The Journal Gazette

Nov. 21, 2026

COREY MCMAKEN
The Journal Gazette

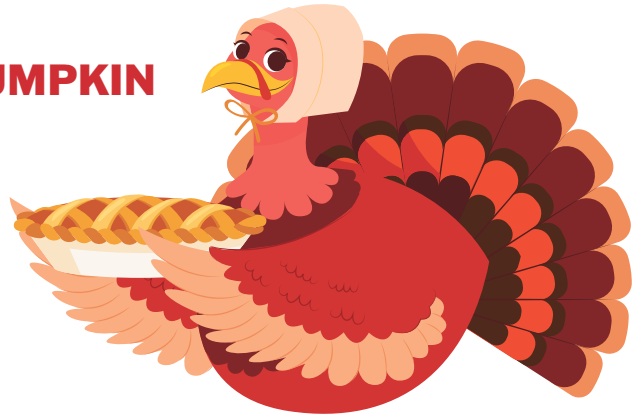
The holiday season is upon us – no matter how surprising it seems that this is already November and Christmas is less than five weeks away.

Friends and family will soon be coming together for festive meals, and you might be looking for something to keep guests busy during key cooking times.

The puzzles and comics regularly found in The Journal Gazette's Living section are a great start, and we've created some additional games to entertain children and the young at heart.

Solve the puzzles yourself or save the pages for an upcoming holiday gathering.

THE PIE ISN'T PUMPKIN



What kind of pie has Tammy the Turkey made for us? In the style of popular puzzle book "The Killer Isn't Alice," use the provided clues to cross off pie flavors until only one remains.

Clues

☐ The pie flavor does not include pumpkin.

☐ The pie flavor is not also the name of a popular board game.

☐ The pie flavor is not listed directly above a fruit or berry flavor.

☐ The pie flavor does not contain the letter M.

☐ The pie flavor is not in a corner.

☐ The pie flavor is not listed directly to the right of a two-word flavor.

☐ The pie flavor is not in green letters.

☐ The pie flavor is not a single word.

☐ The pie flavor does not contain a word with four letters.

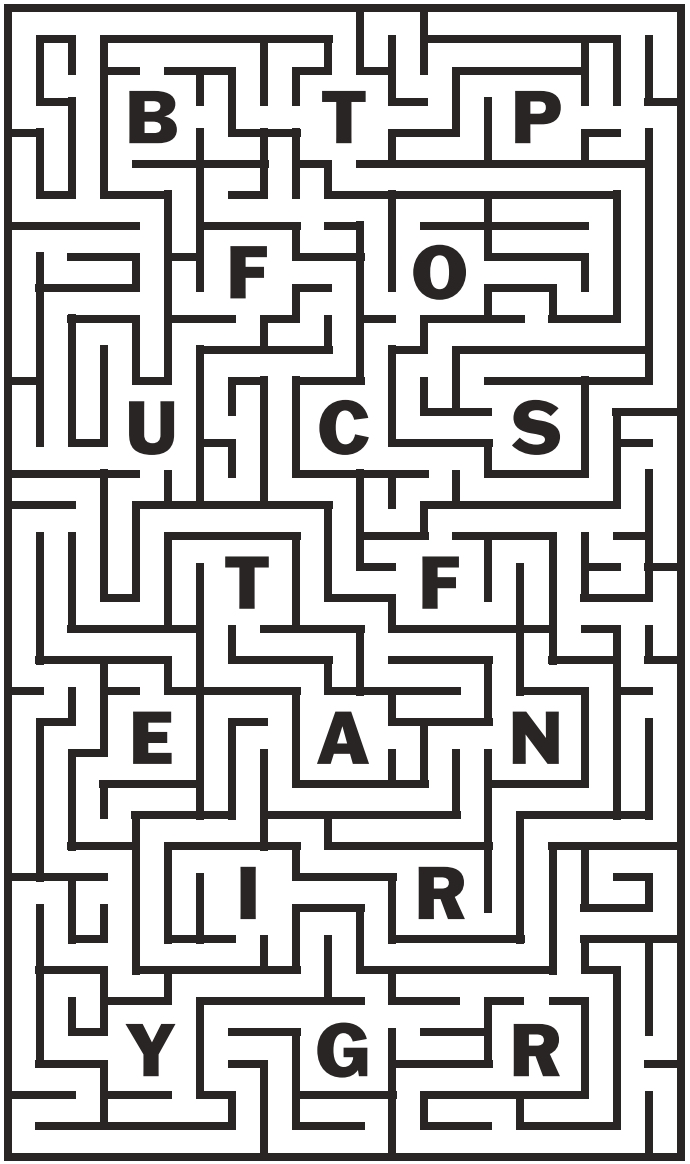
☐ The pie flavor is not listed directly to the left or right of a cream flavor.

