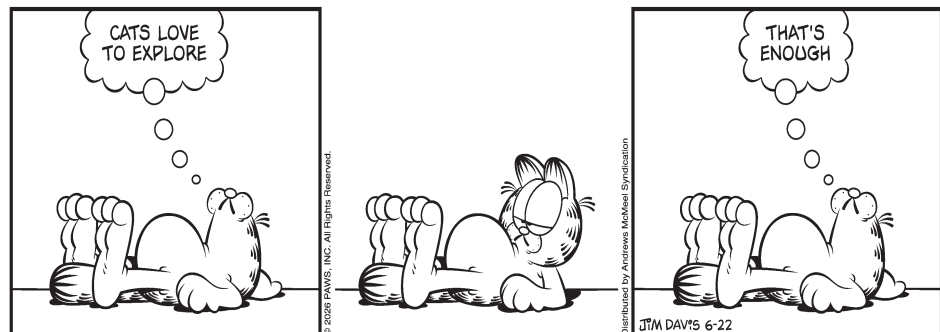


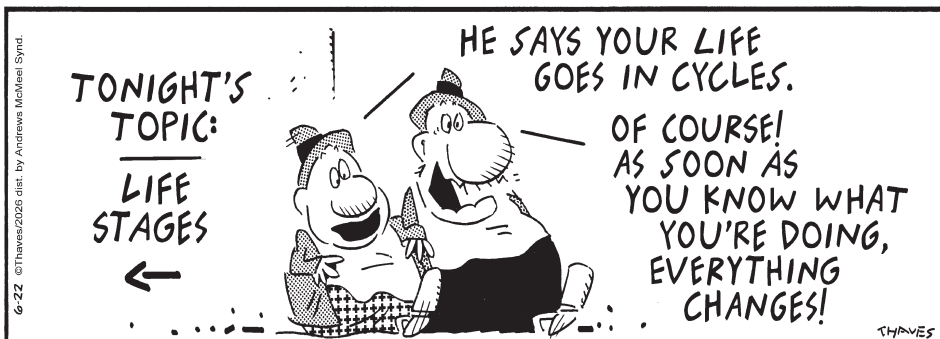
**GARFIELD**



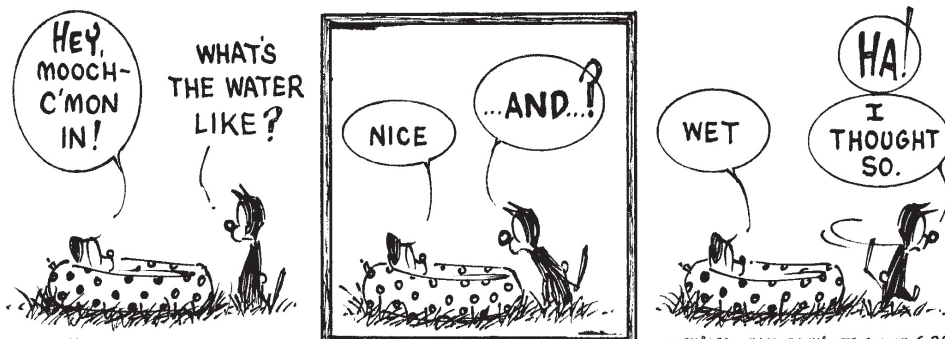
**ROSE IS ROSE**



**FRANK & ERNEST**



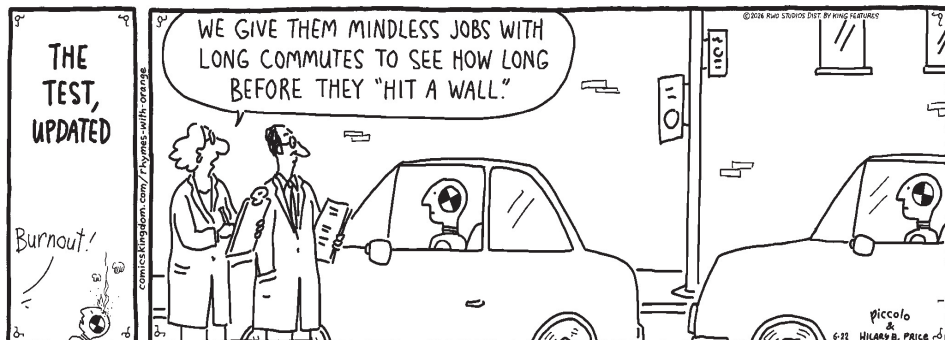
**MUTTS**



**THE GRIZZWELLS**



**RHYMES WITH ORANGE**



**BEETLE BAILEY**



**DADDY DAZE**



**ADAM DAILIES**



**MODERATELY CONFUSED**



**REALITY CHECK**



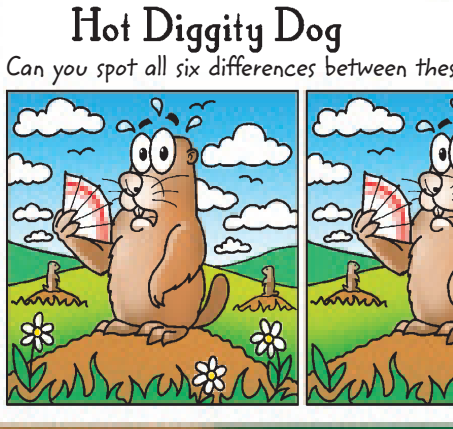
**THE BORN LOSER**



**P**rairie dogs are members of the Sciuridae family of rodents, along with squirrels, marmots and chipmunks. Wild prairie dogs are found in the grasslands and prairies of North America, from Canada down to northern Mexico. Billions of prairie dogs once lived in North America. Today, their population has been reduced to only about 5% of their original numbers.

**On Burrowed Time**  
A prairie dog's life centers around its underground burrow. The burrow is a complex structure with several entrances and multiple chambers. Individual chambers are used for a specific activity, including eating, sleeping, safety from predators or as a nursery and toilet. Some prairie dog burrows are as much as 2 m (7 ft.) deep and 5 m (16 ft.) long.

**Dog Town**  
Prairie dogs are social animals that live in small family units called "coteries." A coterie consists of one male, several females and their young. Many coteries will live together to form an even larger group called a colony or town. A large town may cover hundreds of hectares and be home to millions of prairie dogs.



GAME ANSWERS: 1. Bird is missing. 2. Cloud is missing. 3. Cloud is missing. 4. Hill is lower. 5. Flower is missing. 6. Tail is smaller.

