Brain workout pack

12 puzzles · Teens and adults · answer keys at the back

Twelve hard and expert puzzles across all six types. One a day keeps you busy for nearly two weeks.

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Name _____ Date _____

Hard sudoku no. 1

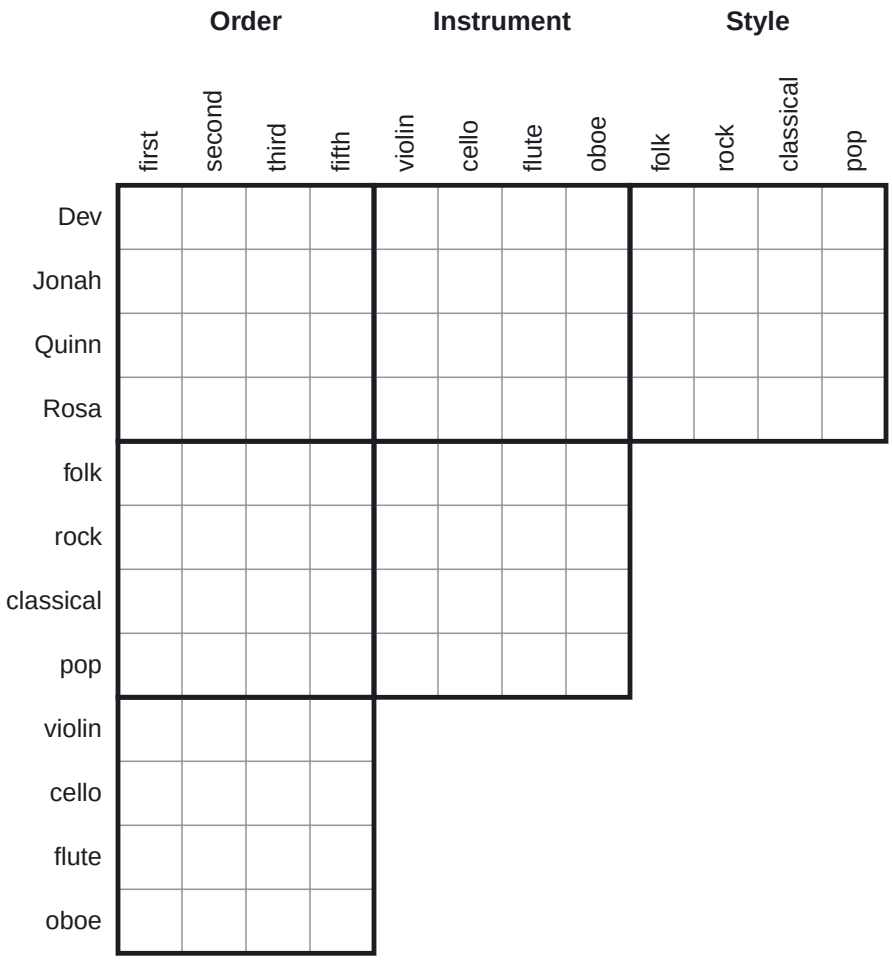
Fill every row, column and 3an X3 box with the numbers 1 to 9.

3				4				
		1						4
		2	5	9	1			
		3				4		1
7						9	3	
	1			8			6	
					9	8		
	6	7		5		1		
1	3			6				5

Name _____ Date _____

Spring recital hard logic puzzle

Four students played at the spring recital. Each one has exactly one of each item. Use the clues to mark an X where a pairing is impossible and a dot where it's certain.



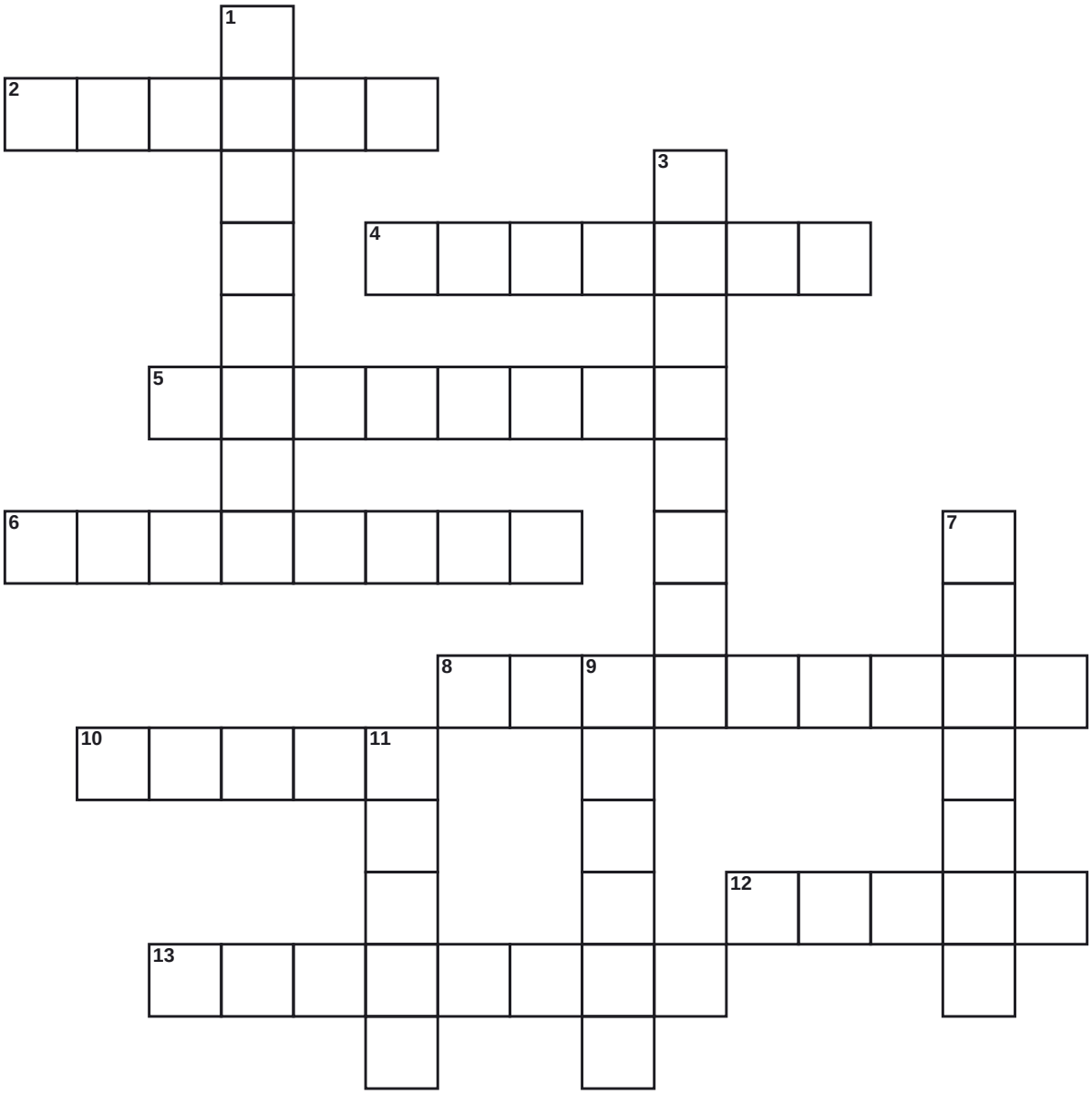
Clues

1. Quinn didn't go second.
2. The rock performer went exactly 2 spots before the cello player.
3. The violin player went exactly 4 spots before the folk performer.
4. The flute player went exactly 2 spots before Rosa.
5. Jonah went right before the pop performer.

Name _____ Date _____

Gardener’s crossword

Use the clues to fill in all 13 words. The number in brackets is how many letters.