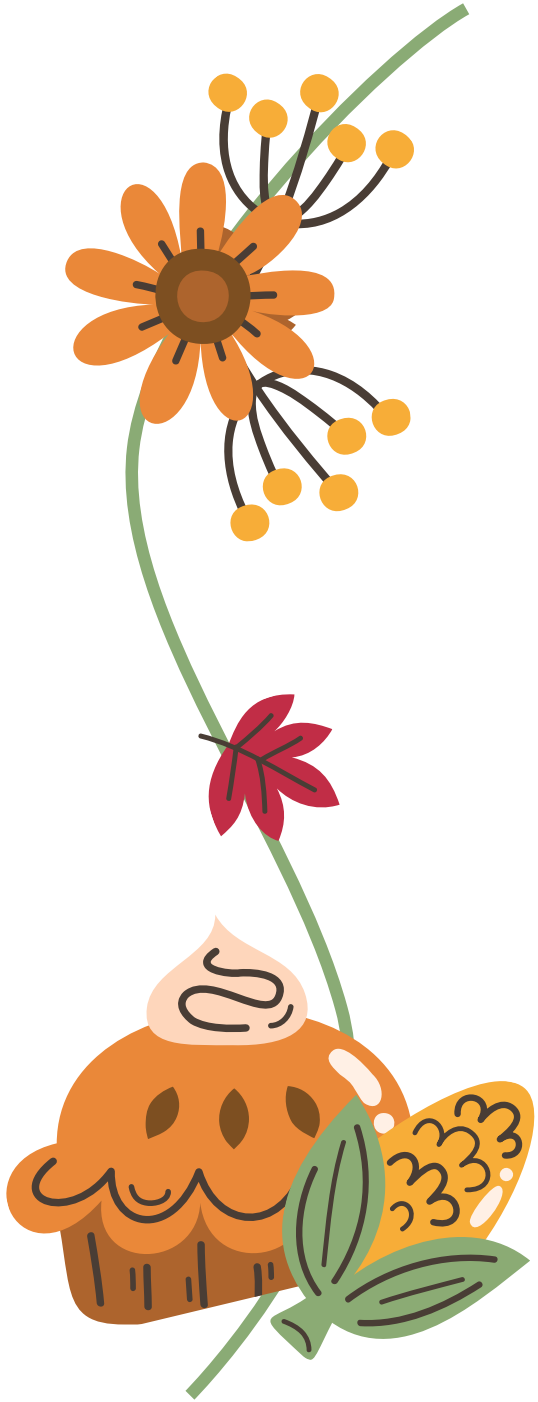
Peach	Sugar Cream	Caramel Apple	Buttermilk	Blueberry
Whipped Pumpkin	Custard	Pumpkin	Coconut Cream	Banoffee
Cherry	Blackberry	Butterscotch	Peanut Butter	Banana Cream
Huckleberry	Lemon Meringue	Key Lime	Pecan Praline Pumpkin	Maple Cream
Pecan	Egg Nog Cream	Sweet Potato	Chess	Strawberry
Rocky Road	Grasshopper	Salted Caramel Pumpkin	Apple Cranberry	Toffee Nut
Dutch Apple	Rhubarb	Chocolate Silk	Mince Meat	Apple

