



Treat Yo Self!

by Jonah Ostroff (Seattle)

Donna decided to spend Treat Yo Self Day with some lesser-known citizens of Pawnee this year, since Tom (whose favorite things are offal, forests, and attitude) was unavailable. She knew that it was important to start things off correctly, so she began by asking everyone to list a few of their favorite things:

Perd likes:

- Nerds
- Turducken
- 30 Rock

JJ likes:

- Aaron Sorkin
- “MMMBop”
- Llamas

Marcia likes:

- Novels
- Mayonnaise
- Septic systems

Millicent likes:

- Megan Amram
- Decaf coffee
- Attorneys

Donna likes:

- Real estate
- Miniature horses
- Fame

(Do not cut out the items in this grid!)

Everyone treated themselves to five items from the table on the right. Can you figure out who picked what?

Afterwards, Donna carefully alphabetized each person’s choices, but she still felt a *trace* of discomfort leaving Tom behind. Drawing on her experiences today, she realized how she felt celebrating Treat Yo Self without her best friend.

R-rated movie	Lactaid	Curds	Birdhouse	Exam books
Gigantic hamburger	Herd of cattle	Apricot brandy	Oolong tea	Juleps
Eel sushi	Mimosas	Murder mystery	Wordplay DVD	PetArmor
Pi cookie cutter	Red wine	Au gratin potatoes	Febreze	Jansport backpack
ZZ Top CD	Solar panels	Tiara	BB gun	Terani Couture dress

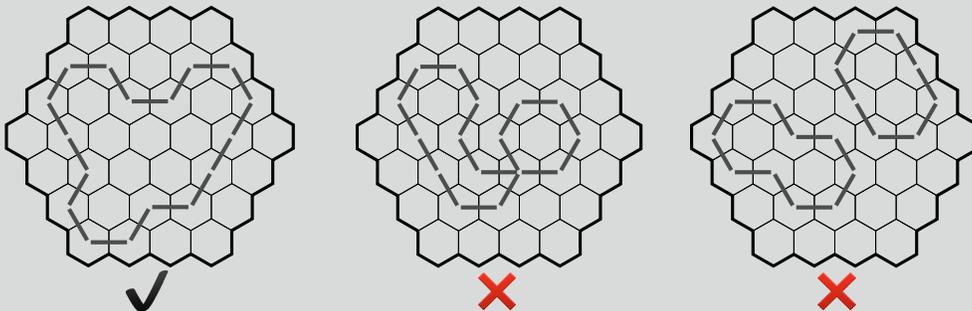
Cones of Dunshire

by Jonah Ostroff (Seattle)

Thanks so much for playing the new expansion to my game! It's called The Cones of Dunshire: Castles of Wa'al. I'm finishing up some auditing right now, but I'd appreciate it if you could set up the roads. Here's the rulebook. Gameplay Magazine calls it "mostly inscrutable"!

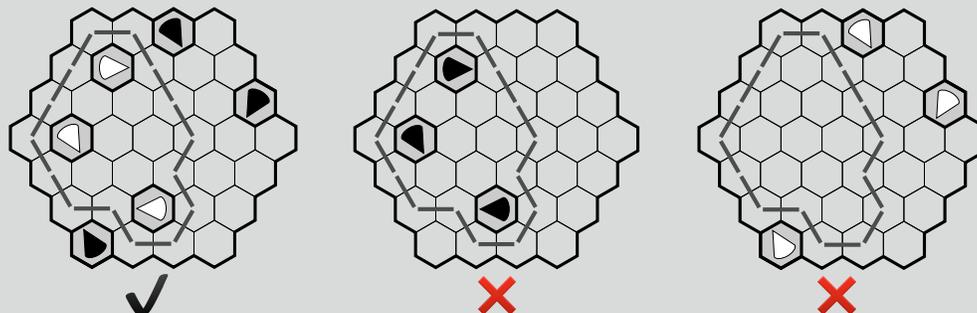
1. The road is formed from pieces which begin and end in the centers of hex tiles. The road may not visit a tile more than once, but it may leave some tiles unvisited.

