



Copyright © 2024 by CodeVA

All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without written permission by the publisher, except as permitted by U.S. copyright law.

> Cover art and illustrations by Angelo Natale Activity 1 by Angelo Natale Activity 2 by Angelo Natale Activity 3 by Jennifer Hicks Activity 4 by Angelo Natale Edited by Jon Stapleton and Alan Ireland

> Published by CodeVA's Eureka Workshop <u>www.codevirginia.org</u>

What is Snail Mail?

Learning can happen without computers, tablets, or smartphones! All of the resources in this guide are accessible and include instructions for games you can play at home, a craft or activity, and additional resources for parents, caregivers, educators and students.

Snail Mail is a free quarterly publication by CodeVA's Eureka Workshop. We get students (and their families) excited about computational thinking and the ideas behind computer science. Students are introduced to essential skills while fostering creative thinking through a variety of ways.



Join us in receiving a new Snail Mail each quarter - always 100% free! Classrooms and other educational programs can sign up and include Snail Mail in their activity offerings as well. Sign up yourself or a friend at CodeVA.info/SnailMail.

Table of Contents

- 05 This issue's theme: Codie's Cosmic Treasure Hunt!
- 06 Activity 1 A puzzle from another world
- 12 Activity 2 Codie and the Maze!
- 14 Activity 3 Create your own Map!
- 16 Extend your learning -Codie's Compass
- 17 Activity 4 Decipher a secret code!
- 19 Solve the Cosmic Treasure Hunt Challenge!
- 20 Resources

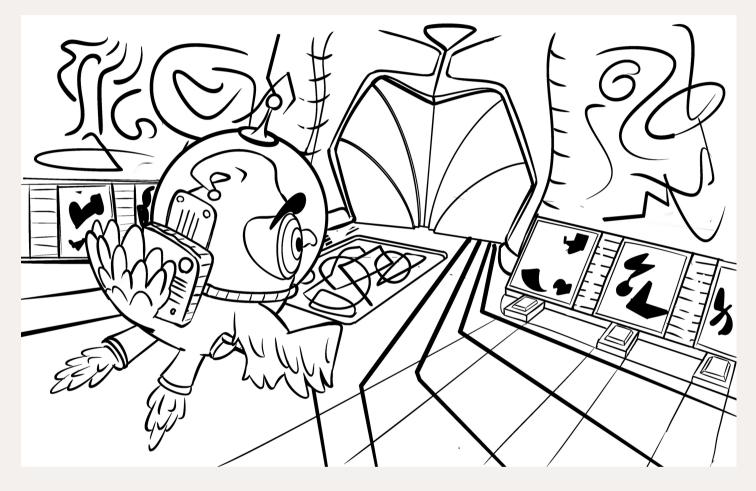
This issue's theme is Codie's Cosmic Treasure Hunt!

Issue #25 takes us on a Cosmic Treasure Hunt with Codie the Cardinal. Follow Codie's adventures by completing different activities along a cosmic treasure map. Help Codie **collect clues** along the way. Once all of the clues have been gathered, then put them together to **complete the final challenge!** Submit the answer to the puzzle through a Google Form for a chance to **win a prize!**

We hope you enjoy learning more about computer science through the fun adventures with Codie.



Activity 1 Puzzle from another world



Codie the Cardinal is on a distant planet, stumbling upon ancient tiles bearing mysterious symbols. These tiles hold the first clue for the cosmic treasure hunt. Can you assist Codie in decoding the symbols to uncover the path to hidden treasures?

Which sentences are true?

Each tile is paired with a sentence using coordinates like A1, B2, C3. Only four of these sentences are true. Find them, then use the coordinates to identify the four correct tiles to unlock the mystery.