Magnific illustrations

SIT FOR A SPELL

Pass through letters to connect the word for a food item you might find on your Thanksgiving plate. If you pass through a letter square, you must collect that letter. Not all letters will be used. You can only pass through each letter square once, and you must exit from a different route than you entered. The answer will be spelled in correct order. *Hint: You might also call it dressing.*

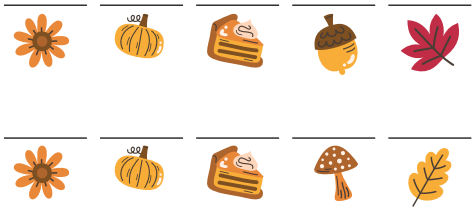




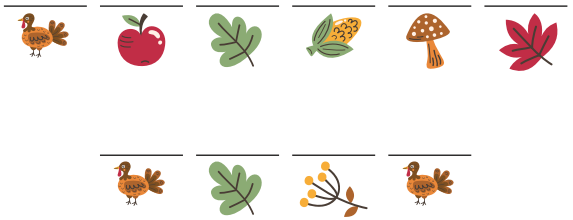
SWEET JOKES

Use the key to solve the coded holiday riddles.

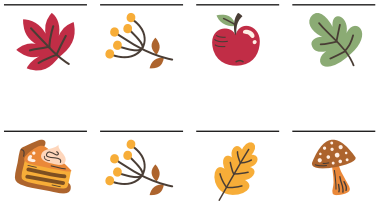
What do gingerbread men use when they break their legs?

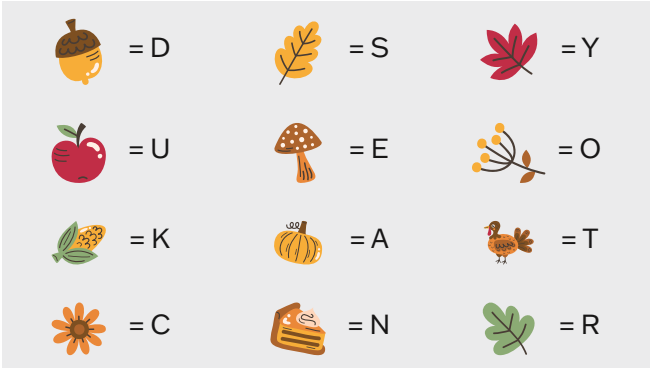


What's a fun dance to do on Thanksgiving?



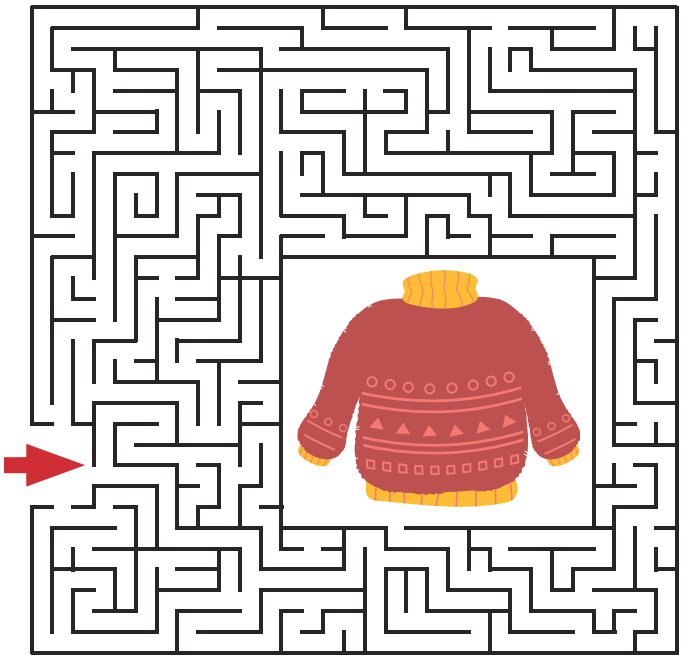
What smells the best at a holiday dinner?