2. The road should form a single continuous loop.

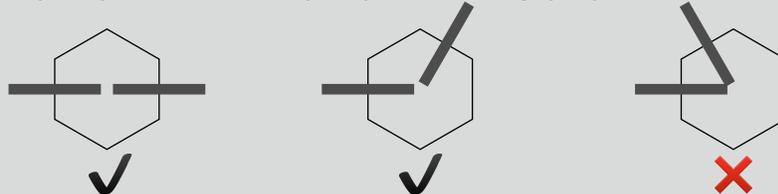


3. The road may not pass through hex tiles containing cones.

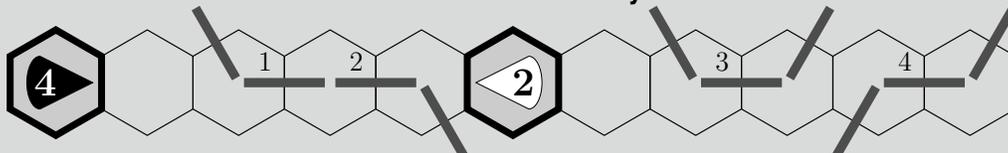
4. All white cones must be inside the loop. All black cones must be outside the loop.



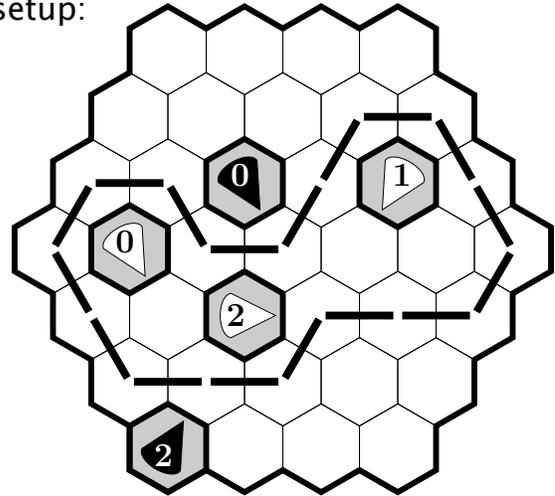
5. The road may only make shallow (120°) turns. Sharp (60°) turns are forbidden.



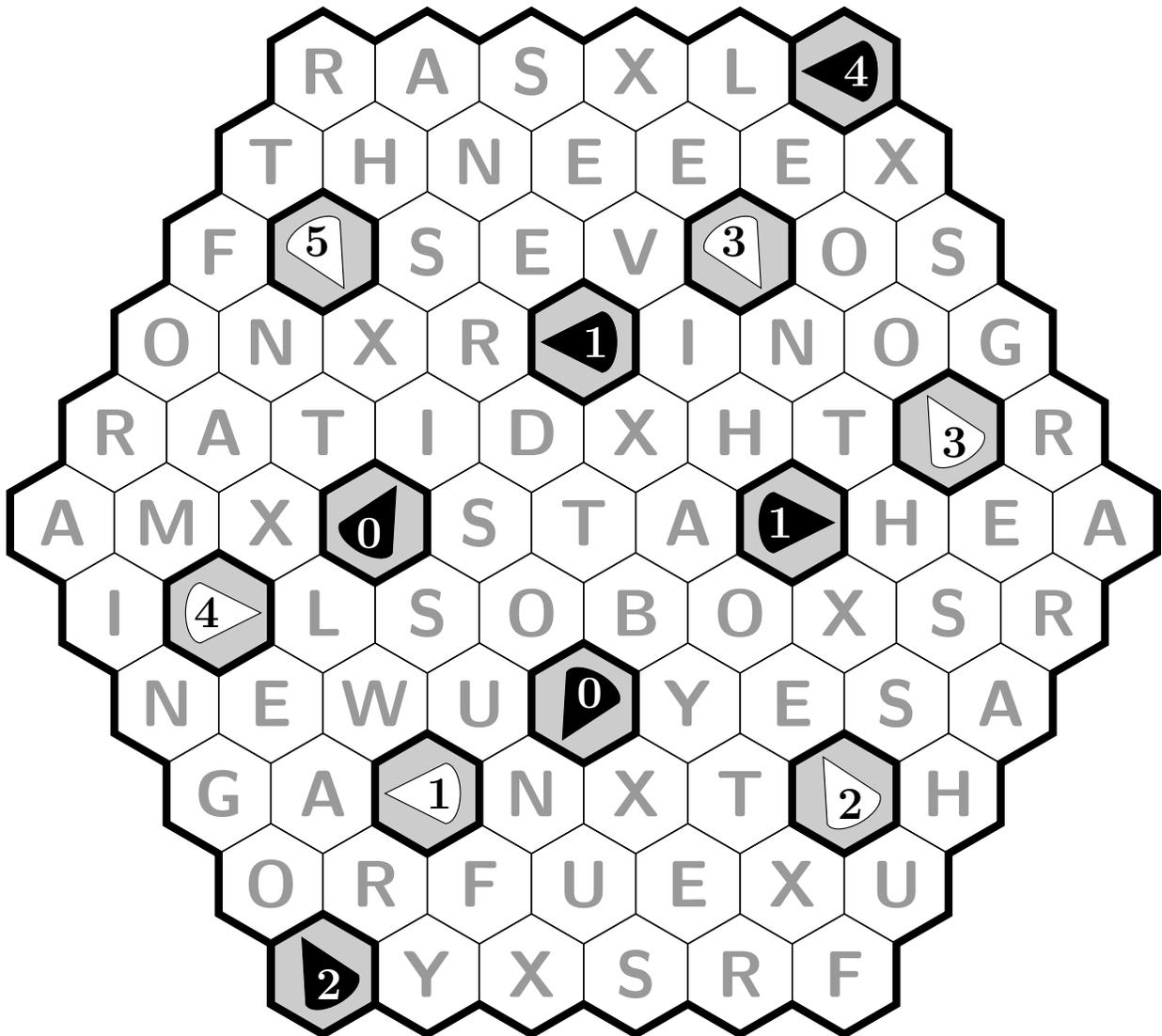
6. The Ledgerman shall label each cone with a number. That number indicates how many roads cross a hex border in the direction indicated by the cone.