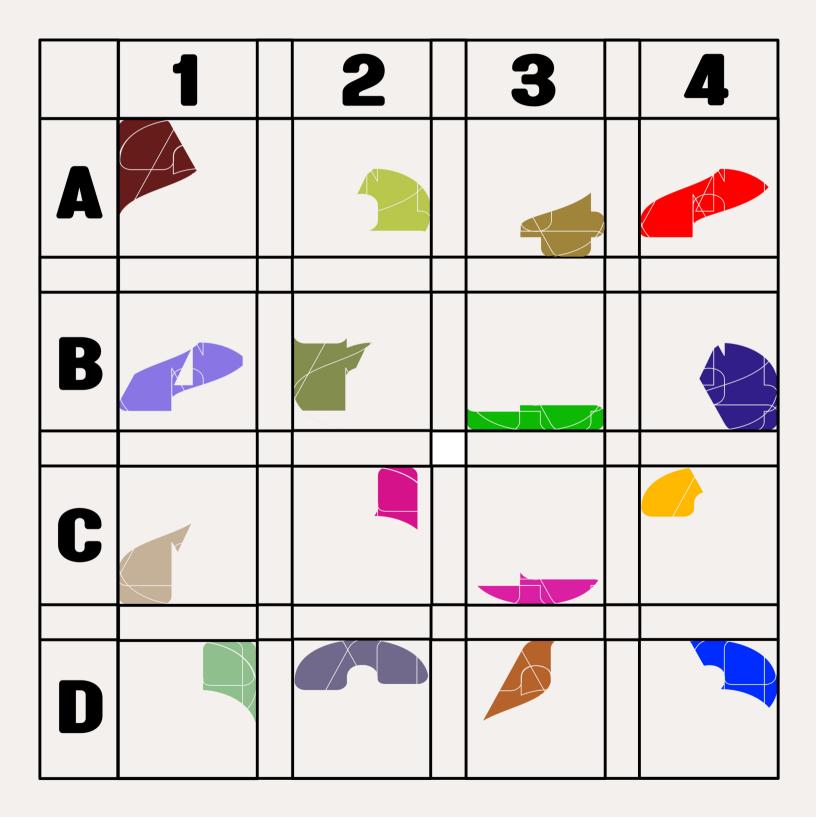
	True	False
A1 : Astronauts often discover treasure chests floating in space during their missions.		
A2 : Martian ruins hold clues to the location of buried treasure beneath the red sands.		
A3 : Moon craters are disguised vaults, concealing the treasures left behind by ancient space explorers		
A4 : The search for extraterrestrial life is a thrilling space treasure hunt scientists are still pursuing.		
B1 : The Milky Way is sprinkled with cosmic candy canes leading to sugar-coated planets.		
B2 : A new planet has been discovered in our solar system, with evidence of an ancient alien civilization.		
B3 : Going on space missions requires much planning, just like embarking on a treasure hunt adventure.		
B4 : Chocolate is an exotic food in the galaxy, often used as a form of currency among alien civilizations.		

Which sentences are true?

	True	False
C1 : The Martian rovers play intergalactic treasure hunt games, searching for buried alien artifacts.		
C2 : Space shuttles are equipped with treasure-sniffing sensors to detect asteroids hiding pirate treasures.		
C3 : Jupiter's moons are made of cheese and serve as perfect coves for space pirates.		
C4 : A space telescope searching for hidden planets and galaxies is like a treasure hunt among the stars.		
D1 : Ancient records reveal celestial explorers gifted our ancestors with a legendary batch of interstellar licorice.		
D2 : From the depths of a pyramid, researchers found an alien map revealing the secrets of a cosmic treasure.		
D3 : Comets are cosmic pit stops, where adventurers can refuel before continuing their journey among the stars.		
D4 : Some asteroids carry precious elements, making them valuable targets for future space mining companies.		
What are the four true sentences?		
$\square \square \square$		