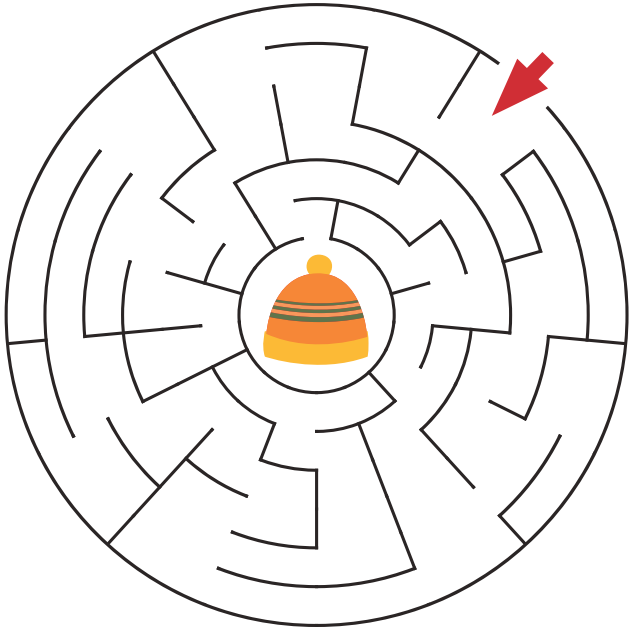


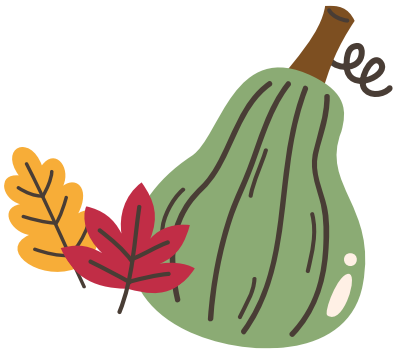


IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

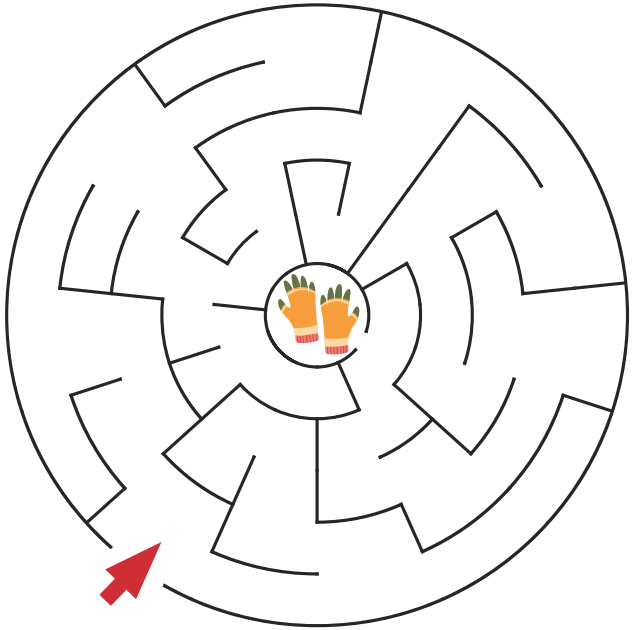
It's starting to get chilly out there! Do you remember where all your cold-weather gear is? Finish the mazes to find a sweater, scarf, hat and gloves.

