



ROAD TO THE ISLAND





As the engines rumble to life, reality begins to set in; you really are flying to Forbidden Rhode Island to try to find its four legendary and lucrative treasures. Your emotions careen between fear, excitement, and a growing concern that maybe you should have learned to swim before making this trip. But for better or worse, there's a long flight between you and the upcoming adventure. Fortunately, you brought some puzzles with you to pass the time.

Instructions

The following set of five puzzles (the fifth of which requires answers from the first four) is intended as a warmup for BAPHL 9: Forbidden Rhode Island. If you're taking a train from Boston to Providence, we recommend solving these puzzles on the train to keep yourselves entertained, but you can also solve them at any time that's convenient for your team.

Apart from theme, these puzzles and their answers are not related to the puzzles you'll see in BAPHL 9. So if you don't complete these puzzles before BAPHL 9 starts, don't worry, you won't have any disadvantage at the event.

If you work on the puzzles before the event date and have questions or need hints, you can contact us at baphl9@baphl.org. If you e-mail us on the day of the event, please don't expect a reply... we're going to be a little busy.



BASIC TRAINING

The trip to Rhode Island might seem like an inconvenience to some, but it's actually an opportunity; after all, you don't want to arrive without proper preparation.

NOTE: This puzzle is specifically designed to be solved on a weekend commuter rail from Boston to Providence. If you're not solving on a train, you'll need to look up some information about the train route to solve the puzzle.

Each time you arrive at a station (including your initial departure station), find a description below that describes the station's name. Then follow the instructions listed with that description.

If you change its last letter to an I, the result is an anagram of a part of a tournament.

How many players or teams are typically in that part of the tournament? Call that number N. Write down the Nth-to-last letter of the alphabet.

If you move the sixth letter to the beginning, its first six letters then spell a word.

Look at the fifth letter of the newly formed word. Write down the letter that comes immediately after that letter in the alphabet.

It consists of a word for a bug inside a word for a part of speech.

Change one letter in the bug to make an example of the part of speech. Write down the letter of the alphabet that is halfway between the letter you swapped out and the letter you swapped in.

It consists of two words, both of which you have seen in previous station names.

How many stations ago did you see the first word? Call that number X. How many stations ago did you see the second word? Call that number Y. Write down the $(2 \times X \times Y)$ th letter of the alphabet.

It contains two words that start with the same letter as the city you are in.

Take the letter that starts the two words. Shift it three positions later in the alphabet, and write down that letter.

It is South Station.

Great, let's get started! Board the train to Providence. Work on the other puzzles, but be ready to return to this one whenever you arrive at a station.

It is the capital of a US state. (Spoiler alert: It's Rhode Island.)

Hooray, you've finally made it! Of all the US states that (a) border at least one other state and (b) do not border Mexico, choose the state farthest away from the one you are now in. Write down the two-letter postal code of that state. Finally, look back the way you came, and you'll find your answer, our gift to you now that you've arrived.

It rhymes with a plural term from the Harry Potter franchise.

Write down the first letter of that Harry Potter term.

It sounds like it's bigger than 11 and smaller than 12.

Compute its value to the nearest tenth. Write the letter corresponding to the value in the tenths place (1=A, 2=B, and so forth).

It sounds like you might find Dr. Jekyll there.

Write down the Nth vowel in the alphabet, where N is the number of letters in the second word of the station name.

You can remove its first letter and change another letter to form the name of a bird.

Write down the only letter that is in the bird name, but not in the station name.



FINDING YOUR WAY

As you embark upon your journey, you think of the harrowing wilds of Rhode Island that lie ahead. It's so different from your tame homeland of Massachusetts, although there's some overlap as well.

