



CK Reporter of the Week  
Sylvia Goodman, Centennial

## Indoor Springtime in the Rockies



Most of us have probably seen some pretty orchids, and they may have been really nice. But the ones at the Denver Botanic Gardens Orchid Showcase are some of the best I've seen. I especially enjoyed how the orchids were displayed. The horticulturist I met with, Scott Preusser, told me that the flowers on display weren't all orchids. It starts with the fact that the orchids have tags. Using moss, they are able to hide the tags that the flowers carry. Having flowers with matching color and backgrounds that go with the type of orchid makes it feel more natural, allowing the orchid itself to really stand out. The orchids there all need special care, for they are definitely not your regular house flowers! They require intense humidity and would not survive just being out in the dry Colorado air. Many plants wouldn't, and, as a matter of fact, the Botanic Gardens has many greenhouses, each one with certain

temperatures based on the type of plants in it.

When I went inside some of the greenhouses, it felt like a tropical jungle after it had rained, especially the ones holding the orchids.

Even looking through the windows, there were droplets of water all across. Some of the orchids are from Hawaii, so they need that humidity.

The orchids are all beautiful, but there were definitely some that stood out to me.

The Moth orchids are on the more simple side, but they are wonderful when in groups.

I saw a cluster of lilac ones that I loved the second I saw them; there are a variety of types when it comes to Moth orchids, so I liked seeing one special color.

One of my other favorites was a beautiful hybrid orchid. Yes, hybrid flowers are a thing!

It was a Tokyo Blue and Sapphire, which made it a pretty indigo color.

Another orchid that caught my eye was a Vanilla orchid. Vanilla actually comes from orchids, believe it or not.

If that doesn't shock you, try this: Orchids naturally grow in trees.

Inside of a greenhouse, they had a tiny orchid growing on a little log, and most of the other orchids are slanted the way they would be on a tree.

The Botanic Gardens also hold



Hybrid Tokyo Blue and Sapphire Orchid

some extremely rare orchids, some too rare to show.

This includes the Dracula Orchid. It was still blooming when I visited, but when it blooms, it has black and dark, murky reds.

The bulb itself was a purplish-black.

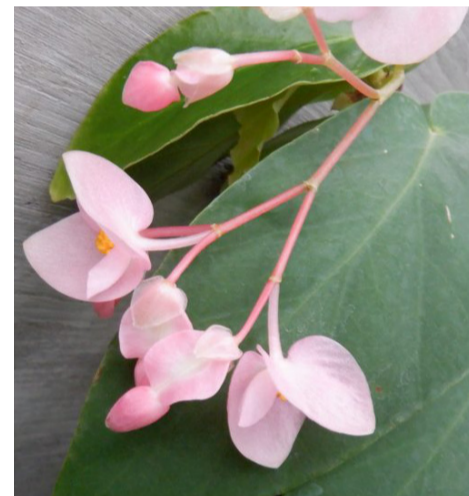
I would definitely recommend going to the Orchid Showcase.

The display is lovely and seeing these orchids is a great way to transition into spring. It is an experience for all ages, and I would suggest going with family or close friends.

The orchid display runs until

February 15.

Hope it grows on you like it did me!



Vanilla Orchid



Moth Orchid



Story and photos by Sophia Levy, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver

## How to engineer a happy ending (with laughs)



"Ellie, Engineer In the Spotlight," by Jackson Pearce, is a charming book on the importance of unconditional friendship and staying true to yourself.

The story begins with Ellie engineering a skateboarding ramp for her friend Kit to use during the Miss Junior Peachy Keen Pageant.

Ellie is an engineer, and will also be participating in the pageant. She'll be performing a dance, and is excited.

The pageant takes place in a hotel, and there Ellie meets Melody.

Melody is Kit's rival, and not nice at all.

She will perform a magic trick; but when her rabbit, Pancakes, goes missing she makes sure the entire hotel knows.

The worst part? She blames Kit!

Ellie will have to engineer a trap for Pancakes to make sure that the real thief is uncovered!