Across

2. Large scissors for trimming (6)
4. Field of fruit trees (7)
5. Tall flower with bell-shaped blooms (8)
6. Young plant grown from seed (8)
8. Shrub with big ball-shaped flower heads (9)
10. Layer spread over soil to keep in moisture (5)
12. Spring bulb flower linked with the Netherlands (5)
13. Climbing vine with hanging purple flowers (8)

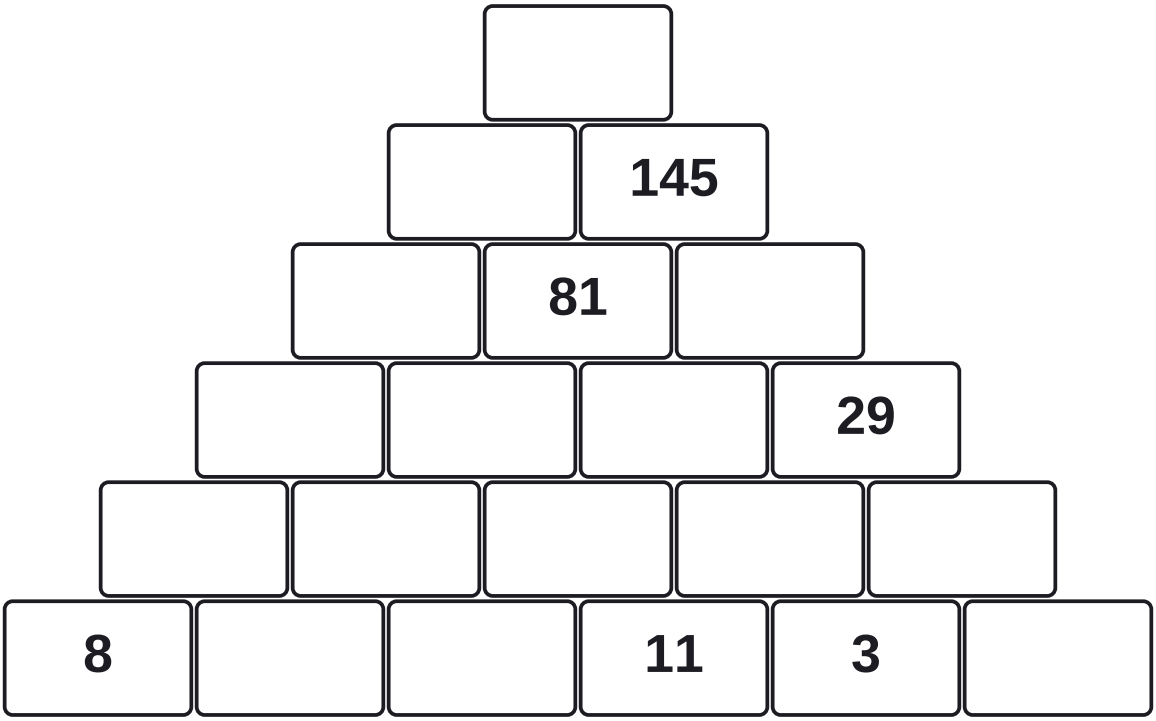
Down

1. Orange or yellow flower (8)
3. Purple herb with a calming scent (8)
7. Lattice frame for climbing plants (7)
9. Late-summer flower with many petals (6)
11. Shade-loving plant with large leaves (5)

Name _____ Date _____

Hard number pyramid no. 1

Each brick is the sum of the two bricks under it. Fill in the missing numbers.

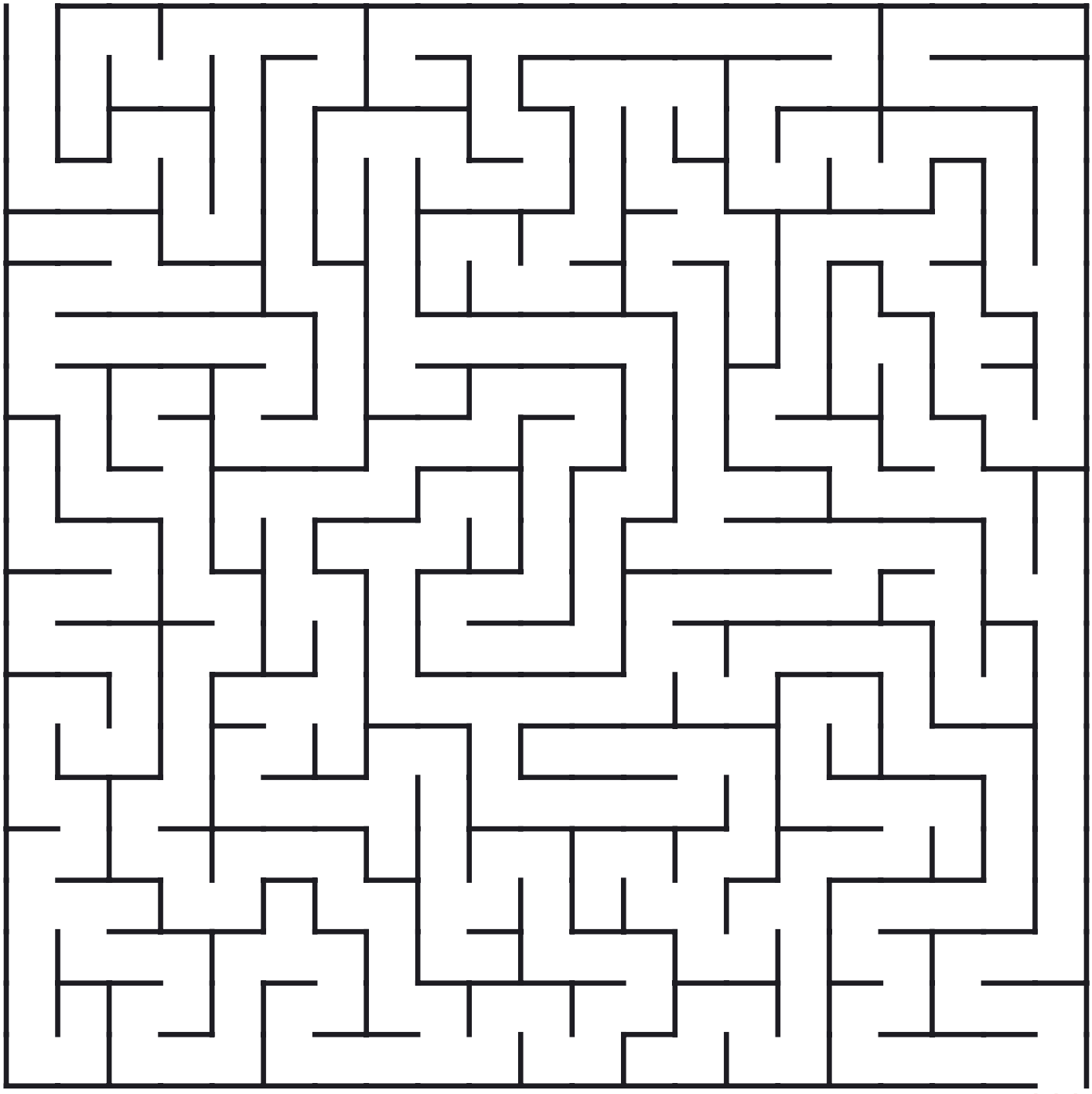


Name _____ Date _____

Rose garden maze

Wind through the hedge maze to the fountain.

Start



Finish

Name _____ Date _____

Spice rack word search

Find the 14 hidden words. Words can go any direction, even backwards.

K C A S S E R O L E O B T W
T U U G O O L L A T V C C R
K L T P U T B S B M W O R I
S Y O Y R Y V E S G A L H S
I R P J D S P P O N G A G O
H E E U O O K L N O T N E T
W U L L U M T A A C O D K T
H B D I G O A T G C A E G O
N E A E H G H E E H K R D U
P S L N S E I D R I I L L K
U I P N S M N S O C R I W K
N A W E N T I W I Y P S R A
T R N T I U B T U H A A U V
S B D C V N C C B G P B U C

