

CONNECTION

Sharing the day-to-day learning experience

at

Community Homes & Services

PO Box 744, Novato CA 94948

415-408-3604

www.communityhomesandservices.com

Nino Asked the Tough Questions This Month...

What's your ride-or-die Thanksgiving food?

Colleen-Pumpkin pie

Zachary-It has to be the turkey!

Yvette-Stuffing

Randall-I'm all about the candied yams!

Matthew-Scalloped potatoes

Justin-Turkey with gravy

Connor-Mac & cheese

Cat-Ham

Katie-Creamed corn

Pick a Thanksgiving food to swim in!

Randall-Same answer, candied yams!

Darnell-Cranberry sauce

Iris-Gravy

Cat-Mashed potatoes

Bruce-Asparagus au gratin

Zachary-Smashed potatoes

Devlin-Pumpkin pie with lots of whipped cream!

You get to spend the weekend at either Hogwarts or the Shire-which would you choose?

Andrew-Hogwarts

Martha-Hogwarts

Justin-The Shire from the Lord of the Rings movies

Randall-Hogwarts

Zachary-The castle from Harry Potter

Yvette-Hogwarts, especially the train and getting a treat from the trolley!

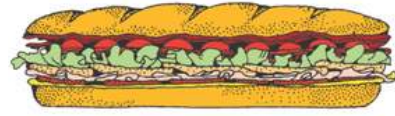
Katie-Hogwarts, especially having a meal at the great hall!



NOVEMBER 2023 NATIONAL DAYS

Aviation History Month
No-Shave November

with Jennifer



- 11/1 - Extra Mile Day
- 11/2 - Day of the Dead
- 11/3 - Jellyfish Day and National Sandwich Day
- 11/4 - Book Lovers Day
- 11/5 - Daylight Savings
- 11/6 - Marooned without a Compass Day
- 11/7 - Election Day
- 11/9 - Go to an Art Museum Day
- 11/10 - Sesame Street Day
- 11/11 - Veterans Day
- 11/12 - American Fancy Rat and Mouse Day and International Tongue Twister Day
- 11/14 - National Pickle Day
- 11/15 - Clean Out Your Fridge Day and National Recycling Day
- 11/17 - Guinness World Record Day
- 11/18 - Mickey Mouse's Birthday
- 11/19 - World Monopoly Day and World Toilet Day
- 11/20 - Odd Socks Day
- 11/21 - World Television Day
- 11/22 - Humane Society Anniversary Day
- **11/23 - Thanksgiving Day - CLOSED**
- **11/24 - CLOSED**
- 11/25 - Small Business Saturday
- 11/26 - Good Grief Day
- 11/28 - Giving Tuesday
- 11/30 - National Personal Space Day and Mason Jar Day



#geographyawarenessweek

Geography Awareness Week 2023 runs from November 13-19 this year.

#geographyawarenessweek is an annual event that celebrates the importance of geography and its impact on our lives. The aim is to raise awareness about the significance of geography, environmental issues, and spatial understanding.

Amy and Thea got to talking about geography and how travel has changed since the days when Amy's dad was a Trailways bus driver. Before graduating from the eighth grade, young Amy traveled on the Trailways bus with her dad and they had a memorable trip from San Francisco to Victoria, B.C.

Amy remembers stopping at the The Butchart Gardens which Thea heard as “blue shark gardens” but as it turns out if you Google “blue shark gardens Victoria BC” you will be redirected to the Butchart Gardens website: <https://www.butchartgardens.com>. Amy remembers it as a beautiful place. The website certainly makes it look like a place you would want to visit. If you do, be aware that selfie sticks and vaping are not allowed in the gardens (yay!)



#geographyawarenessweek

Trailways was founded in 1936 and traces its roots to a group of independent bus operators who came together to form an intercity bus association. Their goal was to provide a nationwide network of bus services, making travel more accessible and convenient for Americans during the Great Depression.



(left) By David Wilson from Oak Park, Illinois, USA - This file has been extracted from another file, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=49304579>

(Below) By Adam Jones from Kelowna, BC, Canada - Exhibit on Freedom Riders - Center for Civil and Human Rights - Atlanta - Georgia - USA, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=64199138>



Did you know that Trailways played a significant role in the Civil Rights Movement? The company's buses were involved in the famous Freedom Rides of the early 1960s when activists protested racial segregation in the South by taking long distance bus rides (see above). These events brought attention to the ongoing struggle for civil rights in the United States.