For example, here's a valid setup:



Would you place the roads on this grid?



Great, thanks for setting it up! I just got off the phone with Eagleton, and you won't believe what they said.



Burt Macklin: FBI

by Jonah Ostroff (Seattle)

Macklin! You've got to help me. Petrov has broken into my home and taken everything. He stole my rubies, along with the blueprints to my mansion! Without the blueprints, I can't even find my way around here anymore.

Here's what I remember, though: Snakehole Manor is made up of nine rooms on a 6x6 grid. Each room occupies 4 squares, and is labeled with a word that runs through those squares from one end to another. Furthermore, each row of the mansion also spells something.

F	E	A	R
I	R	O	N
S	H	O	D

My sister lives in a much smaller mansion, whose blueprints are shown above. It has three rooms (FISH, EARN, and DOOR), and three rows (FEAR, IRON, and SHOD).

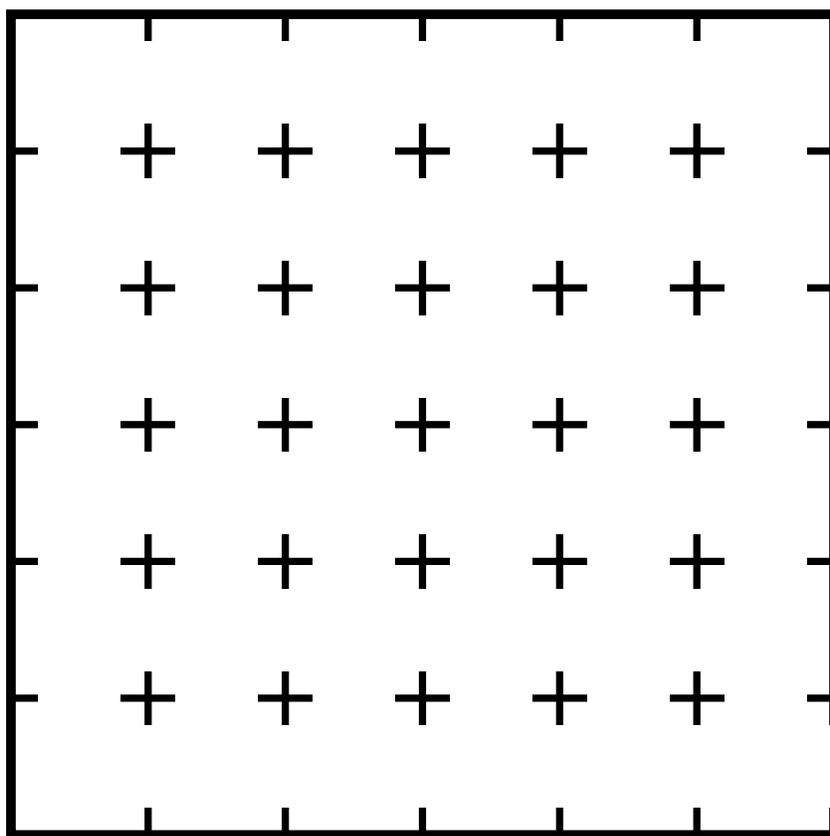
Fortunately, Petrov left behind a few clues:

