



CK Reporter of the Week  
Edward Jeffers, Evergreen

## Park has hikes, nature for all ages

**R**ocky Mountain National Park, near Estes Park, is a terrific site and experience.

The elevations of the mountain range running through the park are at least 7,530 to 14,259 feet and show glaciers in their icy peaks.

I went on some fun hikes with my family.

Alberta Falls is a breathtaking hike and about a mile from the Glacier Gorge trailhead.

There are steep canyons that a loud and foamy waterfall comes down. If you hike higher, it's worth it. Little waterfalls collide into the giant water fall.

From there, I hiked about a mile from Alberta Falls to Bear Lake.

Bear Lake has crystal clear water and I saw some amazing sights, like a site where an old traveler lodge sat, Ute Teepee poles, a 400-year-old tree, and twisty trees with "snow elbow".

A mother bear with cubs has been seen this year about 3 miles from the lake.

I kept an eye out for bears and mountain lions but



photo/Grace Ascione

did not see any. But I did see many different birds and little animals.

I would also recommend Sprague Lake for young hikers.

It's a half mile hike around with scenic mountain views.

There are small lagoons which are good to fish in. Little trout and tadpoles play in the shallow waters, and ducklings with their mothers are busy swimming across the lake and looking for fish.

While you try to catch a fish, you can look at the scenery of the glaciers and Rocky Mountains.

These spots were named after Abner Sprague, who was one of the first pioneers to ever settle in the Rocky Mountains in 1860s.

He named Alberta Falls after his wife, Andrew Glacier after his brother in law, and Sprague lake after himself where he built a lodge for guests.

These are amazing hikes where you can see different wild animals and enjoy a beautiful view of the snowcapped Longs Peak.

There are more hikes, but those are some of the most popular, wonderful, and accessible destinations in Rocky Mountain National Park.

## Take care not to hurt the bears!

There are approximately 24 black bears found in Rocky Mountain National Park.

There is one thing on a bear's mind and that is food.

An adult bear must gain at least 10,000 calories each day to stay healthy. They do this by eating a lot and hunting.

According to the Park Ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park,

the State of Colorado has a "three strikes and you are out" policy for bears.

If one day they find a bear looking for food in a campsite, that is strike one.

If they find the same bear looking for food in a campsite two more times, it is killed.

Brown bears, otherwise known as Grizzly bears, were hunted to extinction in the park in the 1890s. There are only black bears there now,

and they can be four different colors: Brown, blue, black, and blonde.



photo/National Park Service

Blue, can you believe it? Up north in Canada there are bears that have a blue tint in their fur. The colors of bear fur seen in the park are brown, black, and blonde.

No blue bears in the park, unfortunately, but the park rangers would think that is cool!

These bears live primarily next to Bear Lake, which is a popular hike and tourist destination.

It is our job to take care of the black bears and where they live, and that isn't just in National Parks: I saw one on my way home from school this spring!

It is important to carefully store our food so these wonderful creatures will not be caught looking through our tents or houses for food.



Both stories by  
Reese Ascione, 8,  
a CK Reporter  
from Golden

## Seeking a storybook romance in real life

**"B**ookish Boyfriends," by Tiffany Schmidt, is based on a 15-year-old girl by the name of Merrilee Campbell.

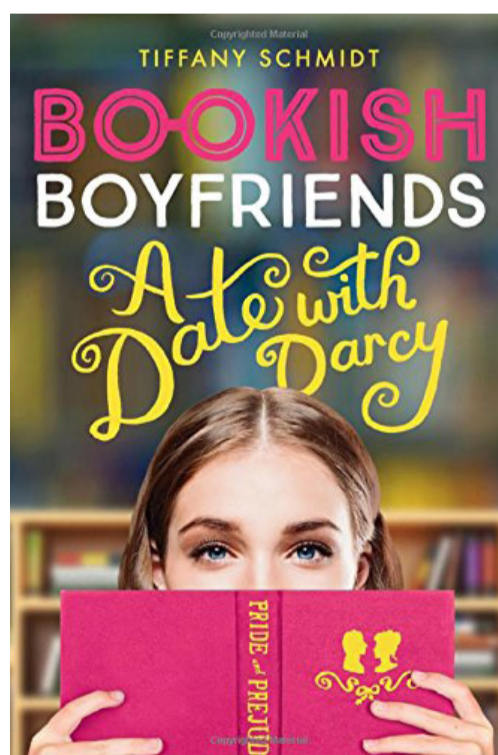
A bookish girl who just wants a decent, real romance story to come to life, Merrilee believes that chivalry -- the act of quality behaviors towards women by men -- is practically dead.