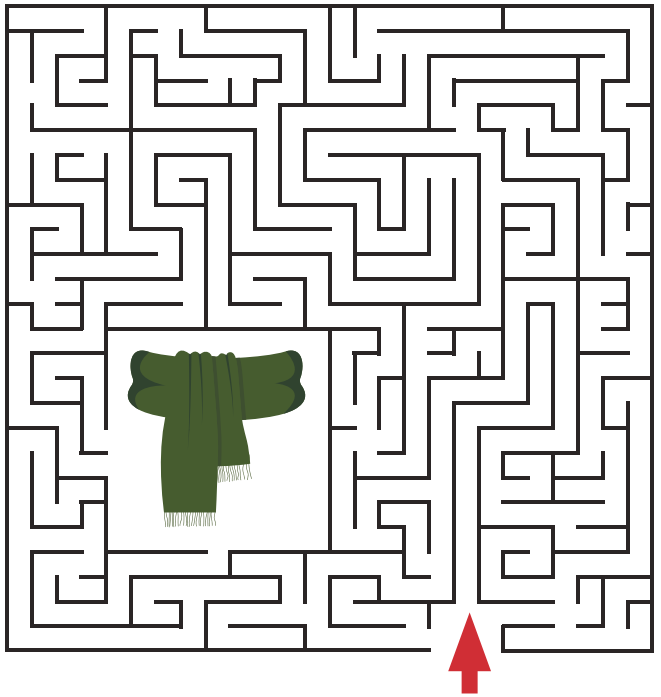












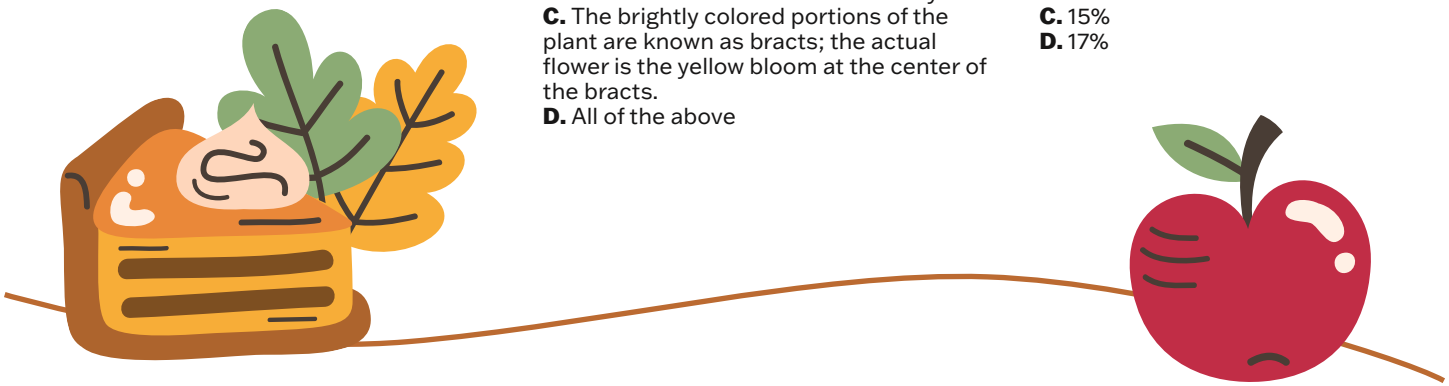
HOLIDAY SCRAMBLE

Unscramble these blocks of letters to reveal holiday-themed words.

1. ecyimnh
2. lesd
3. nacsled
4. vtiaflse
5. ibobnr
6. inestl
7. hisgtl
8. gogeng
9. eyrmr
10. lebls
11. hawert
12. nows
13. olhyl
14. dieerrne
15. rtapy
16. nceucrktra

ON THE WEB

See holiday coverage in the area, including an events guide, recipe ideas, games and more throughout the holiday season. Scan here or go to www.journalgazette.net/living and click Festive in Fort Wayne.



GUEST GUESS-OFF

Learn something new and test guests' holiday knowledge with these trivia questions. Who can guess the most right answers?