But when Melody makes sure that Ellie knows engineering

is "gross," Ellie goes through a bit of an identity challenge.

Is her love for engineering something that she never should've liked in the first place?

This book was good, although I think it may be better for a younger audience.

Still, I really enjoyed the educational pages in the back on things like insulators and conductors (*especially because we're learning about that same exact thing in Science*) and the recipe for insulating and conducting dough.

I liked the book and I would give this as a gift to someone who has big ideas.

Watch Ellie find her place at the pageant and enjoy the hilarious side plot as Toby tries to win Miss Congeniality when he's not even in the pageant!



By Lizzie Intriago, 11, a CK Reporter from Aurora

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# Stories of a different kind of warfare

**"Spies, Lies, and Disguise: The Daring Tricks and Deeds That Won World War II,"** by Jennifer Swanson, is a nonfiction collection of historical tales.

The book takes a look at all kinds of tricks and plots used by the Allied forces during World War II to defeat the Nazis.

It is definitely not a boring history textbook!

Before reading this book, I had no idea the British army poisoned German cows so the Nazi army would have nothing to eat, or that a fake ice cream store was part of the D-Day invasion plot!

These are just some of the many stories that Swanson has put into "Spies, Lies, and Disguise."

Swanson's overall goal in the book seems to be to get her readers to understand that wars are not simply a matter of weaponry and battles, but also involve unusual and sometimes ridiculous schemes designed to trick an enemy who is as well-armed as you are.

One of the things I really enjoyed about this book is the way Swanson introduces each chapter with a "Help Wanted" illustration.

The "ad" lets the reader know what that chapter will cover, like "Too old to fight?"

Must be willing to hide in bunkers, and keep a secret" before a chapter that covered Winston Churchill's "secret army."

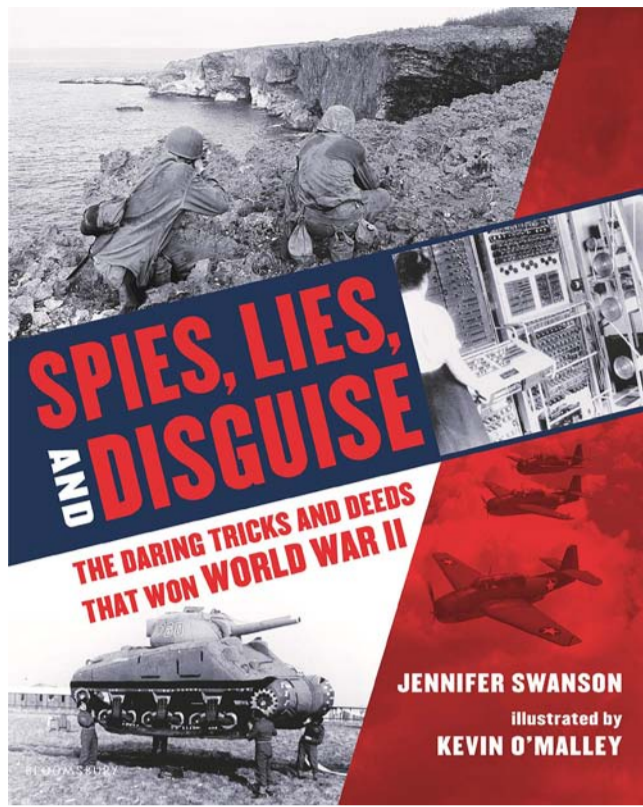
Another thing I liked is the inclusion of a short biography at the end of each chapter about real people who did the thing the chapter discussed, like famous author, Roald Dahl, who was a British secret agent tasked with getting the United States to enter the war.

Both the ads and the biographies help the reader better understand the history.

I read a lot about World War II, and I still learned new things from "Spies, Lies and Disguise," and readers who know very little about World War II would likely find this a very interesting way to learn about history.