When this bookish teen is sent to Reginald R. Hero Prep School with her younger sister, Rory, and best friend, Eliza, she finds that this school may be extremely different than her old school.

And that chivalry may not be exactly dead.

The novel winds from her adventures through her daily routine that includes stopping to read every few minutes, to her complaints on the way she wished her school could be, to, finally, her time at her new transfer school where she may find many things that were not common in her old school.

And who knows? If she's hopeful enough she might find the person of her dreams who is just out of her perfect romance storybook world!



"Bookish Boyfriends" is excellently written; it really made me feel like I was there in the book and I hope it will do the same for other readers.

I feel that this book was a little young for me, though.

I think that, since I'm an almost 8th grader, the novel would be better suited for 10-11 year olds or maybe readers just a little older.

But it is definitely a book that I would recommend to any age for just a fun read or a more complex one, depending on your age and reading level.

I really enjoyed this book, and I would love to see more books that are like it.



By Katherine Gagner,  
13, a CK Reporter  
from Boulder

## Youth Journalism Day

For 4th-8th grade students

Thursday, July 19, 2018 • 7:30 am to 5:00 pm

Metropolitan State University, Denver

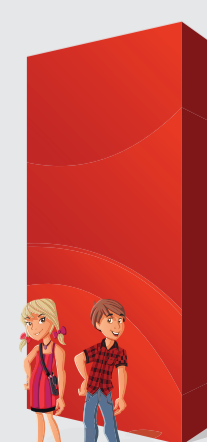
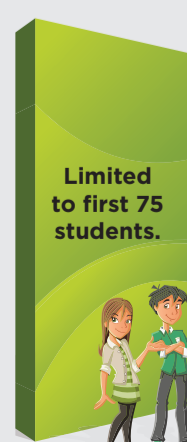
Student cost for the day: \$65 (includes t-shirt, breakfast & lunch). Spend the day with professionals learning about story writing, interviews and photography.

Register today!

Go to [ColoradoNIE.com](http://ColoradoNIE.com) for a registration form.

Call 303-954-3974 with questions.

[ColoradoNIE.com](http://ColoradoNIE.com) 



# Archaeology goes public: Can you dig it?

The past is a complex conglomeration of clues and fragments of time, eager to be discovered by you at the Magic Mountain dig site in Golden, as part of a program from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

This enlightening and rare opportunity to explore archaeology is a tour lasting about an hour about the history and people who lived at what is now the Magic Mountain Dig site, as well as techniques used at this site to assist in uncovering past human life.

This dig site uses conservation archaeology, in which a magnitude gradiometer focuses on variations in the soil to create a map as an indicator of where to dig for artifacts.

This way, most of the land is left undisturbed to protect the lands' natural state from unnecessary disturbances.

The reason a magnitude gradiometer is needed is due to the buildup of earthen matter over time. Artifacts get buried due to the hogback valley's slope where rocks, dirt, and other natural materials descend the slope and cover these clues to past life.

With this innovative piece of technology, it's possible to technologically unearth the possible location of some of these artifacts, signaling where to dig.

This way, archaeologists can be minimally invasive to the land, preserving it for future archaeologists with their improved technology, being able to discover even more information about the past.

The artifacts that the Magic Mountain Dig Site is focused on date back to 1000 years ago, even though there is evidence that people lived there 7000 years ago.

Older artifacts are nestled deeper down into the earth, while newer artifacts are closer to the surface, which is where they are currently digging for artifacts.

Some of the remains found so far include: stone structures (possible stone homes), fire pits, ovens, arrowheads, ceramic shards, and tools for grinding grains.

These remains are a beacon of insight to solve the puzzle of human life

thousands of years ago.

One of the goals of these public tours of the Magic Mountain Dig Site is to "demystify the image of archaeology...we always have the image of Indiana Jones when it comes to archaeology," according to Dr. Michele Koons.