BASIL
BRAISE
CASSEROLE
COLANDER
GNOCCHI
JULIENNE
LADLE
NUTMEG
OREGANO
PAPRIKA
RISOTTO
SOURDOUGH
TAHINI
WHISK

Name _____ Date _____

Expert sudoku no. 1

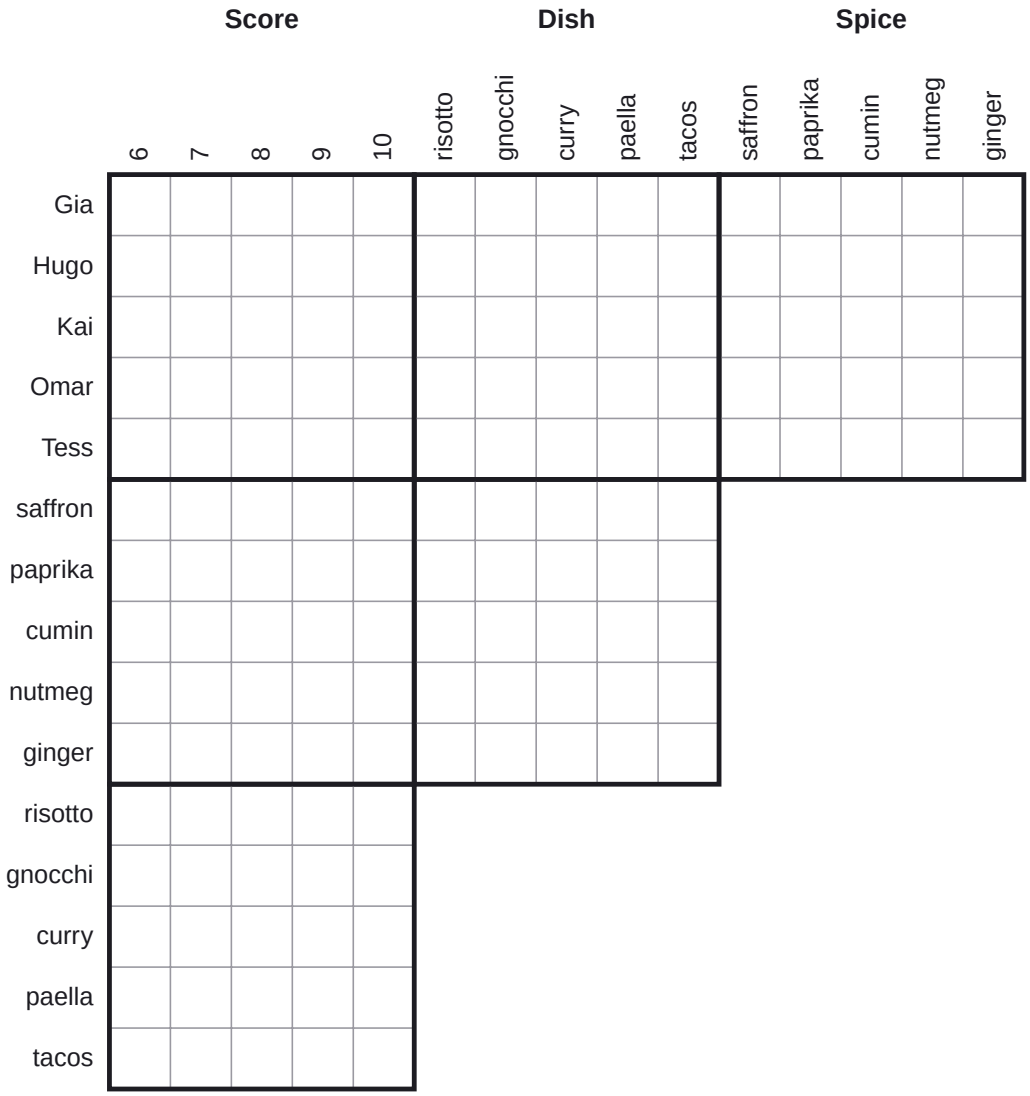
Fill every row, column and 3an X3 box with the numbers 1 to 9.

						5	3	
3	8						4	
		9				6		7
		7			1			
			2	6				
						1	5	3
8	6					4		
7		2	5				8	
		4	6					9

Name _____ Date _____

Cook-off expert logic puzzle

Five cooks entered the village cook-off. Each one has exactly one of each item. Use the clues to mark an X where a pairing is impossible and a dot where it's certain.



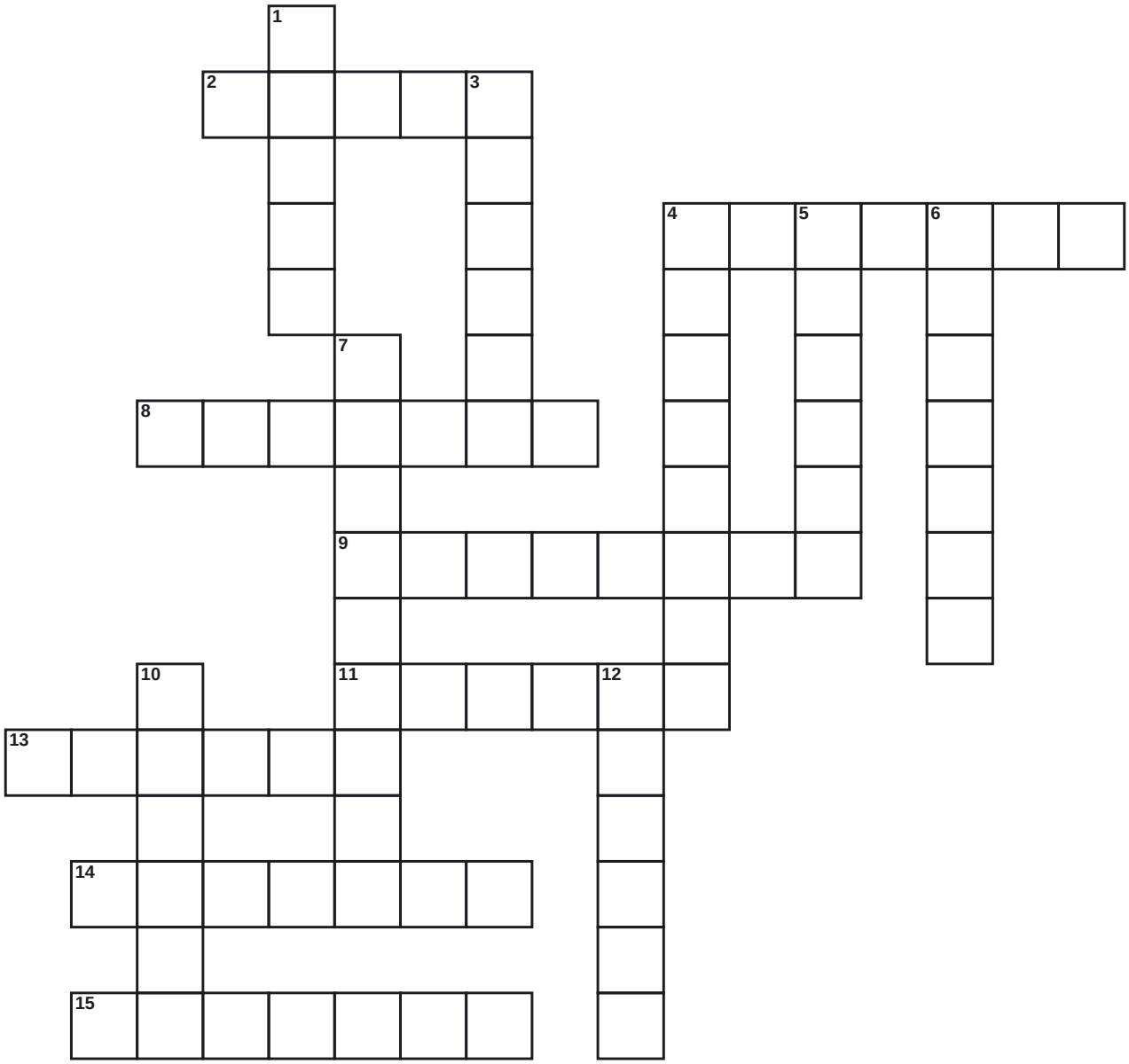
Clues

1. The cook who used paprika scored exactly one point lower than Gia.
2. The cook who used cumin scored lower than Hugo.
3. The gnocchi chef scored exactly one point lower than the cook who used nutmeg.
4. The cook who used paprika scored exactly one point lower than the cook who used saffron.
5. Kai scored exactly 2 points lower than the cook who used saffron.
6. The cook who used cumin scored exactly 4 points lower than the cook who used saffron.
7. The tacos chef scored exactly 3 points lower than the cook who used saffron.
8. The cook who scored 9 didn't cook the curry.
9. The risotto chef scored lower than Tess.

Name _____ Date _____

Music expert crossword

Use the clues to fill in all 16 words. The number in brackets is how many letters.



