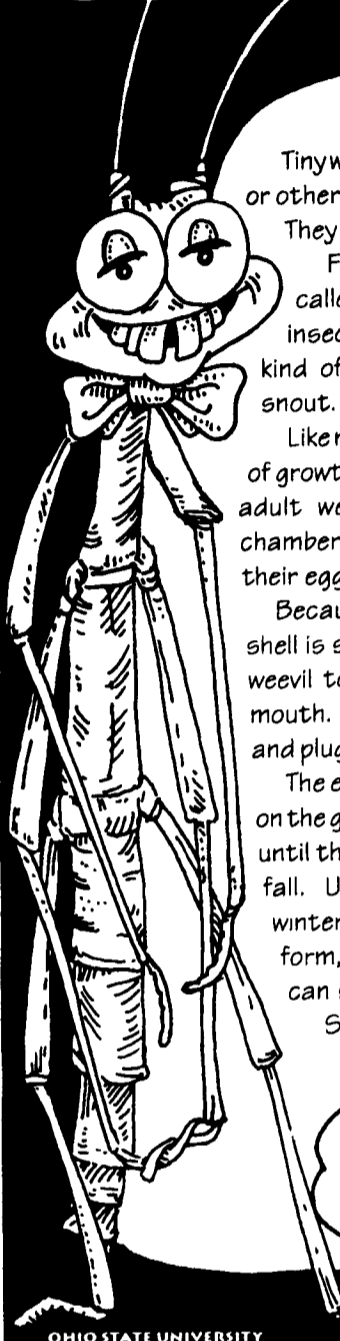


# Kids Korner

## Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK



### How do worms get inside nuts?

Tiny worms you might find inside acorns, chestnuts or other kinds of nuts didn't wriggle their way inside. They hatched there!

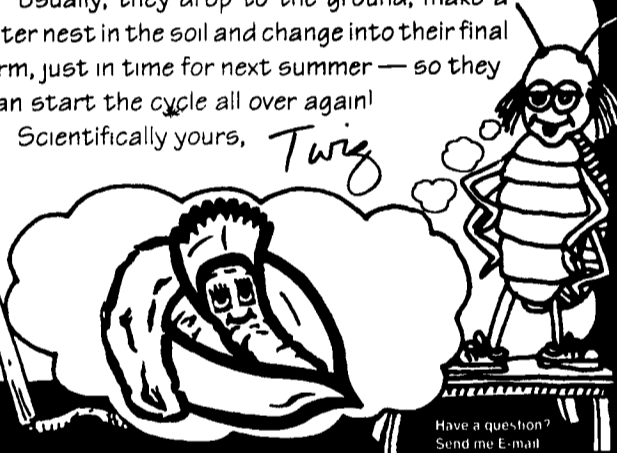
First of all, the tiny worms are technically called larvae, and they belong to a group of insects called weevils. Take a close look at any kind of weevil, and you'll see a long, ardvark-like snout.

Like many insects, weevils go through three stages of growth — larval, pupal and adult. In late summer, adult weevils emerge from tiny nests, or pupal chambers, in the ground. After mating, females lay their eggs in nuts, one egg per nut.

Because the nut is still growing in late summer, its shell is still soft. That makes it easy for the female weevil to puncture the newly forming nut with her mouth. She then deposits her eggs in the tiny hole, and plugs it so you can't tell there is anything inside.

The eggs hatch within days. The baby weevils feed on the growing kernel inside their nut-shaped nursery until they are ready to burrow out of the nut in late fall. Usually, they drop to the ground, make a winter nest in the soil and change into their final form, just in time for next summer — so they can start the cycle all over again!

Scientifically yours, *Twig*

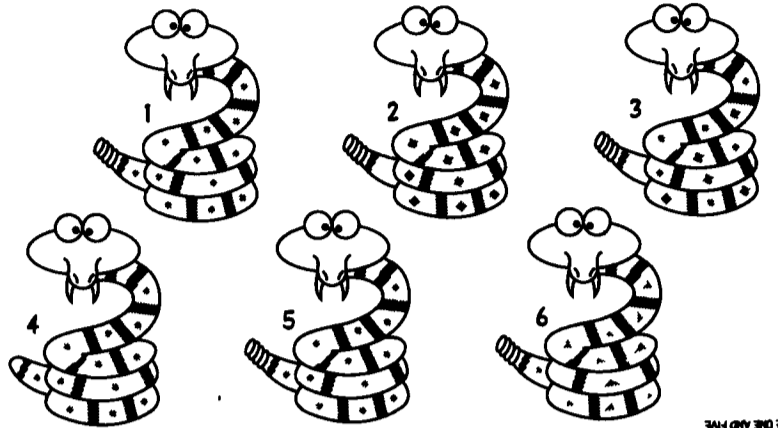


OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Have a question?  
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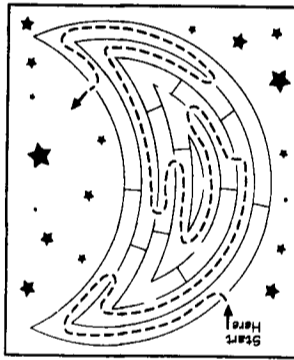
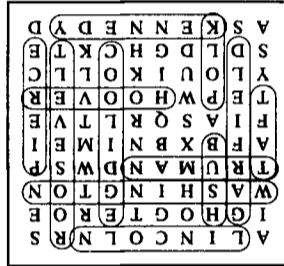
## FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



ANSWER ON PAGE 11

## ANSWERS!



### Keeping The Environment Sheep Shape



Nature's weed-whackers—Sheep grazing helps control brush and tall grasses that can fuel forest fires.