This sharpens your appreciation of what archaeology truly is. There is an overarching theme of persistence as the land at the Magic Mountain has been cultivated and utilized by people, sustaining lives for such a long time.

The land there was occupied by the ancestors of today's tribes and is all strung together by a fine thread of continuity as this rich land is important for tribes today as it was thousands of years ago.

At the Magic Mountain dig site tours, the general public is requested to not pick up or take remains.

If they happened to pick up or take remains, the important context about where the artifacts were found would vanish and essentially, we would lose history.

This event is completely free, a learning experience for all ages, and the hour-long tours take place between June 20 and 27 and then again July 5 to 14.

To sign up for this archeological dig, go to [DMNS.org](http://DMNS.org), find Magic Mountain Dig Site, and request a reservation.

For a deeper understanding of archaeology, a chance to help uncover the mysteries of past human life, and learning about the tools used by archaeologists, I would recommend visiting the Magic Mountain Dig Site for an information-packed, yet intriguing tour.

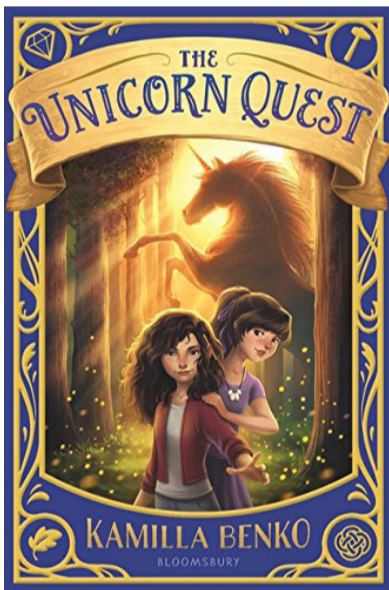


Ken Kuamme, a professor at the University of Arkansas uses a magnitude gradiometer to focus on variations in the soil at Magic Mountain Dig Site. (Photo/Kira Zizzo)



By Kira Zizzo, 14, a CK Reporter from Highlands Ranch

## Fearful sister finds an exciting adventure



"The Unicorn Quest," by Kamilla Benko, follows the story of a girl named Claire.

Claire is an artist, particularly a pencil artist. She always has a pencil tucked behind her ear.

Claire's art helps her feel less stressed and keeps her from worrying too much. Her physical features include dark wild hair and brown eyes.

Claire has been very fearful since her older sister, Sophie, was previously sick from an unnamed illness.

Claire's parents don't know much about her worrying, only that she constantly thinks about her sister.

So when the family moves into Great Aunt Diana's house, Claire is worried about her sister's health and about the adventures they might go on.

The girls discover a ladder in their aunt's fireplace, and Sophie

wants to climb it, and she persuades Claire to follow her.

This book is a roller coaster of adventure, sure to keep you on your toes.

However exciting it may be, though, the plot is kind of hard to follow and transitions from one part to the next are not well written.

For that reason, I would suggest this book for kids in third grade and up.

There is slight violence and danger, but overall, a good read.



By Macy Gardner, 12, a CK Reporter from Golden

## Big Nate



## Crows testing human intelligence

Crows are known to be intelligent birds, but a new experiment with some crows from the South Pacific has shown a surprising level of creativity.

Researchers at several universities, including the University of Auckland in New Zealand, built a sort of vending machine that accepted pieces of paper and dispensed treats for crows.

Eight crows were then given a variety of pieces of paper, but soon learned that only two sizes -- one small and one large -- would work in the machine.

They began to ignore the other pieces of paper and only choose the ones they knew would help them get a treat.

Then the pieces of paper were all taken away and the crows were given one large piece of paper.

The crows began to tear that large piece into the right size pieces to work in the vending machine.

Not only did they think to tear up the paper, but they didn't have the other pieces in front of them, which means they had to remember what size piece of paper they needed to make.

This form of learning shows a type of intelligence we thought only humans and some primates had.

As another researcher told Gizmodo website, one trick to finding animal intelligence is to be smart enough to invent good experiments. photo/Sarah Jelbert

# Top NFL player finds time to give back



Von Miller takes some time for a CK interview before his camp starts for the day. (Photo/ProPics)

Von Miller is an outside linebacker for the Denver Broncos, drafted in 2011. He's been selected to the Pro Bowl for six years, including his first season. After defeating the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl 50, Miller was named the most valuable player (MVP) of the game and, in the annual "NFL Top 100" competition this year, his fellow players once again voted him among the top 10 players in the league.