Thea remembers riding on a Trailways bus on Route 66 and seeing roadrunners and the Southwestern desert as she looked through the bus windows.

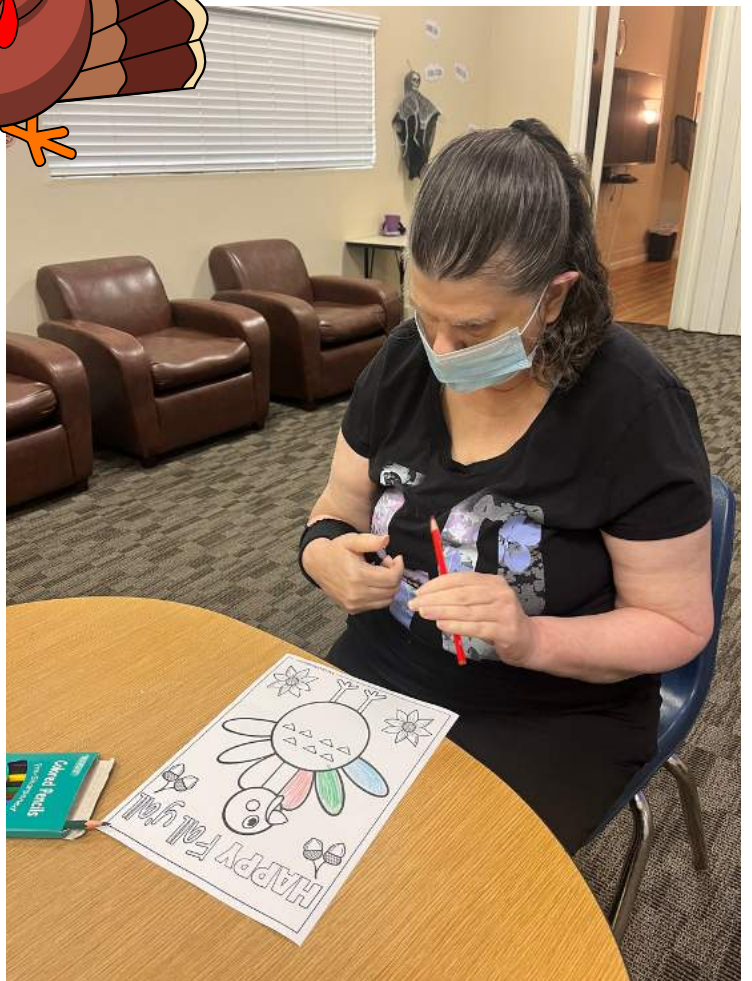
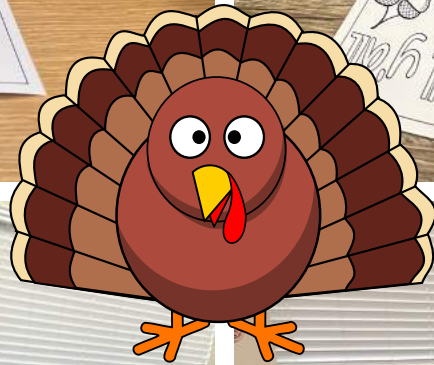
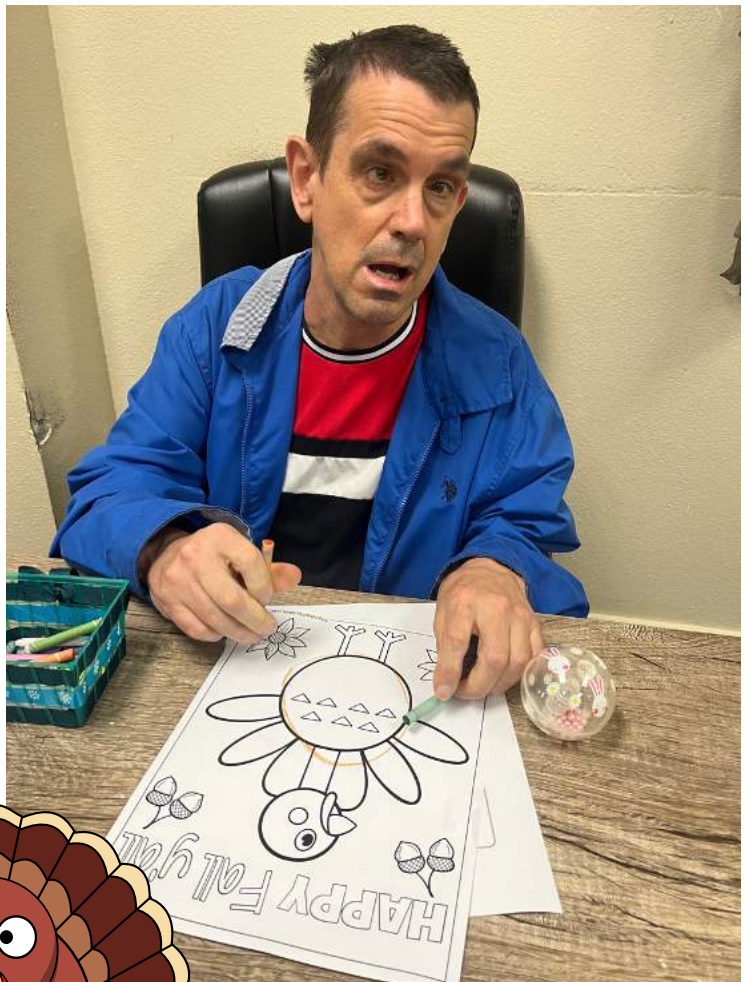
Trailways buses were easily recognizable with their distinctive red and silver livery. This iconic color scheme set them apart from other bus companies and remains an enduring symbol of the Trailways brand. Amy's dad might still have a Trailways eagle on the wall of his garage.



