

SOLUTION TO:

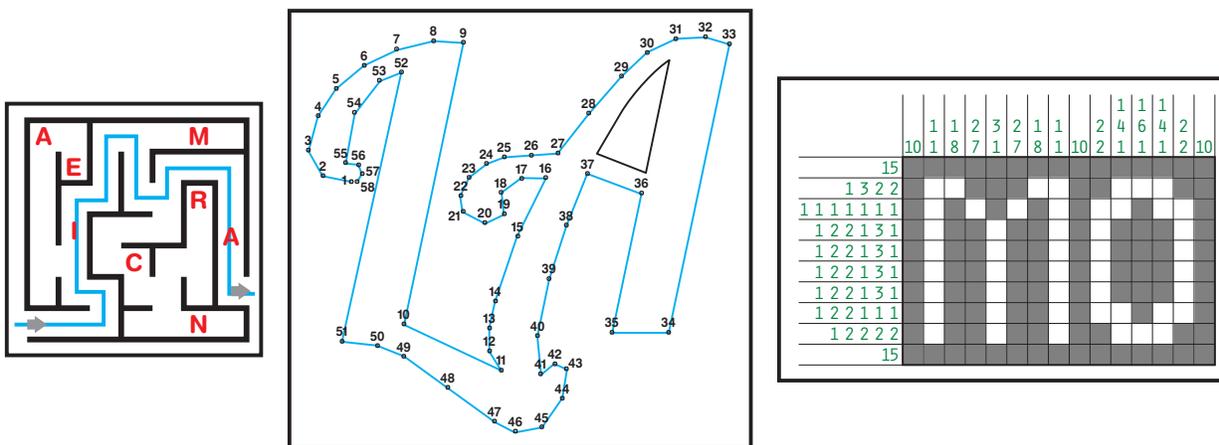


FESTIVUS META!

After solving three of the four puzzles in the activity book, solvers were given a “bonus” page where they could “air their grievances”. This was a hint to enter their answers in the appropriately-sized grids:

INSIPID MET ARIAS GOT SELF A BAD SOFA FELINE IS SANE NET GASBAGS

Also included on the page were three sets of two-letter grids with borders that match the borders of the “example” puzzles on the cover of the activity book. The back cover hints that solvers should solve the book from cover to cover, and solving these puzzles gives the bigrams IA, LA, and MO (all state abbreviations, as hinted at by the FestivUSA portion of the cover).



Solvers then needed to figure out that the page’s suggestion to air their grievances in between feats of strength was a hint to connect the grievances with the state abbreviations to create the party supplies listed on the back cover:

INSIPIDMETARIAS+IA+GOTSSELFABADSOFA+LA+FELINEISSANE+MO+NETGASBAGS

Finally, solvers could take this string and wrap it around the mini-Festivus pole, as suggested by the Air Your Grievances page (as well as the logo on the back cover), to create a scytale which revealed the meta answer: **STAFFING PROBLEMS.**