But outside of the regular season Von Miller helps at a football camp facilitated by ProCamps.

ProCamps has made camps sponsored by athletes and coaches from the NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL, MLS, MLL, NASCAR, NCAA, and many more.

ProCamps has done this around the nation since 1998.

On June 19th and 20th, Von Miller's football camp was at Englewood High School.

Von said he did the camp to give back in a way that was true to him saying "I'm a football player, this is the most unique form to give back," and he added, "If you have time to play football, you have time to have a football camp."

He chose Englewood High School because, in his opinion, it is the best high school in Colorado, saying "Maybe I'm wrong, but I think it is."

Although Miller attended a football camp as a kid, he said that wasn't really why he did this camp.

One of his favorite memories from attending a football camp in his youth is "being able to compete with other kids my age."

One thing that he looks forward to in the Broncos 2018-19 season is getting more wins, seeing as they only had five wins in the 2017-18 season, and possibly going back to the playoffs and "seeing what happens there."

When asked if these camps were something he would like to do after he retires, Von laughed and said "I don't know, I mean, retiring is such a long way away, like, ten years."

Broncos Wide Receiver Emmanuel Sanders also held a camp at Mullen High School.

The camps are open to boys and girls in grade 1 through grade 8. For more information, go to <https://www.procamps.com/>



By Marcus Turner, 12, a CK Reporter from Aurora

# President to fill vacant Supreme Court seat

The retirement of Supreme Court Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy dominated last week's news and will continue to be of great interest until a replacement for him is in place.

But you won't know what all the fuss is about unless you understand the system.

The Supreme Court is the "third leg of the stool" that keeps our government balanced.

Congress makes laws, the President is in charge of carrying them out, and the Supreme Court tells whether state and federal laws meet the rules of our Constitution.

The Constitution gives the President the power to appoint justices to the Supreme Court, "with the advice and consent of the Senate."

We can start with this odd fact: According to the Constitution, we have one President and two Senators for every state in the Union.

But the Constitution doesn't say anything about how many Justices should be on the Supreme Court.

That has been set by Congress, and there have been nine justices since 1869.

This, too, is part of the balance of powers in our government.

In 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt tried to get a new law passed that would



The eight remaining Supreme Court Justices. Seated: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Chief Justice John Roberts, Clarence Thomas, Stephen Breyer. Standing, Elena Kagan, Samuel Alito Jr., Sonia Sotomayor, Neil Gorsuch. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

let him put another judge on the bench for each justice who was 70 years old, but Congress felt he was just looking for a way to add judges to the Court who would approve his laws, and voted against the idea.

There have also been several times that the Senate has not approved a specific judge that the President has wanted.

Over the years, Presidents have learned that, if the other party has a majority in the Senate, he had better pick a nominee who pleases both sides.

If his own party controls the Senate, then he can choose a judge who is more apt to favor his views.

In 2016, when Justice Antonin Scalia died, President Obama, a Democrat, was not able to get the Republican-dominated Senate to vote on Merrick Garland, the justice he wanted.

Nearly a year passed before President Trump, a Republican, was sworn into office

and the Senate then agreed to vote on his choice for the seat, Neil Gorsuch.

Today, the Senate and Presidency are both Republican, so it's likely that there will be little delay in filling the empty seat caused by Justice Kennedy's retirement, and that there will be nine Justices again by October when the Court's new session starts.

## Sudoku

			3	1	
4					
				5	1
	4		6		
			5	3	
	6	3			

**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

**On this date in 1890, Idaho joined the Union, becoming our 43rd state, so our answers this week will all begin with "I."**

1. There are at least 45 places in the United States named "Springfield," but only one is a state capital. What state is it the capital of?
2. A group of marine reptiles that lived from the Mesozoic through the Cretaceous ages, their name comes from the Greek words for "fish" and "lizard."
3. A triangle with two equal sides
4. The smallest nation that qualified for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.
5. Homer's epic poem about the Trojan War
6. The opposite of guilty
7. A large group of long-legged wading birds noted for a long bill that curves downward.
8. Religious college in Denver; its campus is next to Denver University on a street that shares its name
9. Modern name for the ancient nation of Persia
10. The mouse in Bart Simpson's favorite cartoon show

(answers on Page Four)

## Sensible actions saving Belize Barrier Reef

The coral reefs that form a protective barrier for the beaches of Belize, a Central American country, are a home for several unusual species of marine life and beautiful as well as useful.