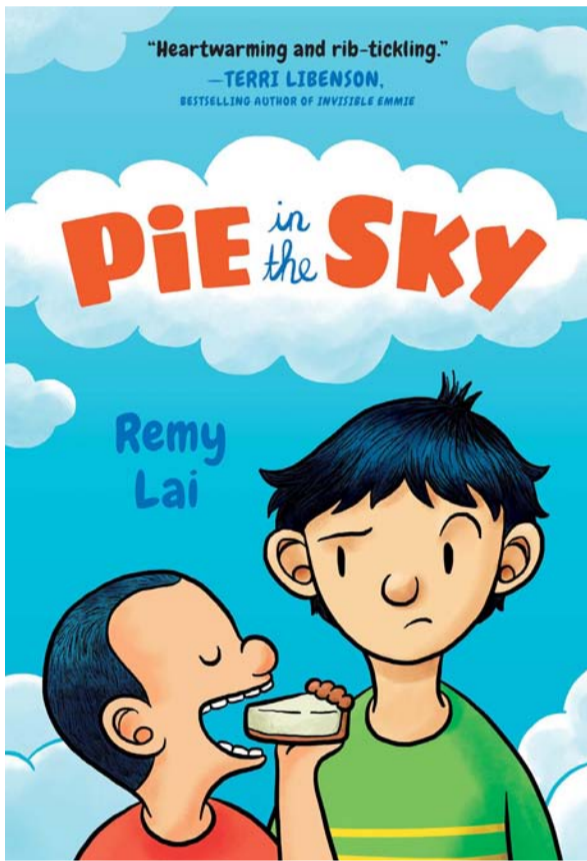
It is definitely not a boring history textbook!

Each chapter is a story of its own, so a reader can skip around and focus on the stories that seem the most interesting (like the Hollywood set designers tasked with creating inflatable decoy tanks and airplanes) without being confused or needing to read it all in order.



By Aidan Muldoon, 12, a CK Reporter from Denver

# A story of immigration and of special desserts



**"Pie in the Sky,"** by Remy Lai tells the story of two brothers, Jingwen, 11, and Yangho, 9.

They have to move to Australia because their mother wants them to have a better life, but, when they finally arrive in Australia, Jingwen feels like he is an alien living on Mars.

He doesn't speak much English so he feels out of place with everyone at school and even at home.

Once you learn what has happened to Jingwen's family you will understand why they had to move away.

When I first started reading this book, I didn't know the backstory that well but as the story goes on you understand their life.

For instance, we learn about the Pie in the Sky cakes that Jingwen and his brother bake.

Each cake symbolizes something important.

And in the beginning you may be wondering about the Rainbow cake and why it is so important to Jingwen.

We also start to learn about why Jingwen moved to Australia and about the tragedy and loss that struck

his family.

This book really helped me learn the hardships that people go through, whether that's moving to a place where you can't speak the language that well or if it's something going on in your family.

This was a very heartwarming book that made me laugh and almost cry.

What I really liked about this book was that the

author, Remy Lai actually lives in Australia and grew up in Singapore, so I'm assuming that this book has some similarities to her background.

If you do choose to read this book, you should be a fan of

funny and heartwarming novels.