Have you ever taken a bus trip?

If so, where did you go?

By Mark Michalovic - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=20365291>



Happy BIRTHDAY

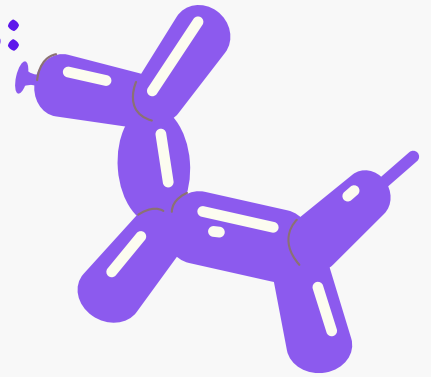


November Birthdays:

11/4 - Darnell

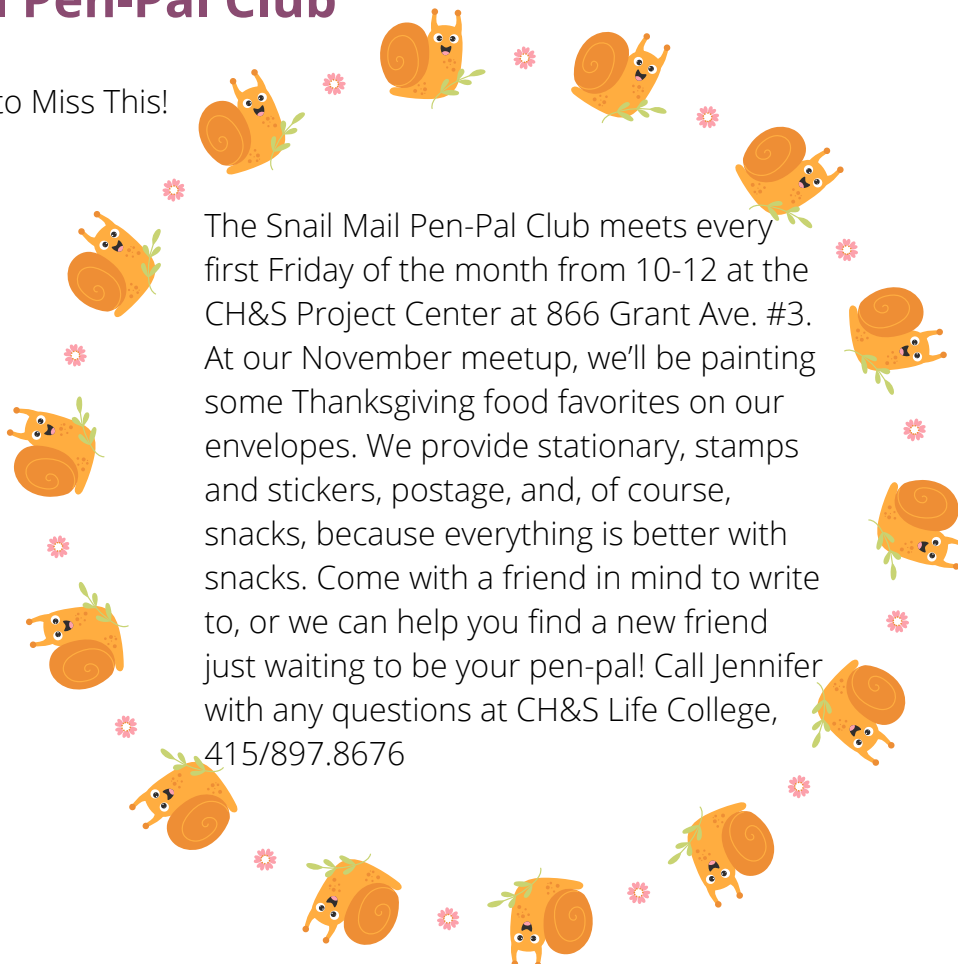
11/9 - Valerie

11/26 - Mike M.



Snail Mail Pen-Pal Club

You Don't Want to Miss This!



The Snail Mail Pen-Pal Club meets every first Friday of the month from 10-12 at the CH&S Project Center at 866 Grant Ave. #3. At our November meetup, we'll be painting some Thanksgiving food favorites on our envelopes. We provide stationary, stamps and stickers, postage, and, of course, snacks, because everything is better with snacks. Come with a friend in mind to write to, or we can help you find a new friend just waiting to be your pen-pal! Call Jennifer with any questions at CH&S Life College, 415/897.8676

The Farm Animal Tour

with Joe's group

An enduring feature of every outing Bert, Mike, Phoebe, Tyrone, and Joe go on is the presence of roadside animals. We see cows, mostly, but also sometimes horses, goats, sheep, and chickens. These are farm animals that generally produce some kind of product; be it milk, wool, eggs, or just simple companionship. Since we did a little tree cataloging recently, it seemed time for us to seek out some of Marin and Sonoma's wild and not-so-wild animal friends.



We found this picturesque scene on the Three Peaks Fire Road on the outskirts of Petaluma. We rolled down our windows and clicked our tongues, but we couldn't get it to look in our direction. Oh well.

(Photo: Tyrone Mosby)

We found these cows just a few miles from the horse on Three Peaks Fire Road. Luckily there was a nice little spot to pull over so we could get a picture. They were just eating grass and not paying us much mind.