Across

2. Large string instrument played seated (5)
4. Kettle drums (7)
8. Group of four musicians (7)
9. Large work for orchestra (8)
11. Extra performance after applause (6)
13. Small string instrument played with a bow (6)
14. Low-pitched woodwind instrument (7)
15. Notes sounded together pleasingly (7)

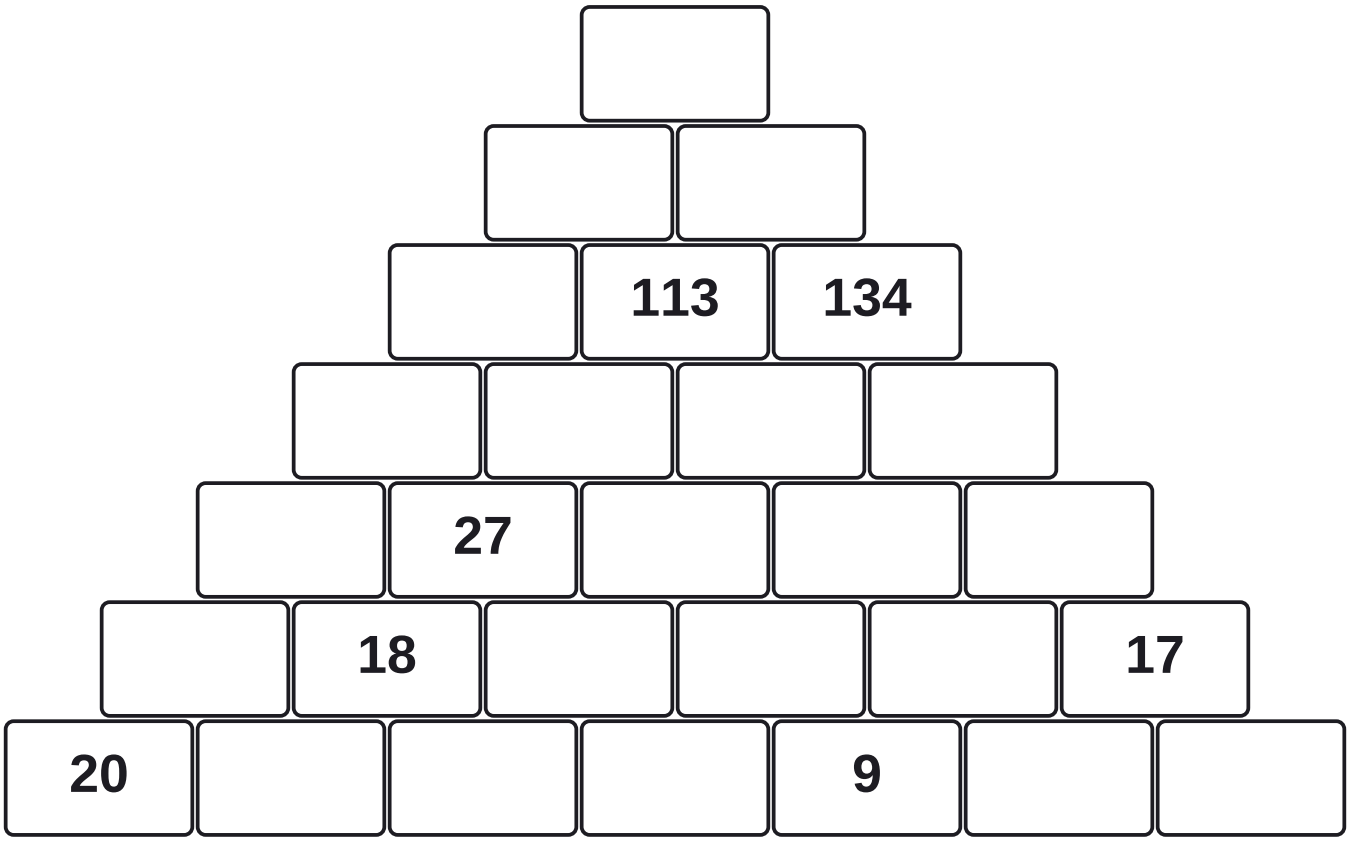
Down

1. Speed of a piece of music (5)
3. Interval spanning eight notes of a scale (6)
4. Brass instrument with a slide (8)
5. The tune of a song (6)
6. Fast and lively tempo (7)
7. Gradual increase in loudness (9)
10. Piece for one or two instruments (6)
12. Pattern of beats (6)

Name _____ Date _____

Expert number pyramid no. 1

Each brick is the sum of the two bricks under it. Fill in the missing numbers. You may need a little algebra: try calling a missing base brick x.

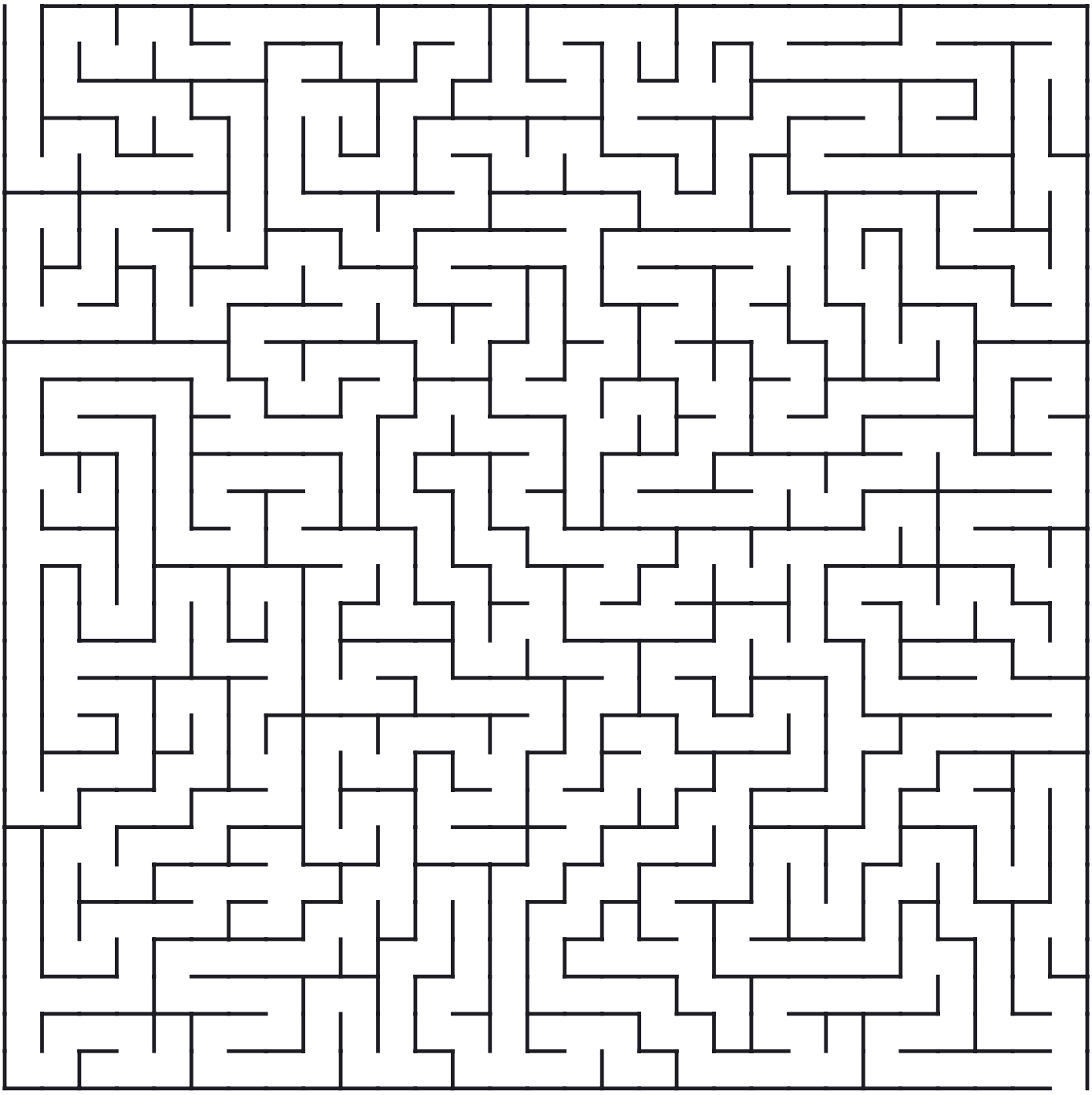


Name _____ Date _____

The opera house labyrinth

Find a path from the stage door to the spotlight.