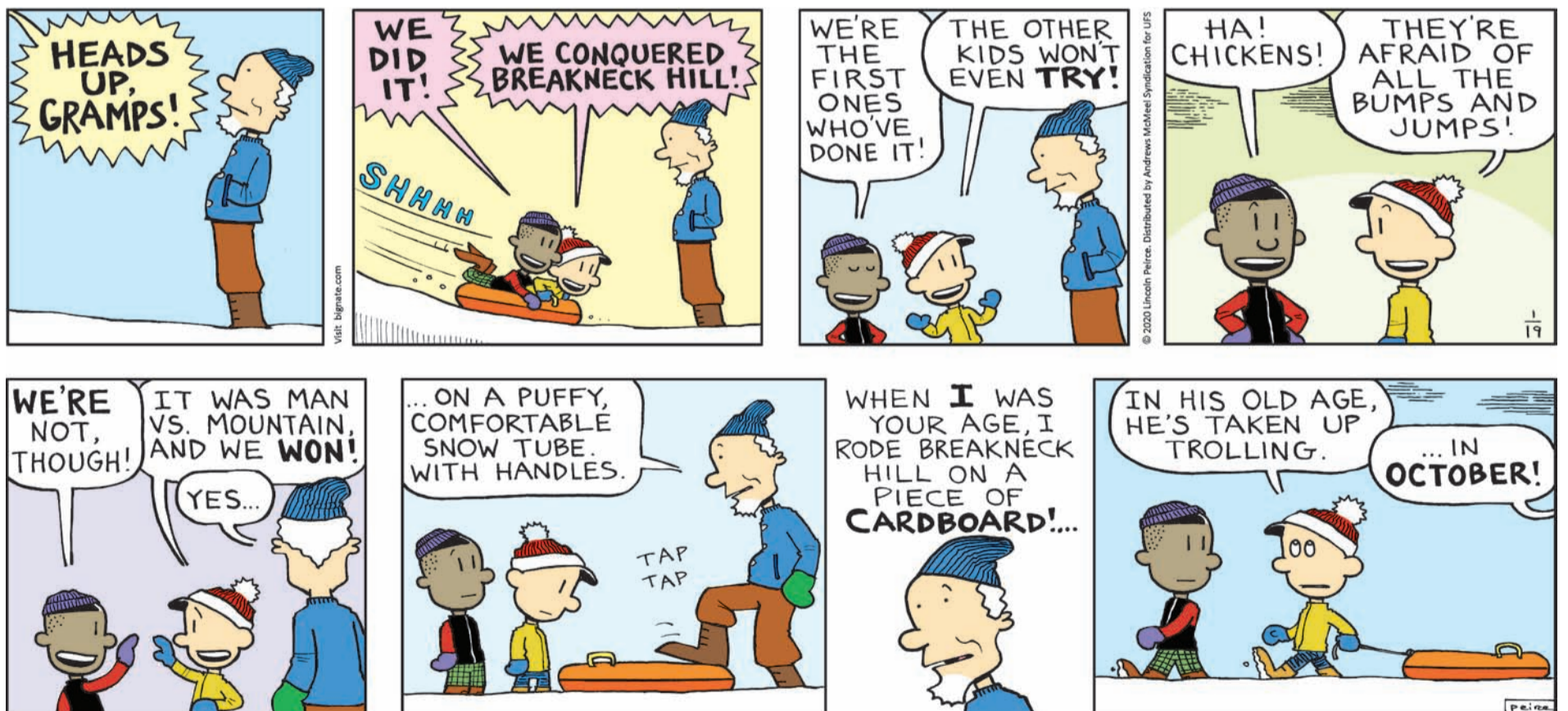
You should also be a fan of cake if you're interested in "Pie in the Sky."

This book really helped me learn the hardships that people go through



By Addy Vandel, 12, a CK Reporter from Aurora

# Big Nate



# Feather fossils tell of Antarctic dinosaurs

To understand this story, you must understand that our continents have broken up and shifted around over millions of years.

And you should also realize that the South Pole was not always covered in ice and snow.

And that some dinosaurs had feathers, but not all of them flew.

And that paleontologists have found ways of examining fossils that they didn't have before.

Which is part of why, when

small, fossilized feathers were discovered in southeastern Australia several decades ago, they got put in a drawer and ignored.

Recently, however, they were re-examined, and archaeologists have found new facts about feathered dinosaurs in Gondwana, the giant continent that broke up into most of our modern continents.

The area that is now the Ross Sea off Antarctica was once a land of dinosaurs, small animals and

prehistoric birds. It was a cold land of freezing temperatures, but not as frozen as it is today.

One discovery is that there were flying, feathered birdlike creatures there. Flying takes energy, so, in that cold climate, they must have been good hunters.

Another is that other dinos had smaller feathers just for warmth.

Now the search is on for a whole skeleton of one of those non-flying feathered dinosaurs.



illustration/Int'l Assoc. for Gondwana Research

# Potter game complex but worth figuring out

Harry Potter is famous worldwide, and so it makes sense that Funko Pop! would create a board game based on that universe.