**Word Search**  
Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

- NURSERY FAMILY SEEDS
- BURROW ALARM BARK
- COTERIE ROOTS BOB
- RODENT GRASS DOG
- PRAIRIE SMALL KISS
- COLONY TOWN EAT
- YOURTOPICHERE
- ASHOURUMOROOM
- ATWHATHATDOOR
- ANKIDSAYEARTA
- LLRWOSNRNPESY
- DIAOGEOOIOSLY
- EBRSEDLLEILL
- ROARMDEOKMBAT
- B SUASNCARMMO
- SNIBOATFUNEST

Prairie dogs greet each other with a kiss.  
Did you hear the story about the prairie dog burrow? It was deep.  
What type of music do prairie dogs listen to? Underground.

**Shortcuts**  
Digging Some Dirt On The **Prairie Dog**

This edition of Shortcuts is sponsored by Clifford the Big Red Prairie Dog.

I'm the big dog in town.

How do you describe life in a prairie dog town? Hole-some.

The scientific name for prairie dogs is Greek for "dog mouse," referring to their barklike vocalizations and small size.

Prairie dogs feed mainly on grasses and seeds, but will also eat roots, flowers and insects.

How do you describe the construction of a prairie dog town? Groundbreaking.

Prairie dogs are often seen as pests by humans, but biologists view prairie dogs as a keystone species that increases biodiversity and supports an entire ecosystem through their constant trimming of vegetation and construction of burrows.

One of the largest prairie dog towns was recorded in Texas. The massive town covered an area of nearly 65,000 square kilometers (25,000 square miles).

Prairie dogs have one of the most complex systems of communication in the animal kingdom. They have specific alarm barks that allow them to identify different species of predators.