1 According to the 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture, Indiana was the ranked second in the U.S. for acres of pumpkins harvested with more than 7,000 acres that year. What neighboring state ranked first with more than 18,000 acres harvested?
A. Ohio
B. Illinois
C. Michigan
D. Kentucky

2 Along its 3-mile route, Blue Jacket's Fantasy of Lights had more than 700 displays comprising how many scenes in 2025?
A. 103
B. 128
C. 151
D. 186

3 The Holiday Lights walk-through experience at Parkview Field includes more than how many lights and displays?
A. 500,000
B. 1.5 million
C. 2 million
D. 2.5 million

4 Which of these poinsettia facts are true, according to the 1-800-Flowers website?
A. The common name was given in honor of Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico who is credited with introducing the plant to the U.S.
B. Dec. 12 is known as Poinsettia Day.
C. The brightly colored portions of the plant are known as bracts; the actual flower is the yellow bloom at the center of the bracts.
D. All of the above

5 According to the Guinness World Records website, a new record for heaviest pumpkin was set this year by Ron Wallace of Warren, Rhode Island. How much did it weigh?
A. 1,962 pounds
B. 2,572 pounds
C. 3,156 pounds
D. 3,224 pounds

6 About how many bulbs are in the Merry Christmas wreath light display at I&M Power Center Plaza?
A. 7,000
B. 7,500
C. 8,000
D. 8,500

7 About how many bulbs are in the Santa and His Reindeer light display at PNC Plaza?
A. 23,600
B. 24,700
C. 25,300
D. 26,200

8 In 2024, Indiana raised more than 20 million turkeys, which ranks it third in turkey production in the U.S., according to data from the USDA analyzed by Trace One, a company specializing in regulatory compliance for the food and beverage industry. What percentage of America's turkeys are raised in Indiana?
A. 10%
B. 12%
C. 15%
D. 17%

SUMMER CRISS-CROSS

Got the fall/winter blues? Get into a warm-weather mindset by placing words from the list into the correct places to fill the grid. We left some hints.

3 letters
bee
cob
fan
fun
hat
hot
nap
pet
pie
tan
zoo

4 letters
bike
boat
game
~~heat~~
kite
pals
pool
sand
seas
skip
team
tent
trip
yard



