



CK Reporter of the Week  
Izzie Intriago, Aurora

## Flying takes more than fairy dust

**"P**eter Pan" began its life in 1904 as a play by Scottish author J.M. Barrie. In the 116 years since "Peter Pan" was first published, the story has been made into a novel, a silent film (1924), a Disney animated film (1953), a Broadway play (1954), a live-action movie in 2003, and countless TV shows and cartoons along the way.

And now "Peter Pan" is a ballet.

(If you are interested in watching amazing athletes fly through the air, get your tickets now!

Colorado Ballet is performing "Peter Pan" at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts from now until February 9.

Colorado Ballet's version of the Peter Pan story is a flying ballet.

Yeah, you heard me right, a flying ballet!

Creating a flying ballet is no simple task. In order to make it all work, Colorado Ballet hired ZFX Flying Effects to manage all of the challenging technical aspects of launching ballet dancers into the air.

"Our system to make them fly is pulleys and wires," says Shad Ramsey, Flying Director at ZFX Flying Effects and the man in charge of all of the flying operations for this production.

Pulleys and wires sounds basic, but the actual system is very complicated.

First, these are not just any wires: These are high tension wires that can carry up to 2,000 pounds, and the people operating the wires are trained professionals who take their stage cues from members of the Colorado Ballet who are not performing in that night's show.

This is really important because launching a dancer into the air a second too early or late could easily injure a cast member.

The job of the dancer behind the scenes, who knows the music and the timing perfectly because they are dancing it during other performances, is to cue the rope operator at the exact moment that the performer needs to be lifted.

Shad says safety is the Number One priority when doing this; ZFX uses a 10-to-1 rule, meaning that even though the wires can hold 2,000 pounds they only carry a maximum load of 200 pounds.

So, okay, the ropes are safe, but how are the actors attached to them?

Ballet costumes would not seem to make it easy to hide a big hook. It turns out that all the characters that fly wear special harnesses on stage so they can hook up inconspicuously without anyone in the audience realizing there is a technician behind a certain prop that the actor is stationed near.

There are four strategically placed wires around the set so that an actor can back into a wall and an unseen operator can hook him up to the wires.

Twenty people work backstage to fly Peter and the three Darling children.

Ballet is a art form that requires amazing athleticism and strength, even if you are not dancing in the air, so signing up for a flying ballet seems like a very risky thing for a dancer to do.

An injury could end a dancer's career.

Karly Makovy, Marketing and Public Relations Associate at Colorado Ballet, reports that each dancer has a strict contract to make sure the actors are protected and prepared for flying, with specifics like that the room has to be a certain temperature so the actor's muscles don't freeze up.

Ramsey also explains that the wires are not used to lift props or anything else, and so they are kept in top condition and individualized to the performer.

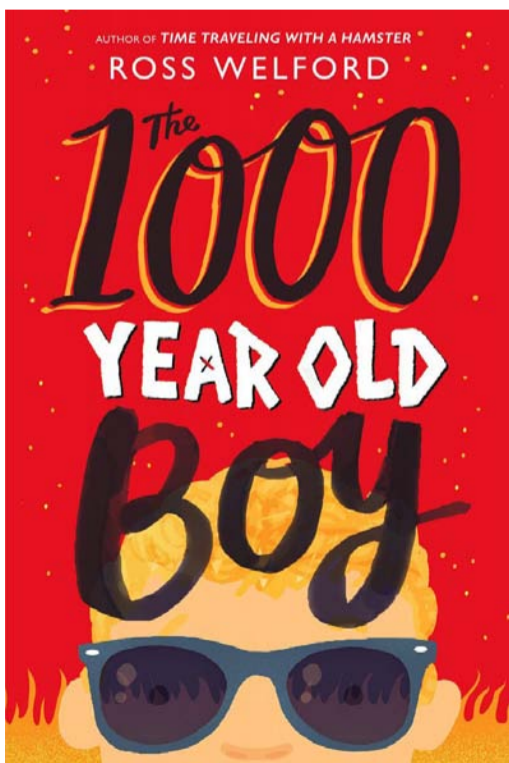
Many of the performances of Peter Pan are already sold out! So, if you are interested in watching amazing athletes fly through the air, get your tickets now!

For information, go to <https://www.coloradoballet.org/>



photo by Terry Shapiro, courtesy Colorado Ballet

## When immortality isn't what you wanted



**Y**ou may have seen or read books about people who want to be immortal.

This one is about a boy who wants to stop being immortal and grow up like us.

In "The 1,000 Year Old Boy," by Ross Welford, a boy named Alfie and his family own these precious pearls named life-pearls.

If you use them once, you stop growing up, though you can still die by battle, disease, or natural disasters.

If you use them once more, you start growing up again like normal.

Alfie ends up becoming immortal but wants to grow up normally again.

The novel is about the adventure he has while looking for the last pearl.

Being immortal might sound fun in the beginning, but as you read the story, you get a glimpse of why that might not be a good idea.

