeping outside for fear of additional quakes.

Although farther from the United States mainland than the nations of Cuba, Haiti or the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico has been part of the US since the Spanish-American War in 1898 and has often been suggested as our 51st State.

That may sound unusual, but the State of Hawaii is more than 400 miles farther from either California or Alaska than Puerto Rico is from Florida.

People from Puerto Rico are American citizens and, while they cannot vote for the President, they do have a non-voting representative in Congress who can at least bring their issues to the nation.

This means that a disaster in Puerto Rico is an issue for the United States just as if it happened in Colorado or Florida, and there has been aid to the island since the earthquake.

Puerto Rico, however, is, like California, an area prone to earthquakes.

The reason is that the island is at the edge of a tectonic plate, the huge formations of the Earth's crust that shift about. North America is on a separate plate, and, although the two plates only move a few centimeters each year, when they push against each other, one finally slides above, the other finally slides below and the ground above pitches from the sudden release of pressure.

Last week's earthquake in Puerto Rico was powerful, but, fortunately, only one person was killed. However, while electricity was restored to about half the homes that had it before, a major generating plant was severely damaged and may not be restored to service for a year.



Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Two)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

- sauerkraut
- (Richard) Scarry
- Seattle
- saxophone
- salamander
- Sikhism (Sikhs)
- Springfield
- spaniel
- Sirius
- Salida

CK Calendar

Friday, January 18

"Dolittle," a movie based on the Dr. Dolittle books and starring Robert Downey, Jr., opens in Denver.

Sunday, January 19

Enjoy some low-sensory time in the famous diorama halls at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, from 6 to 8 p.m., with reduced sound, increased lighting, and a supportive environment for families with sensory integration issues. Free, but registration is required. For more information, visit <https://secure1.dmns.org/family-programs>

Sunday, January 28

Middle School Teen Lounge: Sci-Fi Odyssey, 7 to 9 pm, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Sixth to eighth graders take over the Museum at this totally free event. Blast off during a sci-fi, space-themed evening as you explore the stories of a place that continues to capture imaginations and spend some time in Space Odyssey before it closes for its transformation. Includes free snacks, entertainment, and activities.

Sunday, February 2

Last day to see the Monet exhibit at the Denver Art Museum, featuring more than 120 paintings spanning Monet's entire career and focusing on the celebrated French Impressionist artist's enduring relationship with nature. A special dated and timed exhibition ticket is required and you should definitely buy yours in advance. For more information, go to <https://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/claude-monet>

Saturday, February 8

"Cutting Edge," special dissection lab for kids in grades 4-6 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Observe and perform dissections to find out how the human body functions. Dissect hearts and lungs, eyes, brains, and frogs, examine real bones, listen to your own heartbeat. For tickets and information, go to <https://secure1.dmns.org/cutting-edge-grades-4-6-2>

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