Start



Finish

Name _____ Date _____

Master gardener expert word search

Find the 18 hidden words. Words can go any direction, even backwards.

E M E Y C D C N B Y B W A E F C
T P T R O R C H A R D O I S K P
Y T F A A U B N B L W S R U G E
H H V M G N I L D E E S E O P R
S U E E I V S I L L E R T H G E
K F S S P M S Y B T W B S N B N
F A R O S A N U W S H L I E H N
O T M R P R M N L O Y P W E F I
X S T U L I P R T P D F K R N A
G O G C R G C E P M R Y L G S L
L H S B H O T D A O A N L D T E
O G E L K L W N A C N O K A D M
V F R P F D R E G K G E S H V U
E E P L A C H V L K E P L L P L
F R L B S H E A R S A R F I U C
U G H S I P E L B H M G L A W H

COMPOST
DAHLIA
FOXGLOVE
GREENHOUSE
HOSTA
HYDRANGEA
LAVENDER
MARIGOLD
MULCH
ORCHARD
PEONY
PERENNIAL
ROSEMARY
SEEDLING
SHEARS
TRELLIS
TULIP
WISTERIA

Name _____ Date _____

Answer key: Hard sudoku no. 1

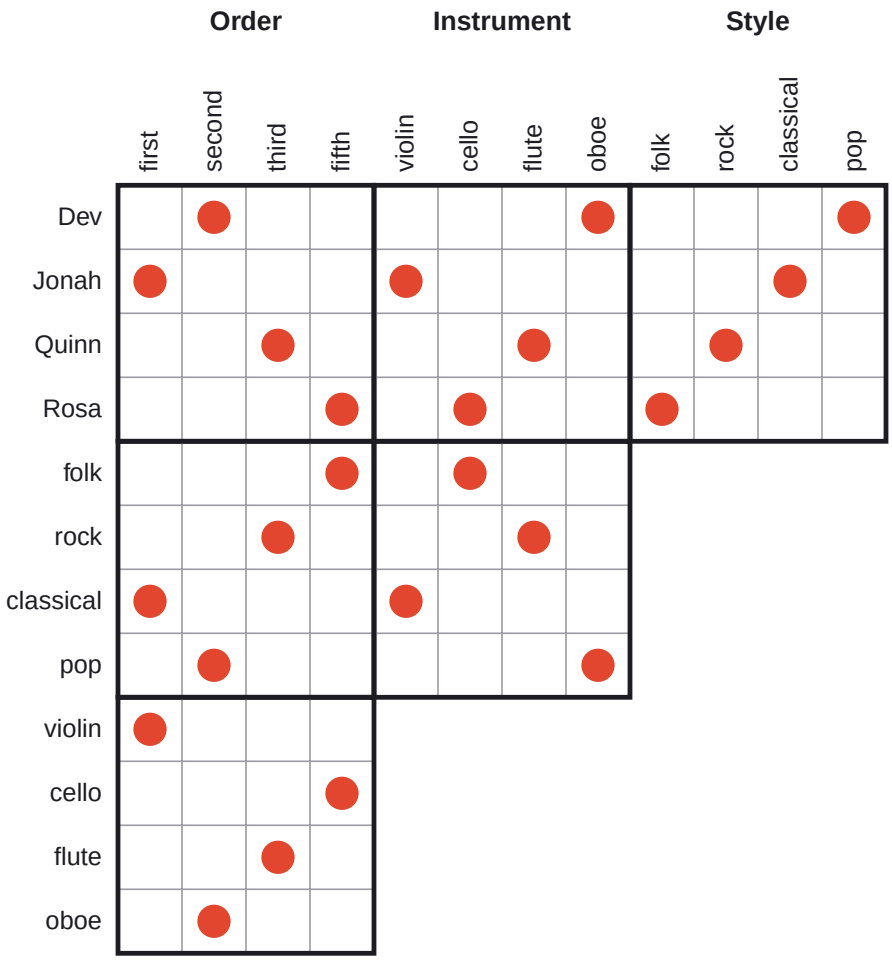
Fill every row, column and 3an X3 box with the numbers 1 to 9.

3	7	8	6	4	2	5	1	9
5	9	1	3	7	8	6	2	4
6	4	2	5	9	1	3	8	7
9	8	3	7	2	6	4	5	1
7	2	6	4	1	5	9	3	8
4	1	5	9	8	3	7	6	2
2	5	4	1	3	9	8	7	6
8	6	7	2	5	4	1	9	3
1	3	9	8	6	7	2	4	5

Name _____ Date _____

Answer key: Spring recital hard logic puzzle

Four students played at the spring recital. Each one has exactly one of each item. Use the clues to mark an X where a pairing is impossible and a dot where it's certain.



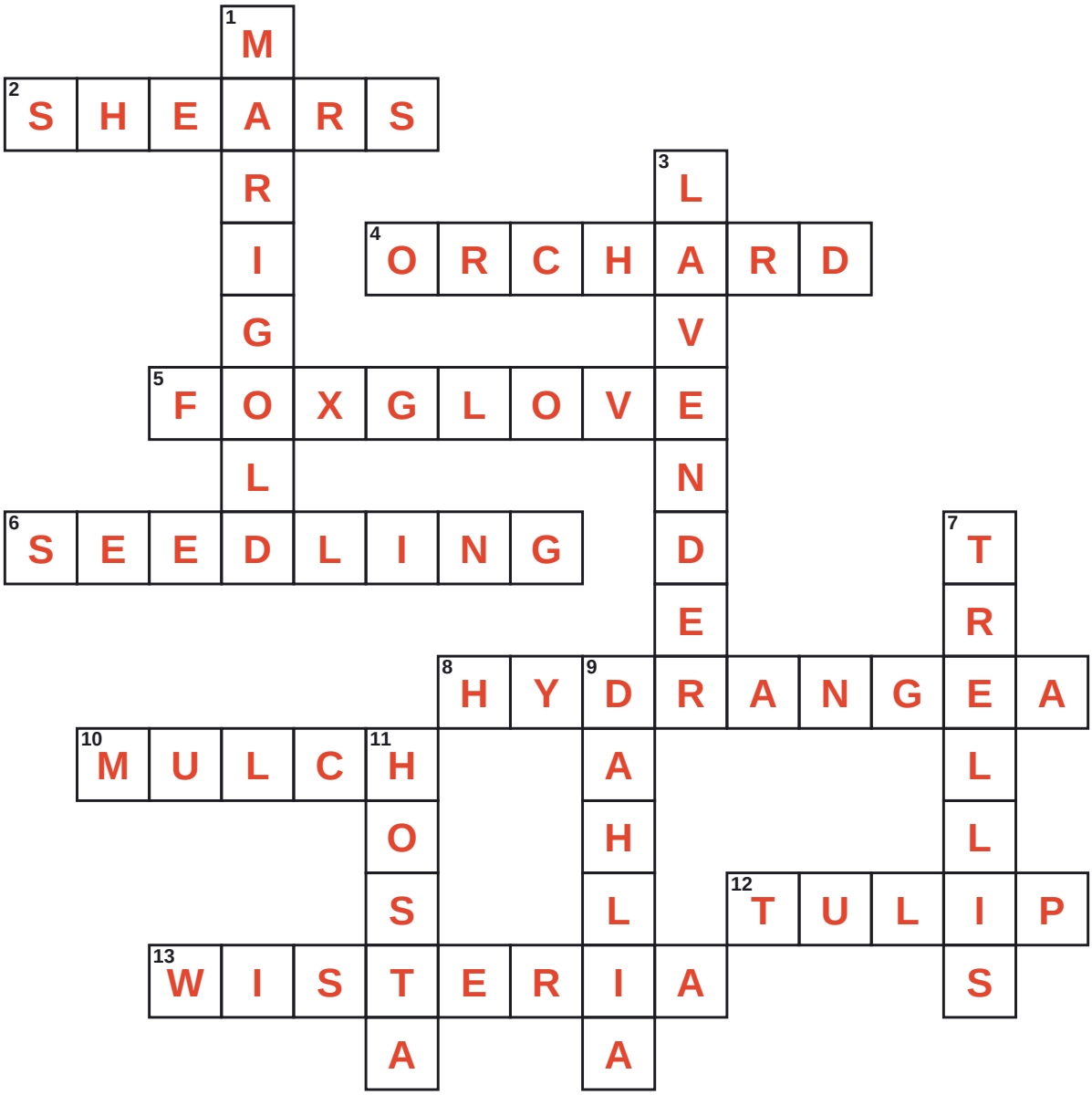
Solution

Name	Order	Instrument	Style
Dev	second	oboe	pop
Jonah	first	violin	classical
Quinn	third	flute	rock
Rosa	fifth	cello	folk

Name _____ Date _____

Answer key: Gardener’s crossword

Use the clues to fill in all 13 words. The number in brackets is how many letters.



