

Kids Korumer



When one mother Pygmy goat has five babies, it is news. That's what happened for Katie, left, and Stacy Schaeffer, Narvon, in Lancaster County. The mother goat, Anna has a history of multi-births. The last two years she had four kids, but not all of them lived. But this year, her five babies are healthy and doing well. Katie is 12 years old and goes to Garden Spot Middle School. Stacy is 11 years old and attends Brecknock Elementary School. Their parents are Mary and Terry Schaeffer. The whole family has a lot of fun with the kids.

The Schaeffers have 10 nannies and two billy goats on the large lot behind their house along route 625 one mile south of Bowmansville. Most of the mothers have already had babies so the place is full of frisky kids full of energy and play. Most of new babies already have potential new homes from standing orders of people who have seen the goats as they drive by the house.

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

Why are flowers budding so soon?
 March 20 might be the first day of spring, but that hasn't meant much to a lot of trees and flowers — some plants have been showing their spring growth for almost a month!

Nature is playing a joke on the plants, according to our horticulture friends at Ohio State University. The unusually mild winter weather has tricked the plants into thinking it's spring — even back in February. Flowers such as tulips, daffodils and hyacinths grow from a special kind of plant part called a bulb. Bulbs are really a type of underground stem that never completely die. After the leaves die back, the bulbs go into dormancy. That's a plant's way of surviving winter by slowing down growth to a snail's pace. It's almost like a hibernation for plants.

Some flowers, like tulips, need a certain amount of cold time during winter to "wake up" from dormancy and blossom in the spring. And, plants define spring as when the temperature starts to get warmer — like it was in February.

Other plants, like evergreens or forsythia, aren't truly dormant. But they also start to grow when the weather warms up.

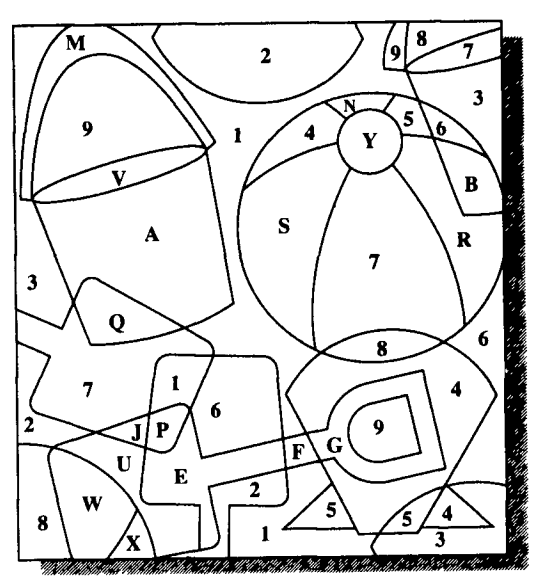
But why haven't all spring flowers started to grow? While temperature triggers some flowers and trees, others wait until they get more sunshine during the longer days that are closer to summer.

Scientifically yours,
Twig

Have a question? Send me E-mail: twig_agvar2@ohio.state.edu

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
 COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

HIDDEN PICTURE



Color in each space that contains a letter.

First Families

What's it like living in the White House? Children and grandchildren of presidents have lived in the Executive Mansion, and there are a number of stories about them. Here are just a few.

Benjamin Harrison's grandson, Benjamin or "Baby McKee," lived in the White House with his grandfather. He drove his own goat cart around the grounds. And once when the goat ran off with Baby McKee, the president was seen chasing them down.

The Lincolns believed in letting their children have a good time. Tad, Abraham Lincoln's son, once bombarded a door with a toy cannon while his father was conducting a Cabinet meeting. He also sold refreshments and collected money for war charities at stands he set up at the mansion.

Teddy Roosevelt's five younger children ranged in age from three to 14 when they moved into the White House. They slid down the stairs on trays they stole from the pantry, bicycled and skated on newly polished floors and had a small zoo. Their animals included a badger, a bear, raccoons, cats, dogs, snakes, guinea pigs and a pony. When Roosevelt's son, Archie, had the measles, his brothers even took the pony up in the president's elevator to Archie's second-floor bedroom.

First Family Facts

- Along with the anecdotes about first children, here are some quick facts about some of the presidents and their families.
- George Washington**—The father of our country had no children of his own, but he adopted his wife's two children.
 - Thomas Jefferson**—Daughter Martha gave birth to her eighth child—and the first born in the White House—during his term.
 - James Madison**—His widow, Dolley, was the first person to send a personal message by Morse telegraph.
 - James Monroe**—His daughter was the first to be married in the White House.
 - James Van Buren**—He was the only Dutch president we have had. He and his wife spoke Dutch at home.
 - William Henry Harrison**—Because he was the first president to die in office, his widow was the first to receive a pension—\$25,000.
 - Rutherford B. Hayes**—He and his wife hosted the first Easter egg roll on the White House lawn.
 - Grover Cleveland**—Cleveland's daughter, Esther, was the only president's child born in the White House.
 - Benjamin Harrison**—His wife, Caroline, set up the first White House Christmas tree.
 - Woodrow Wilson**—His wife, Edith, was the great-granddaughter of Pocahontas, seven times removed.
 - Harry S. Truman**—His mother was a Confederate sympathizer, so she refused to sleep in Lincoln's bed when she visited the White House.
 - Lyndon Johnson**—He and his wife entertained more than 200,000 guests during their five years in the White House.
 - Jimmy Carter**—Carter was the first president to send his mother on a diplomatic mission.
 - George Bush**—Bush is distantly related to Benedict Arnold, Marilyn Monroe and Winston Churchill and presidents Pierce, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Ford.