(Photo: Mike Rigney)



Okay we looked all over the place for sheep, but had no luck. They used to graze near the Sonoma Raceway, but not this month. Oh well, we found this one at the Petaluma Pumpkin Patch. Mike named him Jesse.

(Photo: Joe)



The Bird Tour

with Joe's group



One day we took a trip to Mt. Tam in search of interesting birds. We had to wait patiently for quite a while before the woodpecker that we kept hearing felt comfortable showing itself, but it was worth it! (Photo: Joe)

Along Highway 101 across from the old Birkenstock building there's a wetland area that's great for bird watching. This egret might be out of focus, but we think the photo is more evocative this way (Photo: Bert Grosser)



A shock of black fluttered across our path as we drove through Petaluma one day. It was a crow (or a raven - help us out if you know the difference)! We watched it land on these power lines and agreed that Joe should pull over and Phoebe should snap a photo. She took a bunch, but this was the best one by far. (Photo: Phoebe Robb)

The Bird and Pony Show Tour

with Joe's group



It was genuinely shocking to see such a huge bird walking around in the Marin Headlands. It's a blue heron, we think.
(Photo: Mike Rigney)

One of our favorite things to do on an outing is feed the chickens on Petaluma Road. This time, however, we were in for a big surprise. When we pulled up there was a peacock just walking around! Everyone decided that Joe should not pick it up. Oh well.
(Photo: Tyrone Mosby)



(Photo: Bert Grosser)

The Horse and Hawk Tour



The best animal day by far was when we found the mini horses on the Lakeville Highway. They walked right up to the fence and let us pet them! (Photo: Joe)