Rows

1. Blocked, as a river
2. Spoken
3. *Saturday Night Live* alumna Rachel
4. "Fine, then." (3 words)
5. View (2 words)
6. Introduction from a police officer (3 words)

Rooms

- Hairless
- Tunnel
- "Bye!", in Bologna
- VHS successors
- Austen title heroine
- URL beginning
- Apple's desktop
- ____-Aid (drink mix)
- Evaluate

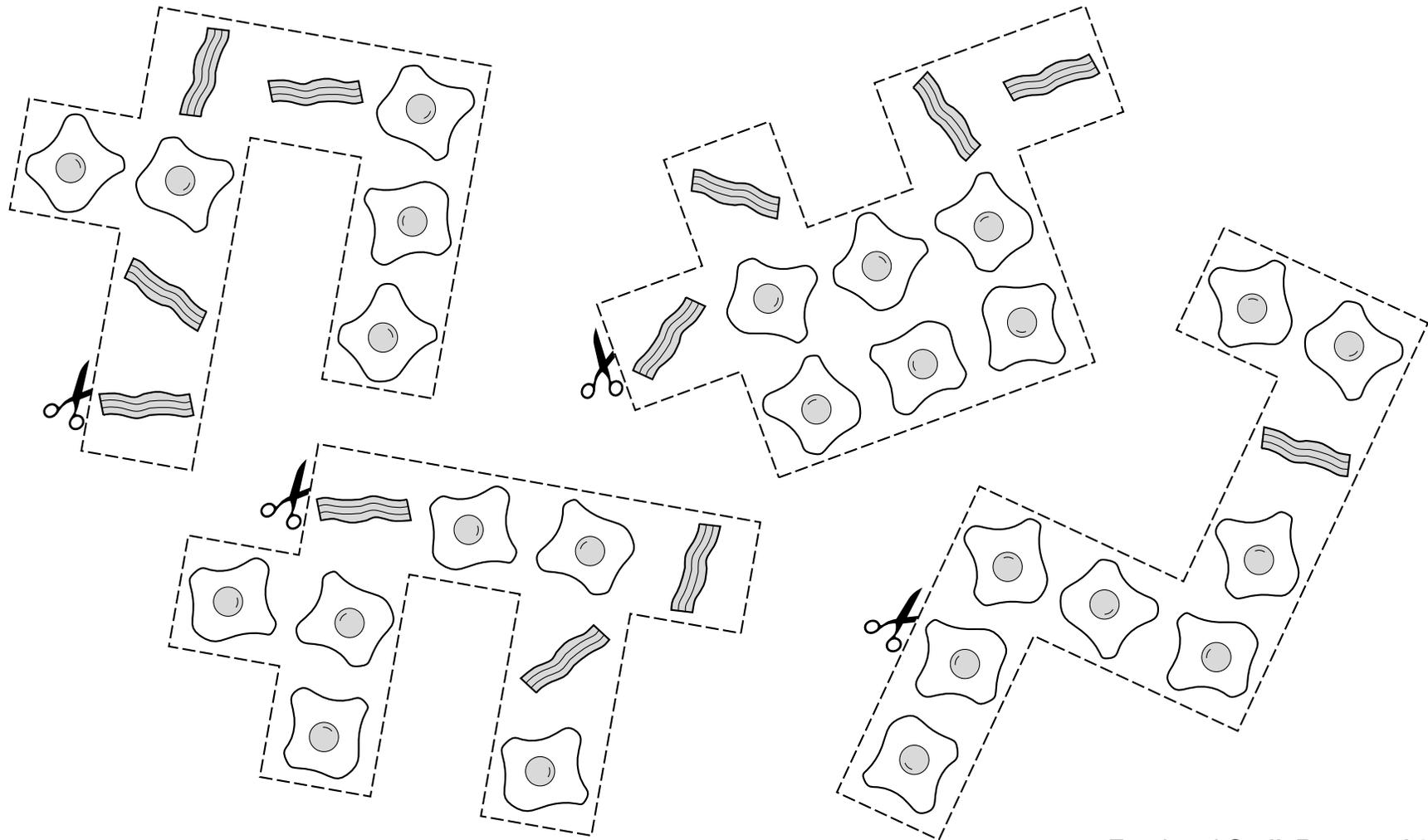