Their beauty makes them an important part of the country's tourist industry.

However, like many popular coral reefs around the world, they were in danger of being destroyed, and The Belize Barrier Reef System had been placed on UNESCO's list of endangered World Heritage Sites.

There were several problems threatening the reefs. One was oil exploration in nearby waters, which could release toxins that would attack the coral.

Another was a failure to protect the mangrove

trees and the important ecological area in which they grow.

And there was also a problem with the popularity of the reef area, because careless building along the shoreline was threatening to damage the ecosystem.

These problems might have caused a lot of debate and argument, but, instead, the government of Belize quickly passed laws that will protect the mangrove trees and their environment, end oil exploration in the waters near the reef, and put rules into place to keep building projects from creating hazards for the reefs and their ecosystem.

As a result, UNESCO members have voted to take the reefs off the danger list.

photo/Andy Blackledge



# 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

Crows and Learning

The Supreme Court

Belize Barrier Reef System

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

# Flying Plates

Story by Frances Milburn/Illustrated by Emily Lesch

## Chapter Seven: Meadowbrook

*The story so far... Ben wakes up in the morning with a puffy, red face and itchy eyes. Mom decides it must be poison ivy and that Ben needs to see a doctor. Three hours later, medicine in hand, they're back on the road traveling through Missouri. They reach Kansas City right at rush hour, and bumper-to-bumper traffic. The car starts thumping, and they discover a flat tire.*

"I can help you change it, Mom. We learned how to do this in auto mechanics. It's pretty easy if you have all the stuff."

"That would be great!" Mom smiled with relief. Nate and I got out.

All three of us helped while Mom followed along in the owner's manual.

We got the spare put on and were back on the road in about 45 minutes.

"Not bad. Thanks, Conner. Thanks to you two also. What a team we make!"

She drove to the next exit in Kansas City. "We'll get a motel room tonight and supper out. After a good night's

sleep, we'll start out fresh in the morning. But first, we will stop at a tire place and get a new tire."

The next morning, we easily found a tire place in the city and got the car fixed up in no time. After a good breakfast at one of Mom's favorite type of small café, we were back on the road heading West.

"Now, we are getting into the wide open land of the Great Plains. I think you boys will be struck at how different this area is. It's much flatter than home. Wide open."

Luckily, there wasn't much traffic, and Mom made good time. I was in the backseat behind her, staring out the window.

We went through Topeka. I was getting sleepy and closed my eyes.

I saw an exit sign saying Salina. Mom stopped for gas and got cans of pop out of the cooler for everyone.

There were no trees, and just empty plains, more yellow than green, rolling to the horizon. And loads of cattle some black, others brown, and some with big horns.

An occasional ranch was like an island in a sea of grass. And the sky seemed huge and so blue! Made me think of the song Home on the Range.

The sun was slipping down the western sky. I was so sick of being in the car, and I couldn't concentrate to read. "When are we stopping? I'm tired."

This was my third time asking the same question.

I could see Conner had in his earbuds and was moving his head to the rhythm. Nate was reading one of his magazines.

"We're all tired, Ben. I looked at the map at the last gas station and saw a campground symbol at the next exit, about ten miles up the road. That should be soon."

Mom slugged down her water. "I'm ready to quit too. The campground is just a little way off the highway."

I stared out the window, but all I could think of was food. In fact, I was feeling carsick from not eating when I heard mom turn on the blinker and slow down.

At the stop sign, I could see a town with motels to the north. "Couldn't we just stop in town tonight?" I begged. "It's late, and it takes so long to set up camp."

"No way." Mom pointed to a small wooden sign with the word Campground and an arrow pointing south.

"We'll camp there. Probably five minutes down the road. You'll get a surge of energy when we get there. And it's summer solstice, longest day of the year, so we'll have plenty of light to set up."