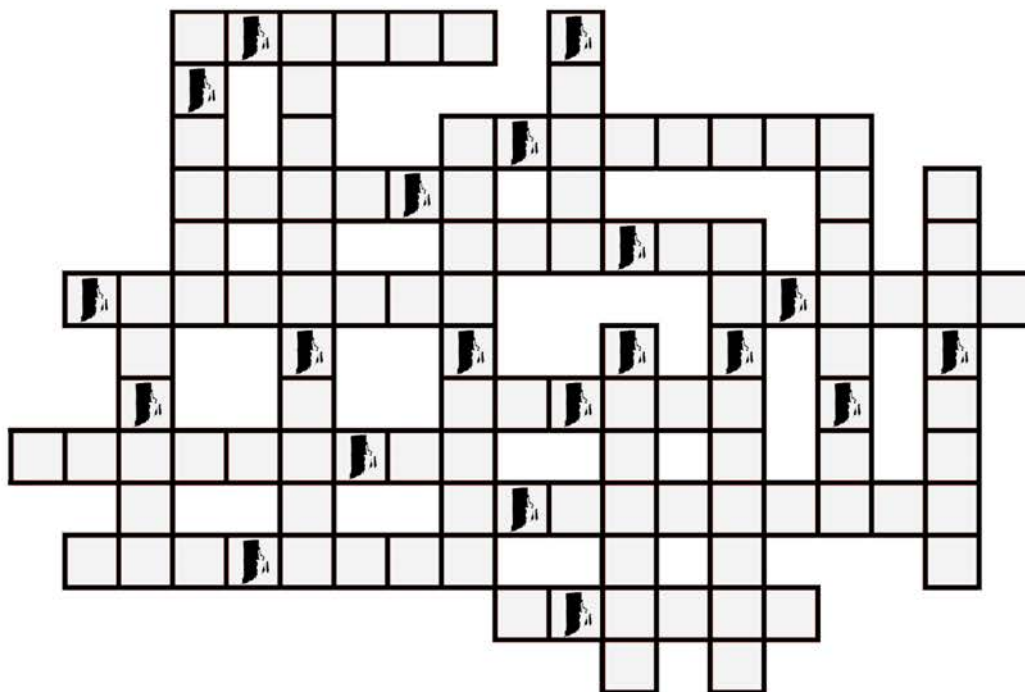
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A	C	I	S	N	M	U	A	A	K	S	L	A	M	H	N	H
Y	I	O	N	A	W	P	P	E	W	D	N	A	L	O	O	I
F	B	I	S	C	O	H	U	A	N	B	G	F	S	D	I	T
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T	E	I	T	T	A	W	F	A	Q	U	I	D	N	E	C	K
S	V	A	E	E	L	O	E	C	H	I	C	K	A	D	E	E
U	A	R	M	N	R	K	E	R	H	Y	E	T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

Airport
Beverage
Bird
Capital
Flower
Governor
Hall of Fame
Island
Puzzlehunt
Senator



GOING POSTAL

If you had your baggage shipped to Rhode Island in advance, hopefully you addressed it properly.



- A)** Items associated with United States culture or heritage, or an Offspring album (9)
- B)** Lawyer in the United Kingdom (9)
- C)** Early amendments to the Constitution (4 2 6)
- D)** Handling a basketball, or acting like a baby? (9)
- E)** Former member of Cream who covered "I Shot The Sheriff" (4 7)
- F)** African country where you'd find Asmara (7)
- G)** Primate that appeared in an American Tourister ad (7)
- H)** Musician who plays the same instrument as the answer to clue (e) (9)
- H)** Edible crustacean caught near Tampa, for instance (4 6)
- J)** Fever transmitted by mosquitoes (7)
- K)** Item on a scout's sash (5 5)
- L)** August birthstone that was the answer to a fine puzzle in the 2014 MIT Mystery Hunt (7)
- M)** Noise made by a frog (6)
- N)** Subject someone to mockery or derision (8)
- O)** Extremity that a bad dancer doesn't have? (5 4)
- P)** Participant in the Hunger Games, or an act of admiration (7)
- Q)** The Hunger Games, or Back to the Future, for example (7)
- R)** The act of winning the Hunger Games, or any other major victory (7)
- S)** Chemical element with a single-letter symbol (sorry, all out of Hunger Games clues) (7)



FINAL STOP

If you've solved these puzzles, you may think you have a pretty good idea of what Rhode Island has in store for you. Well, you don't know how wrong you are...

Each of the solutions to the four previous puzzles contains a seven-letter word. Place those four seven-letter words in the boxes below; the order you should enter these words is unclued, so you'll need to use trial and error.

If you put your answers in the correct positions, the numbered squares in order will spell out a two-word final phrase. This scientific phenomenon was once thought to be impossible, but if you're unlucky, it may await you on Forbidden Rhode Island.

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	6	8		7		5
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		9	11	10		
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12	14			13		
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1	2	3	4
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5	6	7	8
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9	10	11
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12	13	14
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