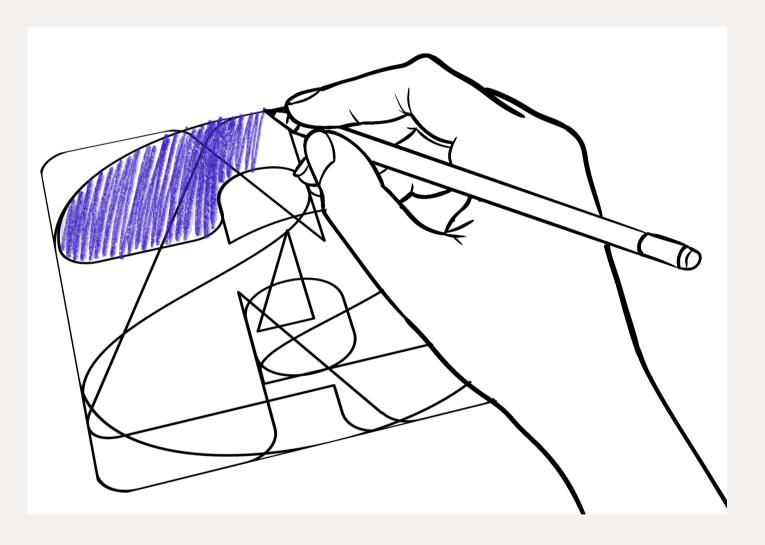
Identify the correct 4 tiles

Identify the 4 tiles linked to the 4 true sentences:

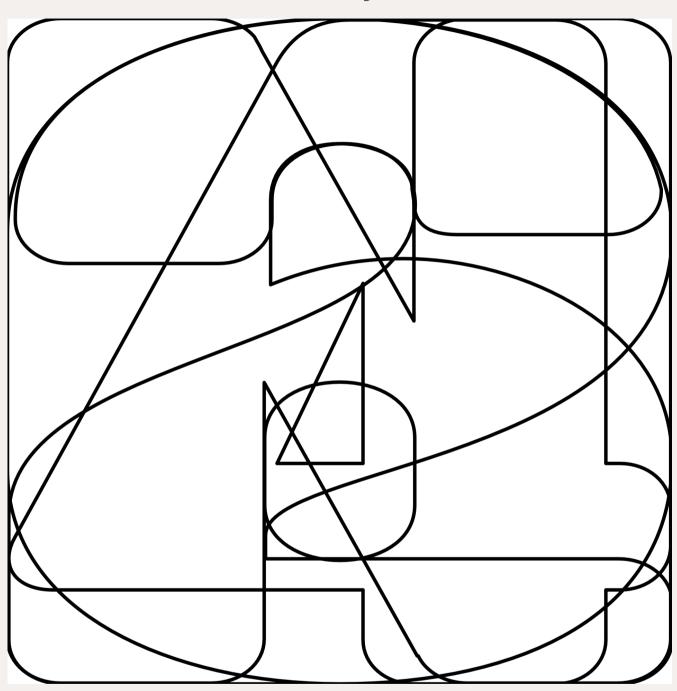


Activity 1

Use a pencil to fill the sections of the diagram marked by the four tiles you believe are correct in order to solve the puzzle.