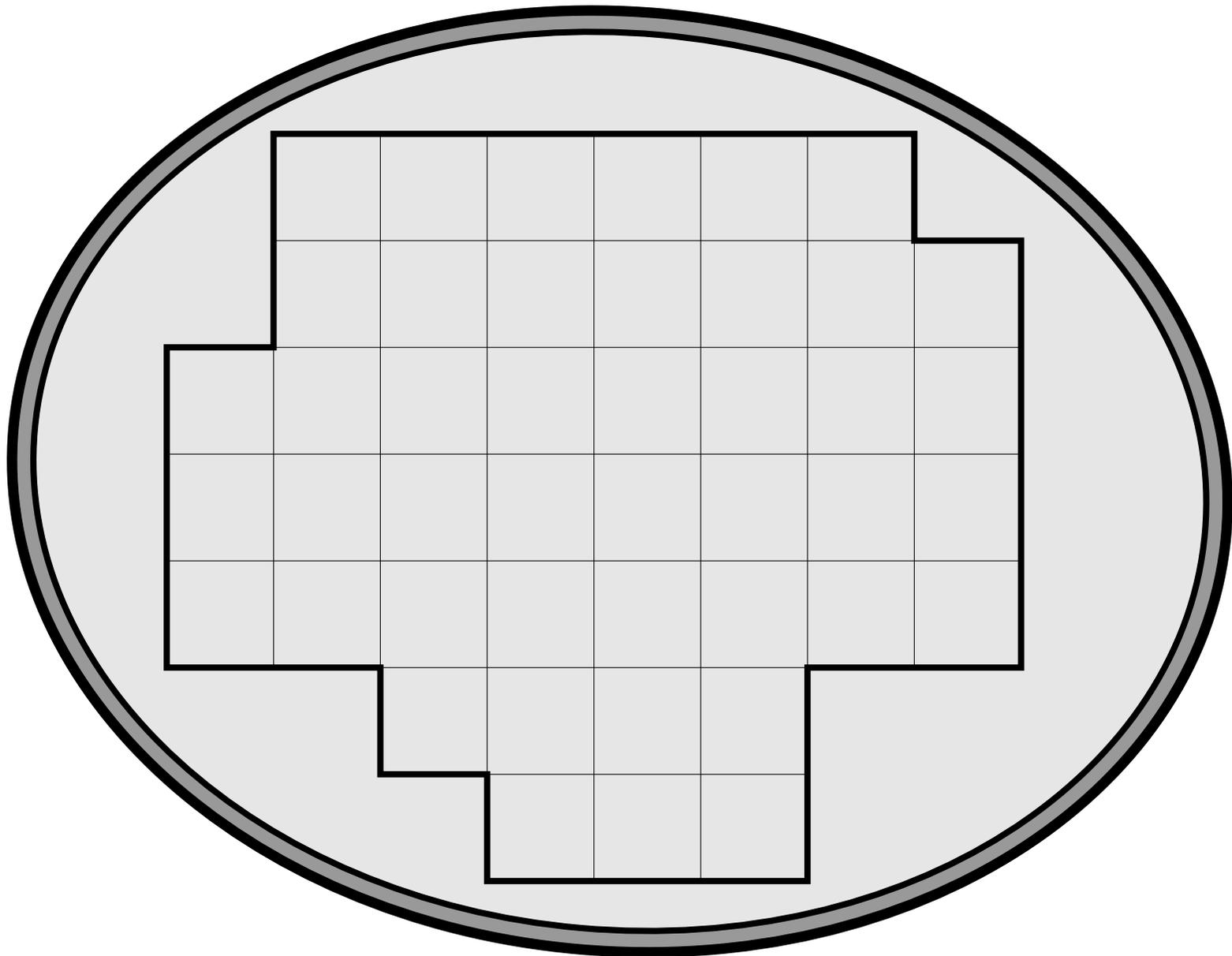
Macklin, there's only one way to stop him: recreate the blueprints, then search my mansion. Starting from the entrance in the southeast corner, visit all nine rooms along the shortest possible path. It may be too late to recover the jewels, but perhaps you can find out what he stole from the kitchen.