Across

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Answer key: Hard number pyramid no. 1

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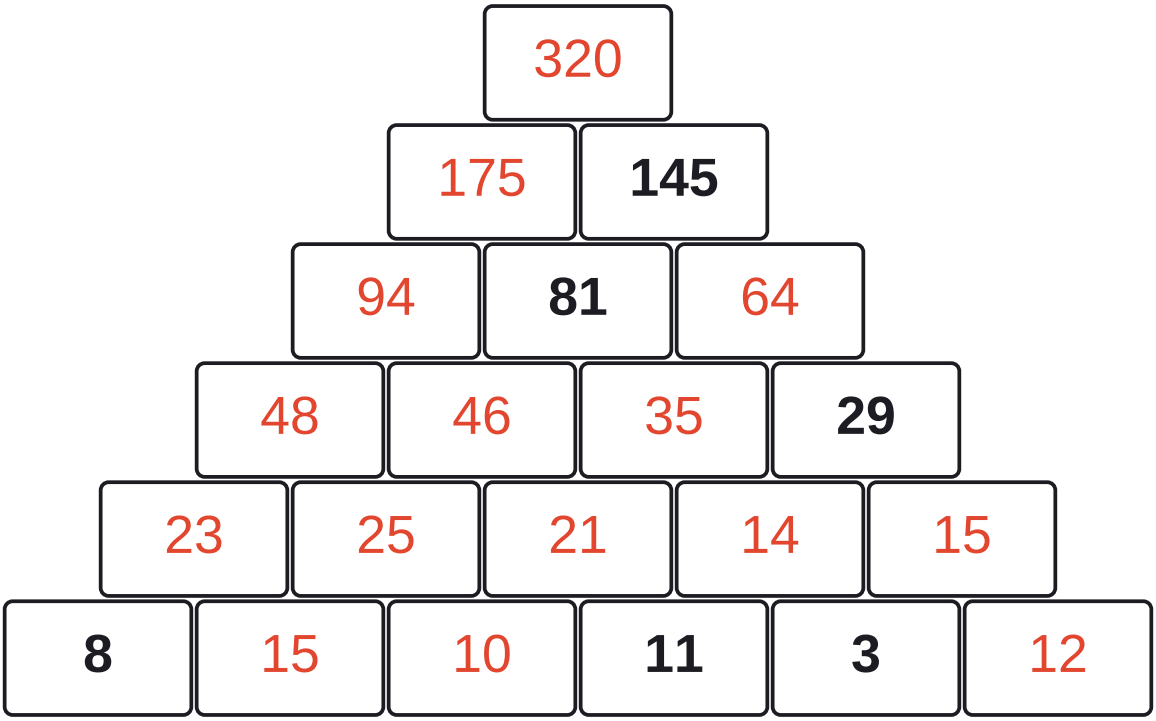
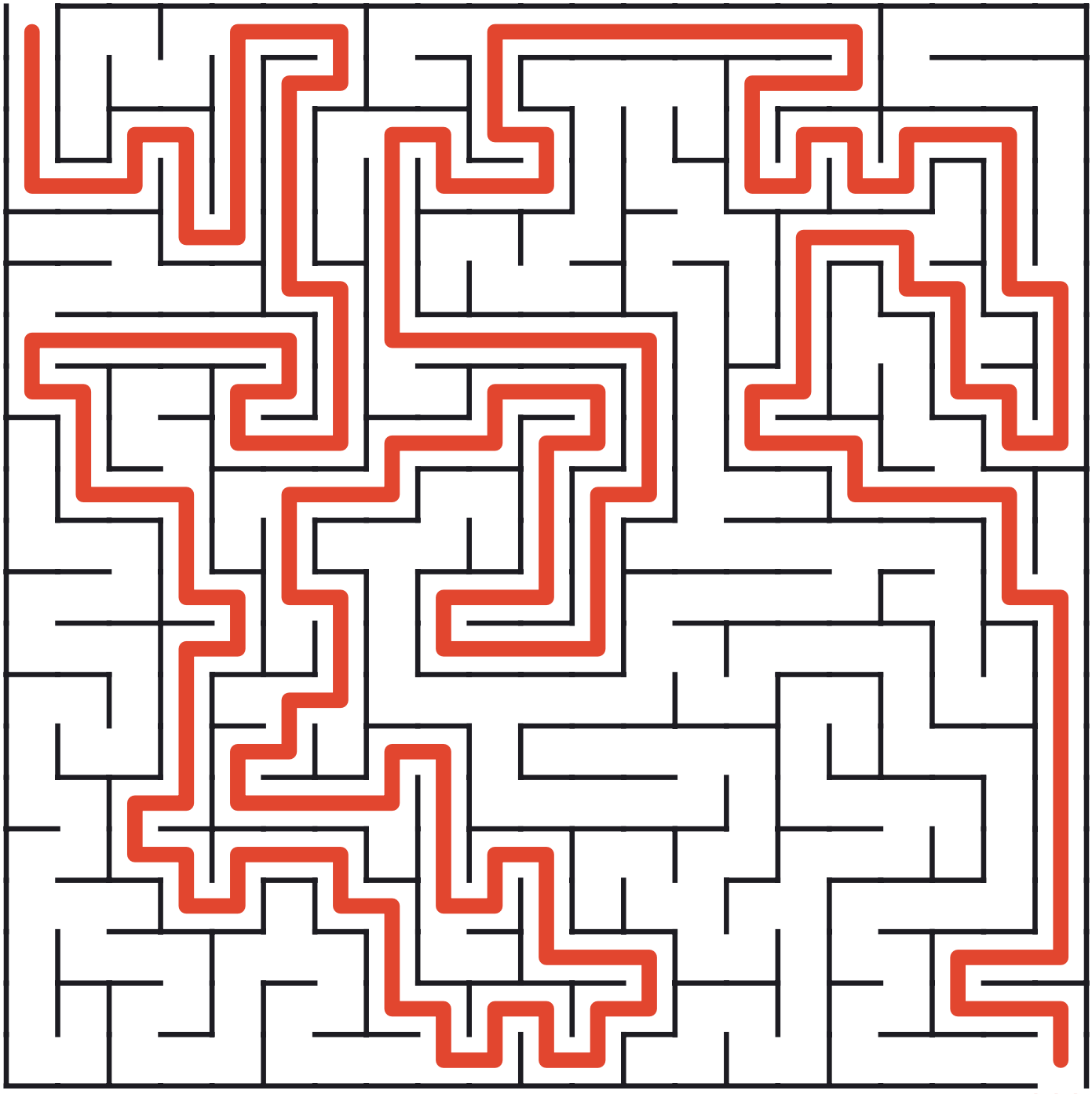


Name _____ Date _____

Answer key: Rose garden maze

Wind through the hedge maze to the fountain.

Start



Finish

Name _____ Date _____

Answer key: Spice rack word search

Find the 14 hidden words. Words can go any direction, even backwards.



BASIL
BRAISE
CASSEROLE
COLANDER
GNOCCHI
JULIENNE
LADLE
NUTMEG
OREGANO
PAPRIKA
RISOTTO
SOURDOUGH
TAHINI
WHISK

Name _____ Date _____

Answer key: Expert sudoku no. 1

Fill every row, column and 3an X3 box with the numbers 1 to 9.

