

# A PUZZLING CONCLUSION

BY KEN WEBER

## Test your recall with our Christmas crafts

Enjoy this panel of felt tree ornaments for as long as you wish. Then hide it from view and respond to the statements at the bottom of the page with a **yes** or a **no**.



### Alligators in Caledon Lake?

Only in a puzzle could there be alligators in Caledon Lake, but then only in a puzzle could those alligators trap Aahan, Bea, Carly and Dante on an island in the lake. All four kids can swim well enough, and fortunately they have a sound wave device that repels reptiles, providing protection in the water for up to two swimmers at once. There is no boat on the island and the island is too isolated to shout for help, so with night and cold air coming on they make a plan that, with the help of the sound wave device, enables all four to swim to the mainland shore safely in the least possible time.

Each of the four has covered the distance to shore several times over the summer so they know that Aahan does it in 3 minutes and Bea in 7, but that Carly takes 13 minutes and Dante 17.

**What strategy will get everyone safely to shore in the least minutes of total swimming time?**

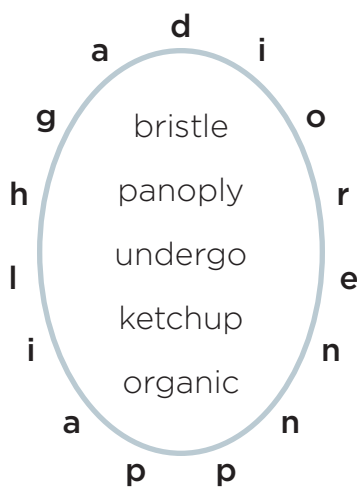
### Build your own zoo

Show how you can make a lion with the head of a lamb, the body of a pig, the rear end of a buffalo, and the tail of a dragon.



### 7 to 4

Delete three letters from each word in the list below, then anagram the four remaining letters into a regular English word. Each letter you delete must match a letter in the outer ring. A letter in the outer ring may be matched only once.



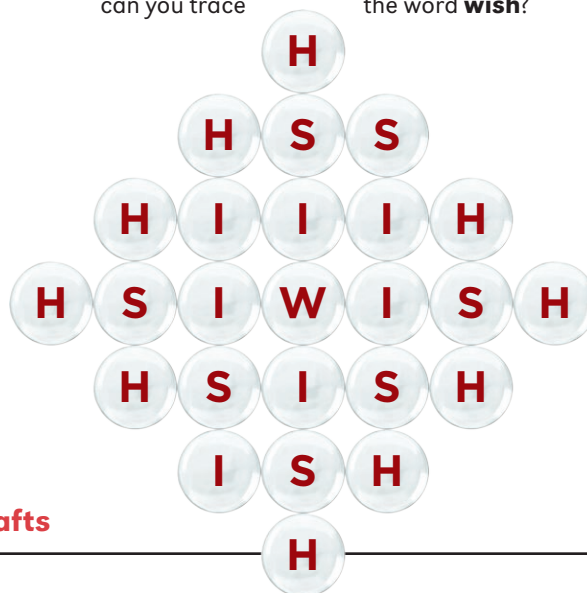
### Counting your chickens after they're hatched

When you look out the window at the yard, you see 2 chickens in front of 2 other chickens, 2 chickens behind 2 other chickens, and 2 chickens beside 2 other chickens.

**How many chickens do you have in the yard?**

### How many wishes?

Starting at the **W** each time and moving from circle to touching circle in any direction, how many different times can you trace the word **wish**?



## Test your recall with our Christmas crafts

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1<br>The reindeer has turned his head to look behind him. | 3<br>Mittens, stockings and skates are all in pairs. | 6<br>The red star is the only ornament with a snowflake on it. | 8<br>The snowman has eyes, mouth, a nose and buttons, but no arms. |
| 2<br>The gingerbread man wears a white bow tie.           | 4<br>There is no Christmas wreath in the panel.      | 7<br>The rocking horse wears a saddle.                         | 9<br>The Christmas tree is green with red trimmings.               |
| 5<br>The clanger (aka clapper) in the bell is white.      |  |  |  |