

Solution - Christmas Eve

By Eshan Mitra

Each metapuzzle answer is a clue for a rule by which we can generate a number from a puzzle answer

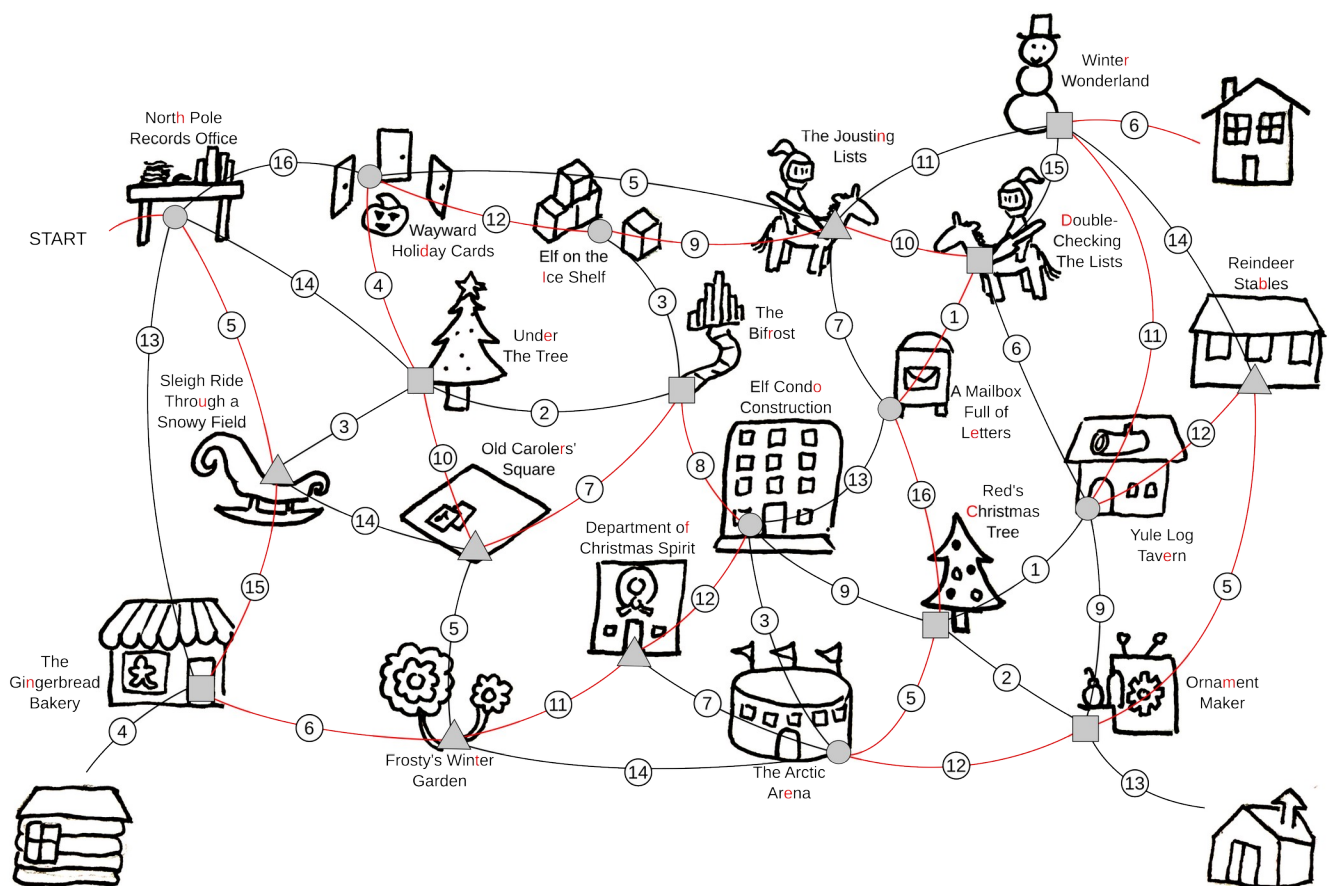
LENGTH OF YARN – Number of letters in the answer

RAINBOW DEER – Each answer using this rule starts with a letter in ROYGBIV. Take R=1, O=2, Y=3, etc.

HOT SCRABBLE CIDER – Scrabble score of the answer

To help confirm these rules, each metapuzzle location at the bottom of the page is given as equal to the result of applying the rule to the meta answer (LENGTH OF YARN has length 12, RAINBOW DEER starts with R = 1, and HOT SCRABBLE CIDER has a Scrabble score of 28)

At each map location, apply the rule indicated by the shape (circle = length, square = rainbow, triangle = scrabble) to the answer to the feeder puzzle. The result is one of the numbers connected to the location. Follow this path to the next location. This process results in a path that visits every location on the map once:



To extract, use the numbers as indices on the puzzle titles, and read in path order.

The answer is HUNT FOR RED IN DECEMBER.

Author Notes

The feeder answers were fairly constrained by their respective metas, so this supermeta was designed to mostly work with any feeders. The one exception is that we needed enough feeder answers starting with ROYGBIV to use it as a rule. In particular, the answers used in The Gingerbread Bakery, Under the Tree, and Double-Checking the Lists were selected specifically to get a rainbow letter, where the corresponding meta had a little more flexibility.

The second constraint that the supermeta created was on the puzzle titles. Throughout puzzle construction, we had a “letter market” containing all of the letters in the meta answer, from which puzzle authors claimed letters that their puzzle titles would extract.