5 letters
parks
scoop
shade
stain

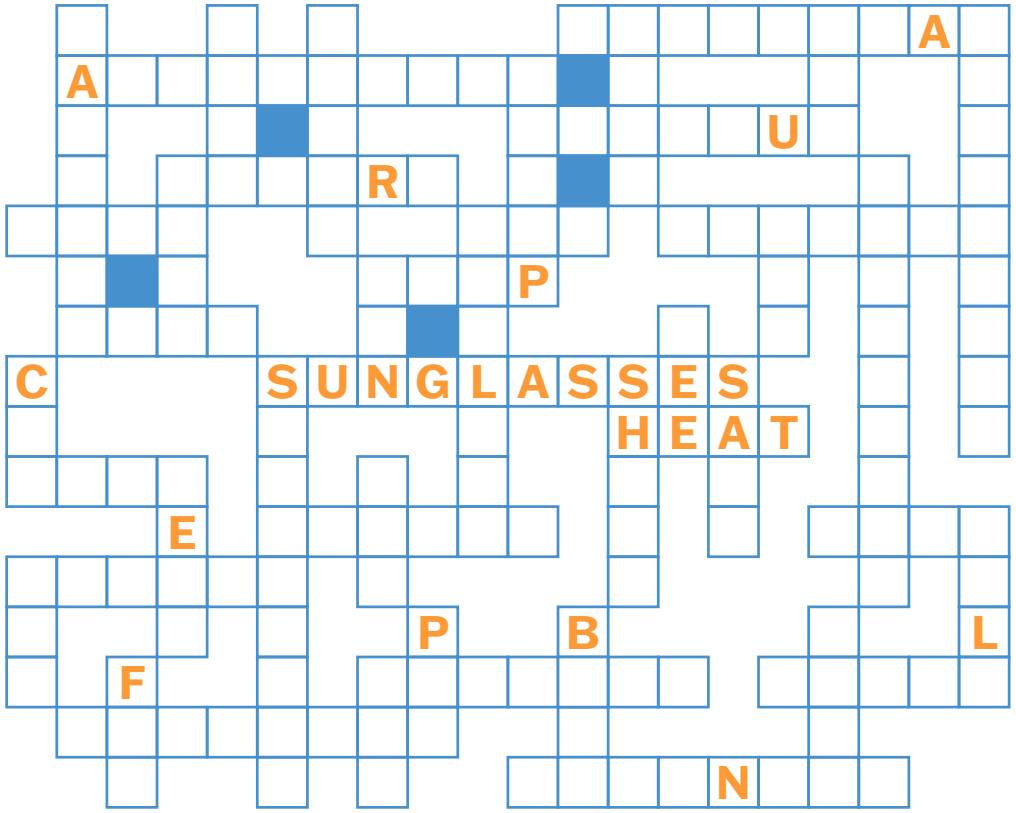
6 letters
picnic
smores
tshirt

7 letters
bonfire
camping
cookout
fishing
zipline

8 letters
barbecue
lemonade

9 letters
dandelion
fireworks
splashpad
sunscreen

10 letters
adventures
~~sunglasses~~



ANSWERS

Guest Guess-off

1. B; 2. D; 3. C; 4. D; 5. C; 6. D; 7. B; 8. A

Holiday Scramble

1) chimney; 2) sled; 3) candles; 4) festival; 5) ribbon; 6) tinsel; 7) lights; 8) eggnog; 9) merry; 10) bells; 11) wreath; 12) snow; 13) holly; 14) reindeer; 15) party; 16) nutcracker

The Pie Isn't Pumpkin

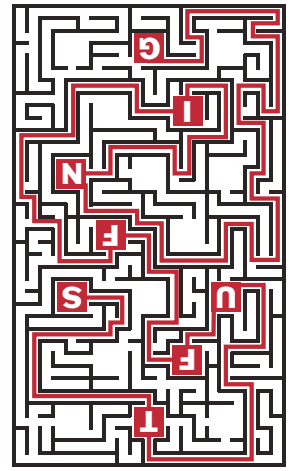
The pie is Apple Cranberry

Sweet Jokes

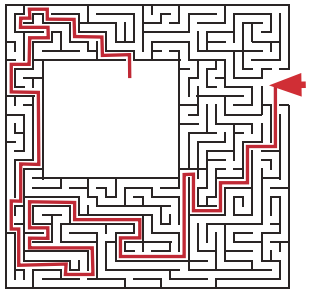
What do gingerbread men use when they break their legs? Candy canes!

What's a fun dance to do on Thanksgiving? Turkey trot!

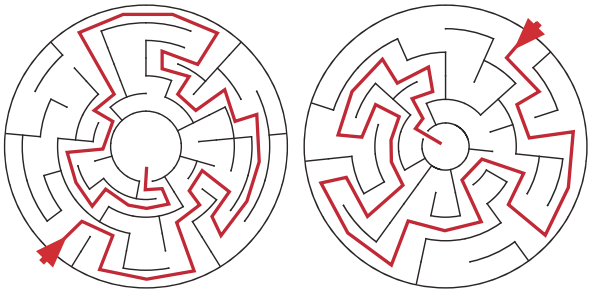
What smells the best at a holiday dinner? Your nose!

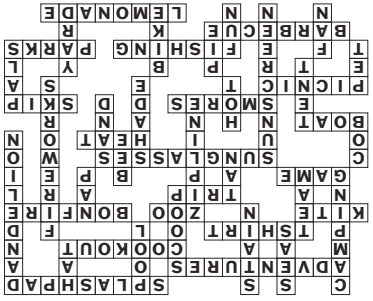


Sit For A Spell



It's Cold Outside





Summer Criss-Cross