Fortunately, Alfie has great friends, who make sacrifices and risks to help him on his journey.

For instance, when the friends meet Alfie, one friend gives him his little sister's clothes, even though he might

get in serious trouble.

This made me think about what it takes to be a good friend to someone.

Also, this book included lots of details, so you may feel like you're in the story.

For example, it says, "It was like our class was a wild dog that could smell fear."

Here, the author used figurative language to show the reader that the class can sense fear in the air.

Overall, this book was very exciting, with many plot-twists that made me want to read more of the story.

Although there were a few confusing events, most of them started to make sense by the time I finished this book.

If you like adventure, suspense, and reading chapter books, I would highly recommend this book.



By Aidan Muldoon,  
12, a CK Reporter  
from Denver



By Ethan Jung,  
9, a CK Reporter  
from Denver

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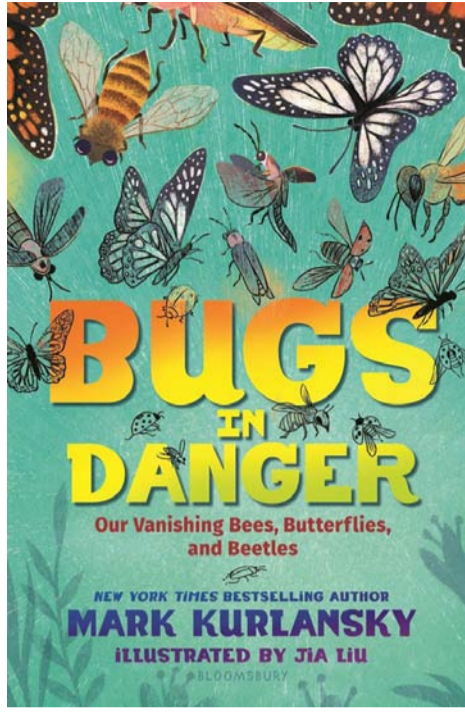


# When insects are in trouble, so is everybody

For some people, like my grandmother, it would be welcome news to hear that pesky and irritating insects are declining.

But this is actually happening, and it could be a catastrophic development.

In a simple and interesting way, Mark Kurlansky's "Bugs in Danger: Our Vanishing Bees, Butterflies, and Beetles" reveals the serious impacts that humans are having on many species of insects, making it easy for young readers to understand and grow more aware of the critical role that insects play in the Earth's environment.



Declining insect populations will cause other inhabitants of the ecosystem to begin to drop.

Kurlansky explains how insects have evolved to suit their habitats over millions of years, and why those insects are crucial to keeping their ecosystems together so that other organisms that inhabit them can thrive — and how the ecosystems are now quickly falling apart because of human disturbances.

Declining insect populations will cause other inhabitants of the ecosystem to begin to drop.

This can result in overpopulation of certain species, depending on the circumstances, but once there aren't enough plants or prey for that species to eat, its population will decrease as well.

Climate change is a major cause for the disappearance of many insect species, but pesticides and other chemicals play a large role as well.

With bees, for example, DDT can wipe out entire colonies, including bees in hives.

Pesticides might also cause CCD, or colony collapse disorder, though the true cause of this has not yet been found.

Other possible causes include increasing populations of parasites and insects that attack bees, genetically modified crops, or even bees growing disoriented from being constantly transported to different fields.

Surprisingly, CCD has not been observed in bees raised by organic beekeepers, who keep them in remote places and don't use chemicals on or near the bees.

In addition to explaining why bees and other insects are disappearing, Kurlansky goes into detail about how diverse insects actually are, the jobs that they do in their communities, and why they're important to the world's ecosystems.

He also lists ways in which you can help protect bees and other insect populations in simple but effective ways, like planting gardens, avoiding light pollution or just leaving a bug alone if you see one instead of stepping on it.

This is certainly a very interesting and educational read for all ages, and is great for teaching kids that there is much more to an insect than yellow stripes or colorful wings.



By Nandhi Strieker, 13, a CK Reporter from Antonito

## Big Nate



## Sudoku

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

**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

On this date in 1789, the Electoral College chose George Washington as the first president of the United States, so our answers this week will start with "W."

1. The way ducks walk, tilting from side to side with each step
2. Madison is the capital of this Midwestern state, famous for cheese and cheeseheads.
3. The small wire arch through which you are supposed to hit a croquet ball
4. The largest member of the weasel family, this animal has tremendous strength, sharp claws and a reputation for a bad temper, just like the X-Man named for him.
5. This London suburb is host to the oldest, most famous major tennis tournament.
6. Popular adjective describing a person who has become aware of racism, poverty and other unfair things in society.
7. The cowboy who takes care of the horse herd, or a brand of jeans he might wear
8. A dog very similar to, but smaller than, a greyhound
9. A legal document that tells what you want done with your stuff after you die
10. This girl's name became very popular after it was used for the main female character in "Peter Pan." (Trivia: It's short for Gwendolyn)

(answers on Page Three)

## Space X launches new set of Starlink satellites

This photo may look like a rack for storing video game cartridges, but it's actually the inside of a rocket nose cone, with each of those pieces one of Ethan Musk's Starlink satellites.