Food and Stuff

by Jonah Ostroff (Seattle)

“Just give me all the bacon and eggs you have,” said the man at the diner. The chef thought that was a pretty unreasonable request, yet the man seemed deadly serious. But how could all that food even fit on a single plate?





Finally, an enormous platter of food arrived. A dot of Tabasco, a dash of pepper, and everything was perfect. Ron couldn't have been more pleased. He even had an idea for how he and his coworkers could improve local government.

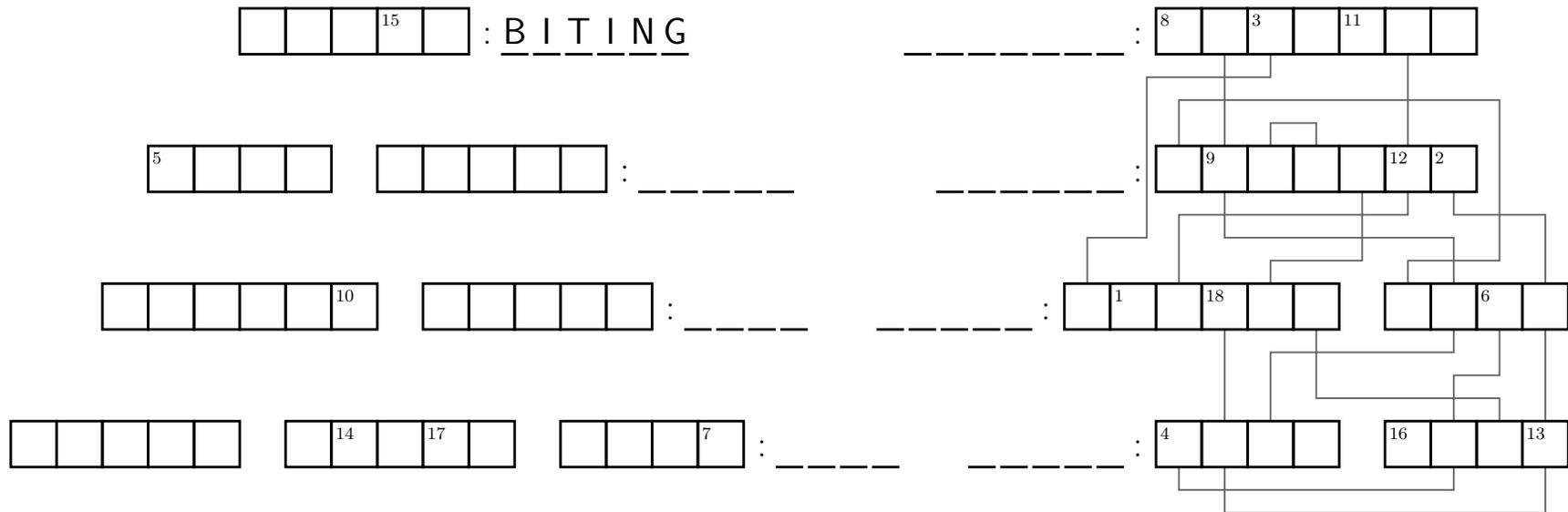


Meta: A Pit into a Park

by Jonah Ostroff (Seattle)

“Ann, you beautiful tropical fish, help me out. I know how to fill in the boxes on the left, but what about the ones on the right? It seems like they correspond to completely different words. I’m awful at puzzles.”

“Don’t be so hard on yourself, Leslie. You turned a **PIT** into a **PARK!** I’m sure you can handle this.”



“Wow, that was a great hint, Ann! How did you know that would work?”

“Honestly?”

“

”