However, the game does not live up to the high standards of the book series.

Still, it has potential to be a fun game for anyone's free time, after you figure out the complicated rules.

In theory, the Harry Potter Funko Pop! board game should be twenty to sixty minutes long, but, in reality, playing the game takes sixty to ninety minutes, not including setup.

The package contains a foldable cardboard map, four Pop! figures, two basic characters (an auror and a death eater), two scenario cards, a dagger, a felix felicis, twenty one points, a first player marker, six dice, four status cards, two cooldown tracks, eight game tokens, and instructions.

It took a whole two hours just to figure out how to set it up the first time.

There are five game modes in the Funko Pop! board game: the "First Game," the "Leaders," the "Control," the "Territory," and the "Flags" modes.

After setting up, you are supposed to play your "First Game" mode to get used to it, which was entirely useless, as you could have just played another mode to get comfortable with the game.

On top of that, the "First Game" does not use points, which are vital to win the regular game modes.



However, after spending hours figuring out the rules to each game mode, playing the game was a breeze, and was extremely fun.

The instructions are unclear, and can be interpreted in many ways.

The directions were entirely unhelpful because they did not fully explain what the rules are for each individual game mode, and each mode is unique.

For instance, the "Leaders" game mode has a different number of points for when a player's character knocks down a rival (a character on your opponent's team), while the "Control" mode has points given at the end of a round.

Overall, this game was pretty much fun, but only after you figure out the rules for the particular modes.

If you have enough patience to spend several hours figuring out how to play each mode, this could be your game, and, as a dedicated Harry Potter fan, I found the learning process

extremely long, but entirely rewarding.



By Jerry Krim, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver

# Royal couple chooses to leave the spotlight

Fairy tales often involve a young girl marrying a prince and moving into a palace.

But many other stories involve a small child whose mother has died.

Those two types of stories seem to be coming together in the United Kingdom right now, as Prince Harry and his wife have decided that the palace is not a place to live happily ever after.

Prince Harry and his American wife, Meghan Markle, have announced that they no longer want to be a major part of Britain's royalty.

While they haven't announced specific plans, it seems they, and their baby son Archie, will live part of the year in North America, probably in Canada, and the other part back in England.

The news has created a major stir in Britain, where the Royal Family is as much a part of the nation's identity as the Statue of Liberty is for Americans.

But Harry and Meghan are not eager royals, for a number of reasons.

Meghan, who is of mixed race, has been

treated harshly by the British press, which is far more gossipy than the American press.

Some opinion pieces about her have even included racist name-calling.

And if anyone expects Prince Harry to tell his wife to just ignore it, they're quite mistaken.

Harry's mother, Princess Diana, was killed in an automobile accident when he was 12.

She was divorced from his father, but the press was always writing gossip about her and the accident happened when her car was being chased by aggressive photographers.

Harry has said "I lost my mother and now I watch my wife falling victim to the same powerful forces."

People in Britain are disappointed, and some are even angry, that Harry and Meghan will no longer be a major part of the Royal Family.

But Queen Elizabeth seems to understand, and said in a statement, "My family and I are entirely supportive of Harry and Meghan's desire to create a new life as a young family."



Prince Harry and Meghan accept a gift of flowers and a salute from a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police while on a visit to Canada, which is where they may be living in the future.

(AP Photo/Alastair Grant)



## Sudoku

		2		3	
		5			4
				2	1
6					
			3		
	1	3	5		

**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

John C. Fremont, who explored much of the West, including parts of Colorado, was born in this day in 1813, so our answers this week will begin with "P" for his nickname, "Pathfinder."