2	7	6	1	4	9	**5**	**3**	8
3	**8**	5	7	2	6	9	**4**	1
4	1	**9**	8	3	5	**6**	2	**7**
9	4	**7**	3	5	**1**	8	6	2
5	3	1	**2**	**6**	8	7	9	4
6	2	8	4	9	7	**1**	**5**	**3**
8	**6**	3	9	7	2	**4**	1	5
7	9	**2**	**5**	1	4	3	**8**	6
1	5	**4**	**6**	8	3	2	7	**9**

Name _____ Date _____

Answer key: Cook-off expert logic puzzle

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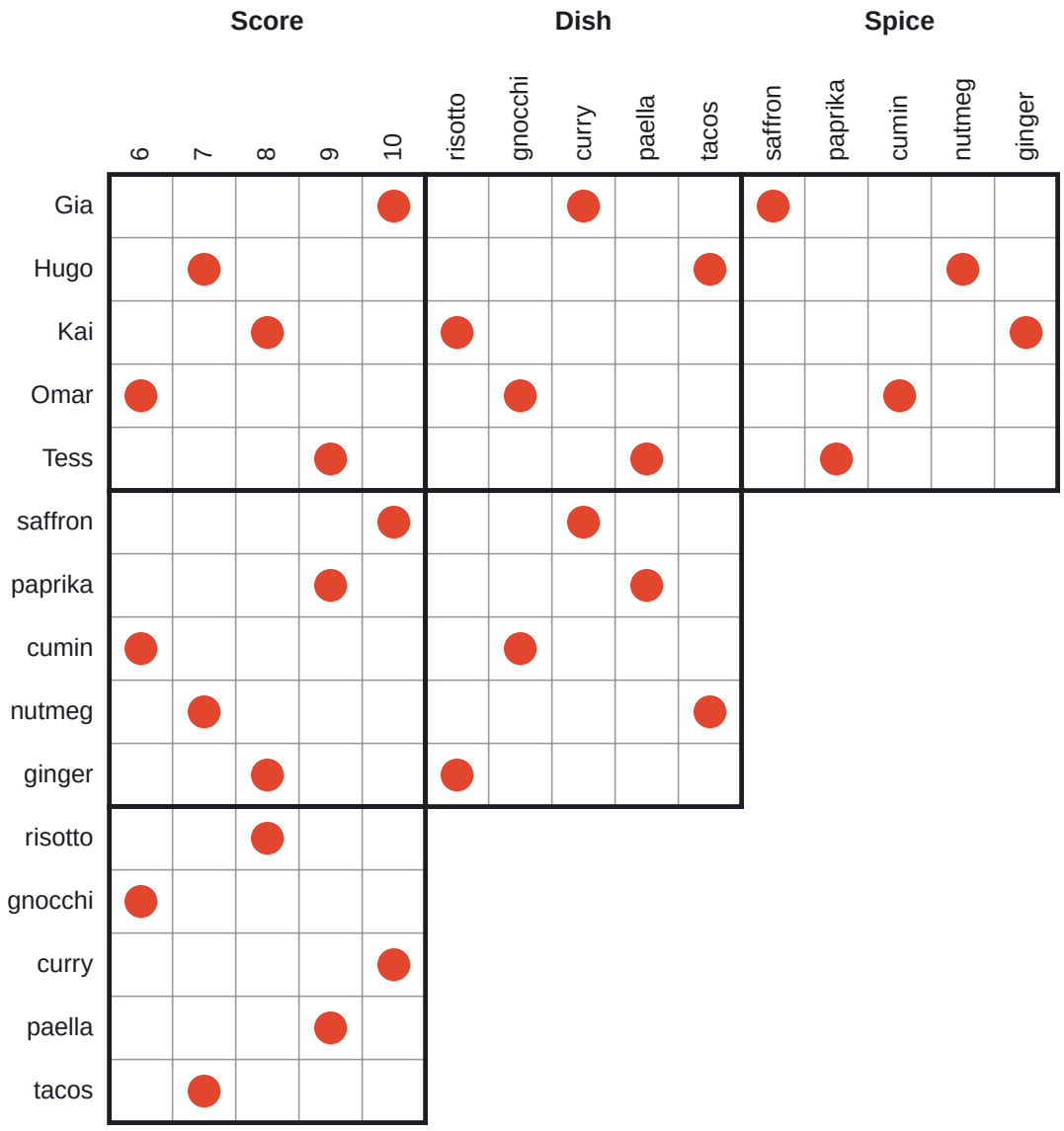

Solution

Name	Score	Dish	Spice
Gia	10	curry	saffron
Hugo	7	tacos	nutmeg
Kai	8	risotto	ginger
Omar	6	gnocchi	cumin
Tess	9	paella	paprika

Name _____ Date _____

Answer key: Music expert crossword

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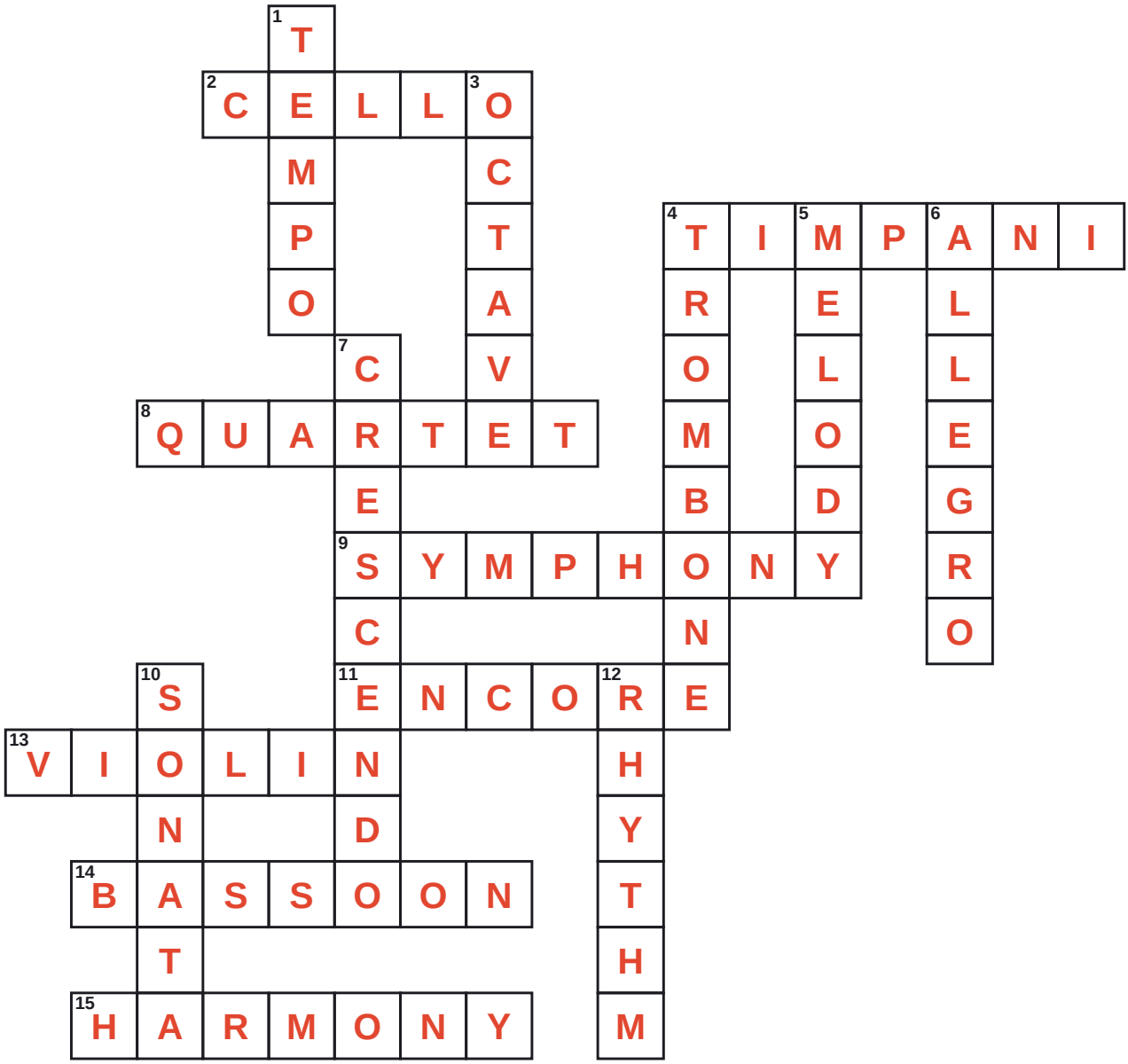