(David Cornwell for ASI)

(NAPS)—Everyday is Earth Day for American sheep. They help prevent damage from wildfires by controlling tall grass and brush. They regenerate forests after a blaze. And they control pesky weeds that render useless public and private lands. An added bonus: sheep produce an all-natural, biodegradable resource—wool. Here are just a few ways sheep help protect and preserve the environment.

This summer, as they have for more than 15 years, sheep will help control brush and keep grass short on 13,000 acres of ridge-top fire breaks in Southern California's Angeles National Forest. The firebreaks are a vital barrier between raging wildfires and nearby Los Angeles. The four-footed weed-whackers typically are less expensive to use than equipment to uproot brush or cut grass, and they are far better for the environment than herbicides, say U.S. Forest Service managers.

In Texas, wool is being transformed into oil-thirsty pads, mats, booms and mitts for use throughout the oil industry. Unlike man-made petroleum-based products typically used to sponge up oil spills, wool can absorb up to 30 times its weight in oil and still repel water. Plus, the biodegradable products can be squeezed dry and reused up to eight times.

In the Great Plains and West, sheep form a formidable line of defense against alien invaders—noxious weed imports such as leafy spurge.

Poisons can't eradicate leafy spurge, except in small, young patches, and the cost of spraying often is prohibitively high. What does work, according to land managers, is sheep grazing. While other animals shun the plant, sheep find leafy spurge a real taste treat.

Along these lines, the Nature Conservancy has called on sheep to help control weeds that threaten to crowd out native grasses and endangered plant species in a Northern California preserve. Established in 1982, the 1,500-acre Willis Zinn Jepson Prairie Preserve harbors rare vernal pools that are home to plant and animal species found nowhere else in the United States. Up to 4,000 ewes are seasonally employed to control weeds by simulating the way elk and deer once grazed the land. It's a win-win situation for the preserve and for the sheep, say preserve administrators.

Elsewhere in the nation, sheep help organic farmers control pest-harboring brush and weeds without the use of herbicides. In orchards, sheep can "mow" closer to trees without damaging them, swiftly clean up fallen fruit and then leave behind a rich, natural fertilizer that helps the orchard flourish.

For more information on sheep and the environment, call the American Sheep Industry Association at (303) 771-3500, ext. 30, or visit the ASI Web site at <http://www.sheepusa.org>.

## SEEK AND FIND

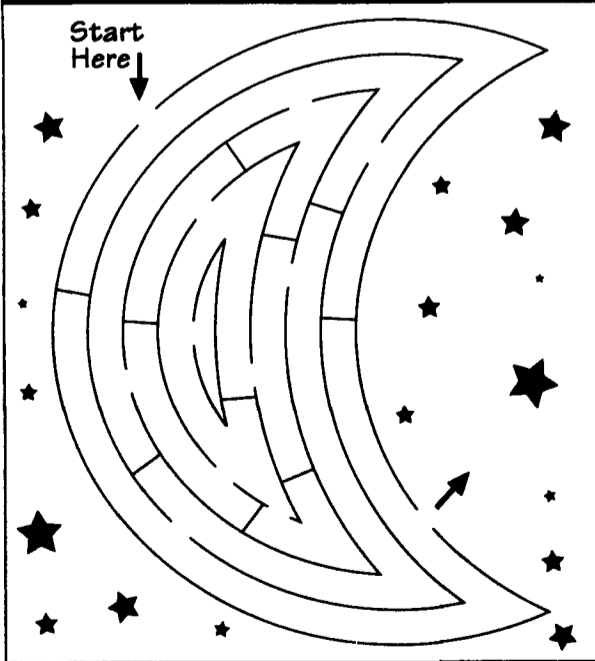
FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- |          |         |            |
|----------|---------|------------|
| BUSH     | KENNEDY | ROOSEVELT  |
| COOLIDGE | LINCOLN | TAFT       |
| GARFIELD | PIERCE  | TRUMAN     |
| HOOVER   | POLK    | WASHINGTON |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS

A L I N C O L N R S  
I G H O G T E R O E  
W A S H I N G T O N  
T R U M A N D W S P  
A F B X B N I M E I  
F I A S Q R L T V E  
T E P W H O O V E R  
Y L O U I K O L L C  
S D L D G H C K T E  
A S K E N N E D Y D

## MAZE



RECYCLE IS TURNING OLD ITEMS INTO NEW ONES - Look for the recycling symbol ♻ on items you buy. Recyclables include - aluminum (soda cans), steel (food cans), glass, paper, newspaper, cardboard and some plastics. Make space in your house and school to store these items. If you recycle, you won't need as much space for trash. Remember to rinse things out before you put them in the recycling bin.