"How far?" Conner asked.

"Not sure, just a few more miles. I'm so glad to be off the highway."

She straightened up and turned on some music. "This campground should be more like what I had in mind. Peaceful and quiet."

We drove for what seemed a long time. She slowed down "Hmmm. I wonder where it is?" There was no sign of any campground and no cars on the road.

"Maybe you missed it. I bet we've driven twenty miles." Conner complained.

"No, I've been paying close attention." She slowed down but continued.

"I am so sick of sitting here. Can I get out and stretch?" I begged. "Plus I have to go to the bathroom."

"There's a sign!" She pointed. Meadowbrook Campground. It was small and faded, leaning to the right. "Finally!" Mom turned in. "I didn't realize it was so far. But... I guess we don't have a choice."

The land was so open that it didn't seem like it would be a good place to camp. Mom continued driving.

"Where is it?" she muttered.

Then another sign appeared. Meadowbrook Campground ahead.

"What a long way!" Mom muttered. "I figured it was right by the highway."

"What time is it anyway? I'm starved?" Conner announced, taking out his earbud.

"Still early," Mom said trying to be encouraging.

But we kept driving. Just out of boredom, I pulled Nate's magazine and shut it.

"Hey, what's that for?" he looked at me angrily.

"Just don't want you to miss a thing," I smiled sarcastically.

He grabbed my drawing and tore it in half. "You too. Don't miss the empty space out there."

"I'm getting a cramp." I tried to stretch my leg.

"Settle down boys! I can't concentrate! Conner, you and Nate set up the tents, and Ben, you'll help me get supper. We'll just make up a quick batch of sloppy joes."

The last mile seemed to take forever. But finally, I saw the entrance sign, and Mom slowly turned in. There was a stream, and actual green grass.

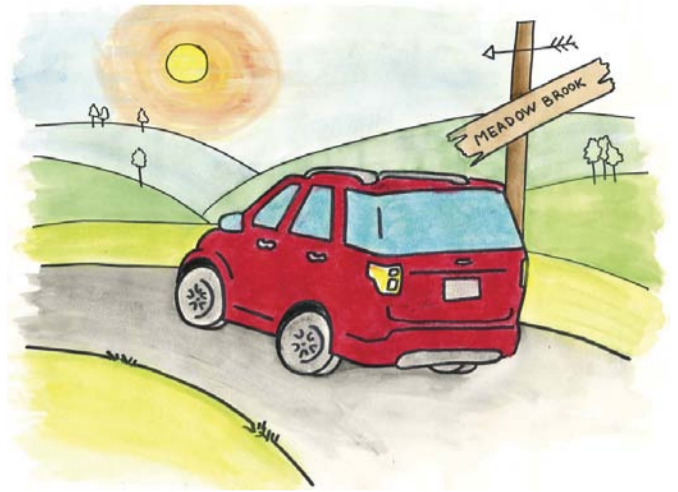
"What a surprise!" Mom said with relief. "It's beautiful. Worth the wait."

There was no attendant. "Better yet, no fee!" Mom cheered.

But there also was not a single other car or camper in the place.

Not a sign of a person around.

We were totally alone with nothing for miles.



## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution

(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!



1. Illinois 2. Ichthyosaur 3. isocles 4. Iceland 5. (The) Iliad  
6. innocent 7. ibis 8. Iliff School of Theology (Iliff Seminary)  
9. Iran 10. Itchy

# ColoradoKids

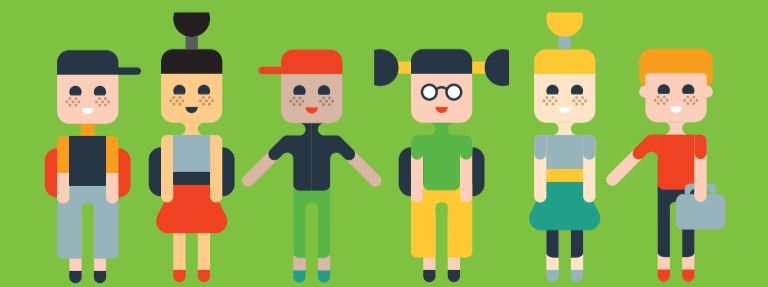
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