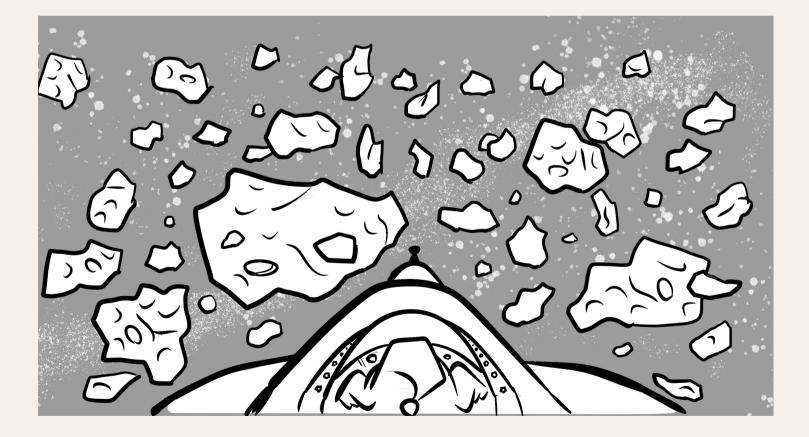


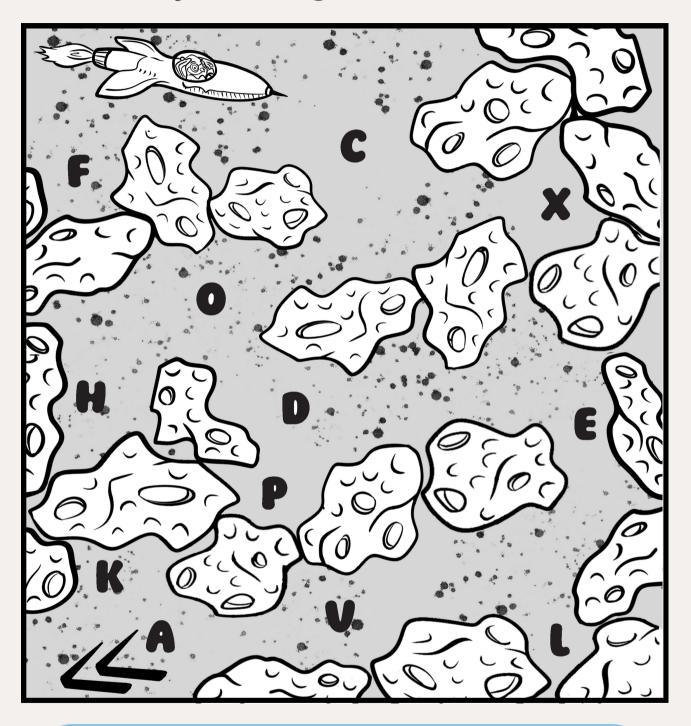


Clue #1 - What NUMBER appears in the picture above once you color in the four sections?

Activity 2 Codie and the Maze!

Codie's starship is trapped in a dangerous asteroid zone and is in immediate danger. Codie can only find the crucial clue to escape by **precisely following the right path** and gathering the dispersed alphabet letters. Will you help Codie find the secret to their survival by navigating this perilous maze?





Can you navigate this maze?

Clue #2 - What do the letters spell? HINT - Codie lives here!

Activity 3 Create your own map!

Maps help us to visually represent and find a specific place. We use maps to understand, observe, communicate and connect with the world.

Have you ever made your own map? Some things to think about before you begin: **1- Title** - name your map **2 - Map Key** - list of symbols (pictures or icons that represent different things on the map **3 - Compass Rose** - shows cardinal directions (N,S,E,W)

Find materials that you have at home to help create your map such as: paper (printer, construction, cardstock, brown paper bag, etc.), pencils, markers, ruler.

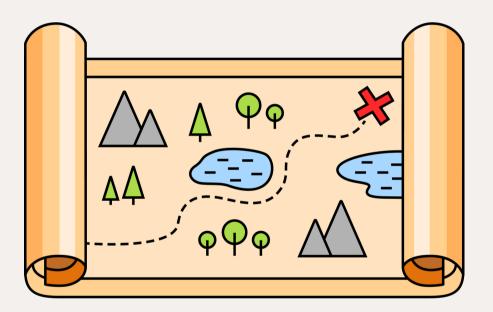
Decide what kind of map you want to make, then start creating!

Need some inspiration? Look on the next page for a great resource to get you started!

Treasure Map directions

**Here is a link you can check out with specific details and pictures for making your own Treasure map!

https://kidspacemuseum.org/for-families-athome/diy-kids-treasure-map/



Clue #3 - What does the symbol "&" mean?

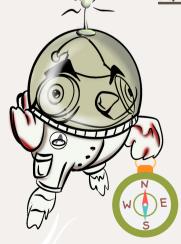
Extend your learning!

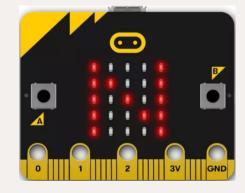
Codie has a built-in compass to help them find their way around the world. What exactly is a **compass**? It's a device that shows cardinal directions and is used for navigation purposes. Compasses are used for travel and exploration, air travel, shipping, and surveying land.