1. Large, spectacularly feathered male bird with a huge tail and a loud, unpleasant voice.
2. The southern branch of this major Nebraska river flows through Denver.
3. Author of the Captain Underpants book series
4. This type of banana can be eaten raw but is more often cooked in many types of African and Caribbean cooking.
5. A type of fish, or a place for birds to sit.
6. A silent play in which the parts are acted out but no words are spoken
7. In music, this word tells you to play the part very quietly
8. J.M. Barrie's mischievous little boy who refused to grow up
9. This pie seems more about its sweet, thick filling than about the southern nuts for which it is named and which are usually put on its top in place of a top crust.
10. A scientist who studies ancient life, especially dinosaurs

(answers on Page Four)

## NASA will say goodbye to a great observatory, and you're invited!

If you can be in front of a TV or computer at 11 tomorrow morning, you can be part of NASA's farewell broadcast to one of its major space-based observatories.

The Spitzer Space Telescope isn't as famous as the Hubble Space Telescope or Chandra but it, along with the Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory, was part of NASA's Great Observatories Program.

Spitzer, which was launched in 2003, specialized in detecting infrared radiation, which made it a main source of information in spotting exoplanets and exploring their atmospheres.

But Spitzer's useful life is almost over, and NASA

will be shutting it down January 30, ending its very valuable mission.

Before that happens, however, there will be a special broadcast celebrating Spitzer's work, and it will be simulcast on NASA Television, Facebook Live, Ustream, YouTube, Twitter and NASA's own website.

The program will include experts from NASA, from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and from the Spitzer program itself, including an astrophysicist.

Part of their farewell salute to Spitzer will include taking questions from the audience, either at hashtag #askNASA or through the comment areas of the various channels.



image/NASA Jet Propulsion Lab

# 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 CK Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/COkidsReporter>



## To read the sources for these stories

Fossilized Feathers

Harry and Meghan retire

Farewell, Spitzer

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

# Hidden Treasures

Things we think you wouldn't want to miss.



## Denver Zoo sets up bushfire relief

Many people in the community share the Denver Zoo's deep concern over the devastating bushfires that are sweeping across Australia and taking a tremendous toll on the country's diverse wildlife.

The scale of loss is staggering and heartbreaking, with perhaps more than a billion animals killed, including many that are already threatened or endangered.

Denver Zoo is making an immediate contribution of \$5,000 and matching up to \$5,000 more in additional donations through its Field Conservation fund to Zoos Victoria, whose animal care and health experts are on the frontlines of the wildlife rescue effort, providing critical care, food and water to injured animals.

The Zoo is also closely monitoring the situation and will evaluate other ways to assist in the near future, including potential direct staff involvement, as the nature of the emergency becomes clearer.

You can join the Zoo in supporting their efforts by making a donation through its Field Conservation Fund, which will be matched up to \$5,000 and sending it directly to Zoos Victoria: <https://www.denverzoo.org/support/donate-to-field-conservation/>

## CK Calendar

### 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.

### Saturday, February 1

"Drones: Is the Sky the Limit" opens at Wings Over the Rockies. Explore the history of drone technology, from the earliest unmanned flying machines to advanced systems of the 21st century. Featuring real drones, rich audio-visual content, drone racing interactive, overview of drone technology. For information, visit <https://wingsmuseum.org/>

### 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>

### Thursday, February 6

In 2008, two sailors drifted across the north Pacific to Hawaii on a raft named Junk, made from 15,000 plastic bottles tied in old fishing nets stuffed under a Cessna 310 Aircraft. The 88-day, 2,600-mile voyage was designed to build a movement to save our seas from plastic pollution. This adventure has been captured in the book "Junk Raft: An Ocean Voyage and a Rising Tide of Activism to Fight Plastic Pollution." Author Marcus Eriksen will be at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science at 7 pm to talk about his book and the problem of plastics, not just in the ocean but in your daily life. For details, go to <https://www.dmns.org/visit/events-and-activities/0206-junk-raft/>

### 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>

### Saturday, February 8

Vintage Valentines Make-and-Take, Boulder Museum, drop in between 1 and 4 p.m.. Free with museum admission, materials provided so that you can create up to eight valentines to send to friends and family. For more information, visit <https://museumofboulder.org/>

## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. peacock 2. Platte 3. (Dav) Pilkey 4. plantain 5. perch 6. pantomime  
7. pianissimo 8. Peter Pan 9. pecan 10. paleontologist

# ColoradoKids

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