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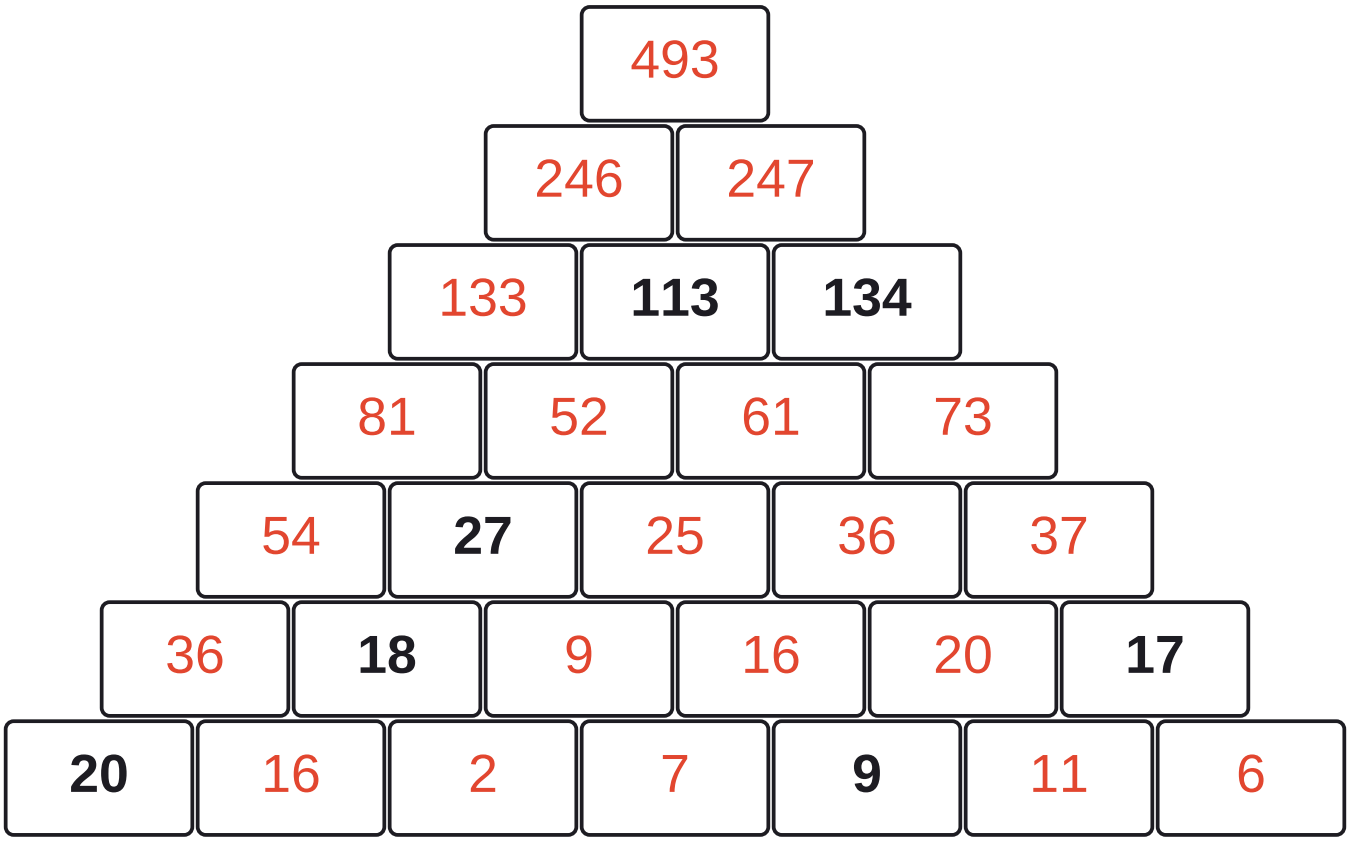
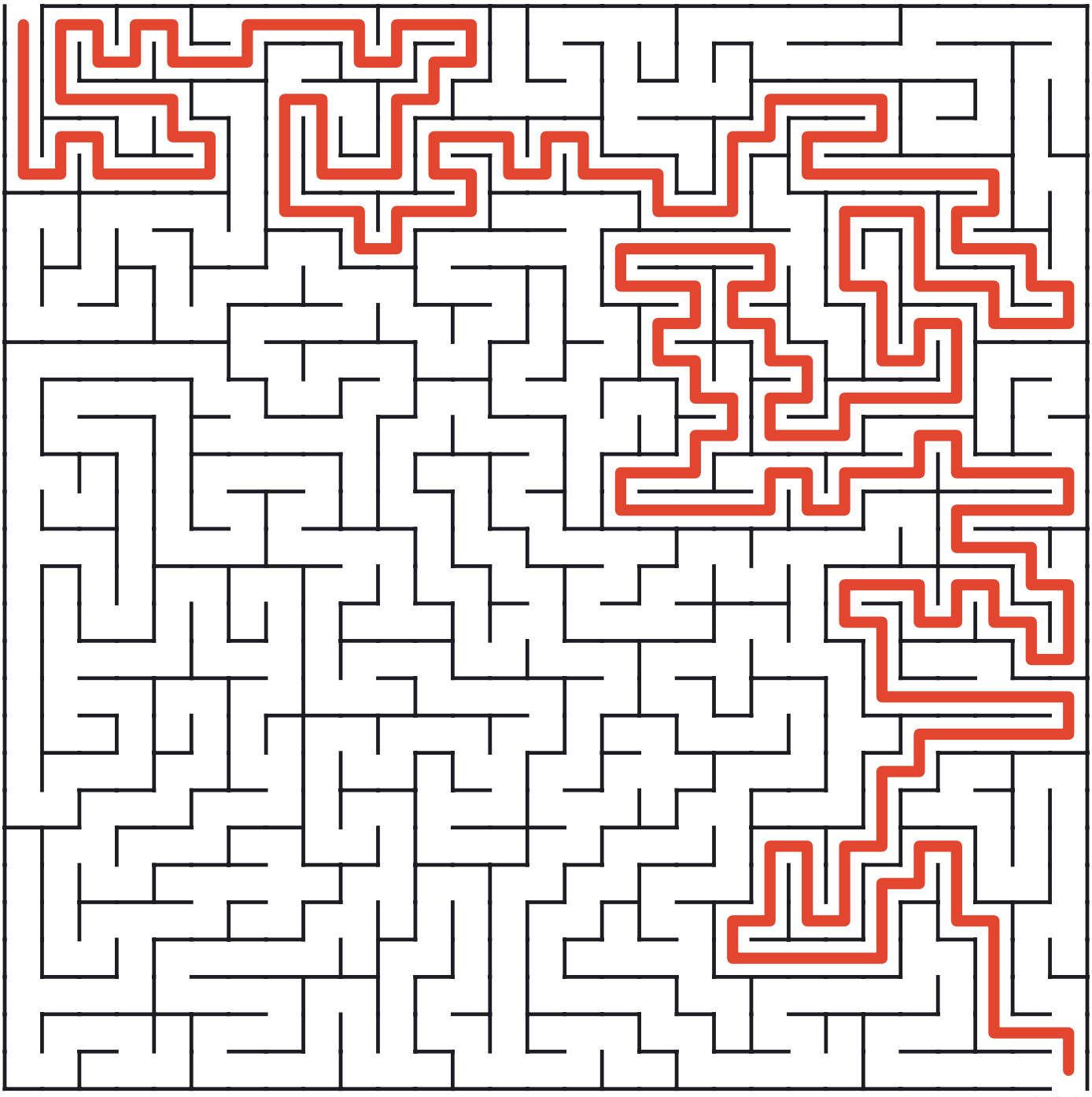


Name _____ Date _____

Answer key: The opera house labyrinth

Find a path from the stage door to the spotlight.

Start



Finish

Name _____ Date _____

Answer key: Master gardener expert word search

Find the 18 hidden words. Words can go any direction, even backwards.



COMPOST
DAHLIA
FOXGLOVE
GREENHOUSE
HOSTA
HYDRANGEA
LAVENDER
MARIGOLD
MULCH
ORCHARD
PEONY
PERENNIAL
ROSEMARY
SEEDLING
SHEARS
TRELLIS
TULIP
WISTERIA