Try this fun <u>micro:bit</u> compass tutorial to create a program that displays which direction North is pointing on the micro:bit You don't need an actual micro:bit to do this activity. You can also download the program that you connect to a micro:bit if you have access to one!

<u> https://microbit.org/projects/make-it-code-</u>

it/compass-north/





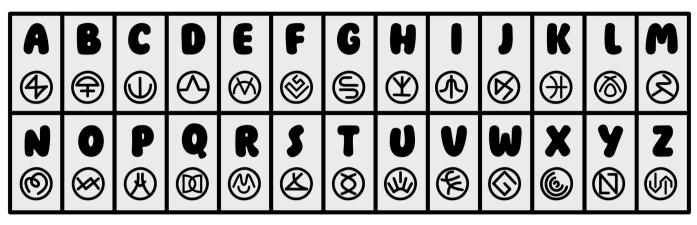
Activity 4 Decipher a secret code!



Codie explores a desolate moon orbiting a distant planet, where the remnants of an ancient civilization speak through mysterious inscriptions. Amidst the ruins, Codie uncovers an enigmatic message, possibly the last clue needed to reveal the location of the cosmic treasure.

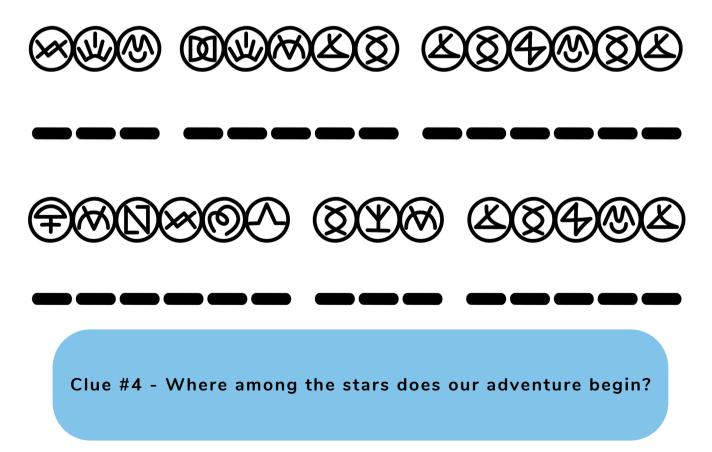
With Codie's deciphering device in hand, are you up for the challenge of piecing together the mysterious phrase?

Can you read this Code?



Decipher the cryptic code to reveal the hidden message! Each symbol corresponds to a letter in the decoder. Match symbols with their letters to unveil the message.

Codie is searching for a specific word within this cryptic text. Find the clue at the bottom of the page to find the word.



Solve the Cosmic Treasure Hunt Challenge!

Can you solve the puzzle using all of the clues you collected during the Treasure Hunt?

Clue #1 - What NUMBER appears in the picture above once you color in the four sections?

Clue #2 - What do the letters spell? HINT - Codie lives here!

Clue #3 - What does the symbol & mean?

Clue #4 - Where among the stars does our adventure begin?

Submit the answer to the puzzle on the Google Form below for a chance to win a prize. Good Luck!



Click Here to WIN!

Resources

Computer Science

adafruit <u>adafruit.com</u> hour of code <u>hourofcode.org/learn</u> micro:bit <u>microbit.org</u> VEX <u>vexrobotics.com</u>

Art and Game Design

earsketch <u>earsketch.gatect.edu</u> gb studio <u>gbstudio.dev</u> makecode <u>makecode.com</u> piskelapp <u>piskelapp.com</u> processing <u>processing.org</u> scratch <u>scratch.mit.edu</u>

Treasure Hunt resources

micro:bit Treasure Hunt https://microbit.org/projects/make-itcode-it/treasure-hunt/ Free Online Map Maker: https://www.canva.com/create/maps/

Meta



Snail Mail sign up and archives

A big thanks to Meta for sponsoring Snail Mail. Also thanks to our other contributors and

distributors. Interested in getting involved? Learn how we do it!





Tell us how we did!

Better Money Habits from our friends at Bank of America!