Space X has not said exactly how much each satellite measures except to say that they are the size of a "table top," which doesn't tell much since tables come in all sorts of sizes. But these "table tops" weigh 500 pounds each, at least while they're still here on Earth.

As we reported a few weeks ago, the idea of Starlink is to build a band of 42,000 satellites that will allow people in North America to gain high-speed Internet access using only a small portable antenna.

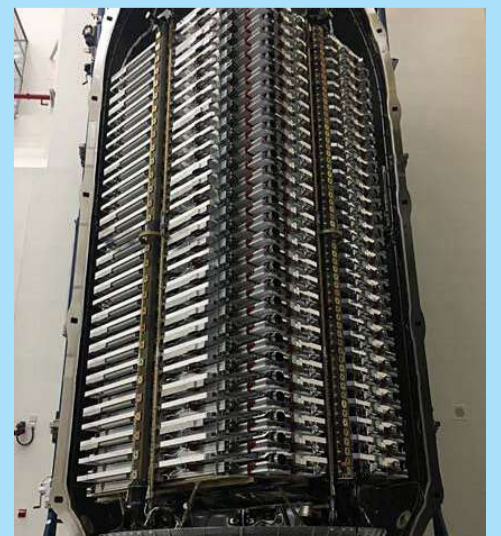
However, as we also reported, astronomers were unhappy with the first launch of Starlinks because they reflected light and made it hard to tell real stars from Musk's flock of satellites.

In the launch that went out last month, one satellite was painted with a dark coating to see if that would reduce interference with astronomers.

That's only one adjustment Space X is making. Once the Starlink satellites are working, they'll use their thrusters to move from 210 miles to 710 miles high.

But most of the first 100 or so will be replaced by improved models and sent tumbling down to burn up in the atmosphere.

photo/Space X





# 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>



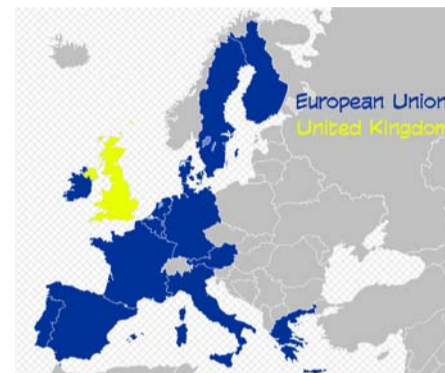
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 Brexit  
 StarLink  
 go to <http://www.tinyurl.com/ckstorylinks>

# The UK leaves the EU



Members of the European Parliament, wearing "Always United" scarves with EU and UK flags on each end, respond emotionally to the vote approving the United Kingdom's departure. (AP Photo/Yves Hermanji)

**B**rexit is nearly over. The agreement by which the United Kingdom chose to end its membership in the European Union, nicknamed for the combination of "Britain" and "Exit," was approved by the European Parliament last week.



The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland first joined what was called the European Economic Council, or "Common Market," in 1973.

In 1992, that group became the European Union and grew to 28 member countries, in a group that allowed members to ship products back and forth without having to stop to go through customs at each border, and for their citizens to travel within the EU easily.

However, a movement to leave the EU became popular in the United Kingdom, particularly among those who felt English culture was being watered down by not being separate, as well as some who did not like the ease with which immigrants could come live in Great Britain.

In June, 2016, the UK held a vote in which 51.9% of people voted to leave the EU, a narrow margin that required Brexit to move forward.

However, the close vote left many in the UK unhappy, particularly in Scotland, where people had mostly voted to stay, and in Northern Ireland, where the idea of setting up border stations with the Republic of Ireland was extremely unpopular.

But later voting for Parliament showed a stronger majority for those who wanted Brexit and who wanted limitations on immigration as well as the right to make their own laws instead of having to follow the rules that EU countries had established for food and other products.

Last week, the European Parliament voted to accept the terms for the UK's exit, although they will still technically be a member until the end of the calendar year.

Agreeing to the terms for Brexit, however, did not mean being happy about it, and some in the European Parliament even wept as they sang "Auld Lang Syne" and held hands around the room, honoring the first member of their group to walk away.

## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Two)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. waddle 2. Wisconsin 3. wicket 4. wolverine 5. Wimbledon  
 6. woke 7. wrangler 8. whippet 9. will 10. Wendy

## CK Calendar

### 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/>

### Wednesday, February 12

Patricia Blocker, owner of Peaceful Paws Dog Training and a Certified Professional Dog Trainer will discuss and sign her book, "Letting in the Dog: Opening Hearts and Minds to a Deeper Understanding" at Tattered Cover Book Store, Aspen Grove, 7 pm. Apart from discussing how to read canine body language, this book takes a light-hearted yet earnest approach to exploring how to connect with dogs.

# ColoradoKids

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