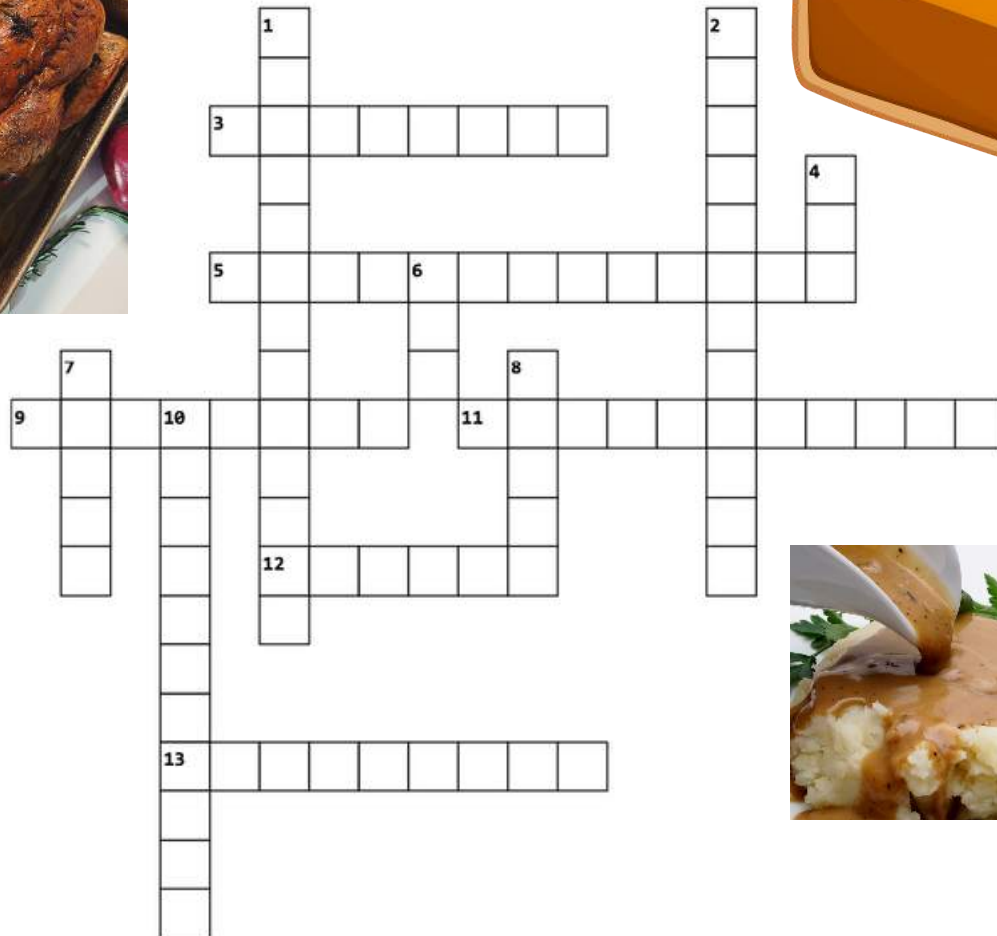
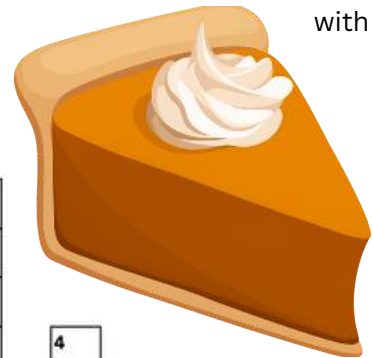
Mike was ready to capture some hawks on their yearly trip to Hawk Hill in the Marin Headlands, but we didn't see any. We did see some cool boats though!



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Yvette's Thanksgiving Crossword Puzzle

with Matthew



Across

- 3.** a common ingredient "stuffed" into the turkey
- 5.** whatever pie you like, a dab of this is the best topping
- 9.** boil 'em, mash 'em, put them in a stew
- 11.** great for a tart sauce
- 12.** a common flightless bird sacrificed to the people wearing buckles on their hats
- 13.** Calmo, clamas, clamamus pro glacie lactis

Down

- 1.** who doesn't enjoy this steamy coco-milk confection on a cold day?
- 2.** the most evil... I mean delicious of eggs
- 4.** a slice of pork, but not bacon
- 6.** pecan, apple, or pumpkin. Whatever rubs your tumpkin.
- 7.** Just in case you missed a puddle of gravy or cranberry sauce, use one of these to sop it up and get very tasty drop.
- 8.** pour it over your entire meal or just the potatoes. You really can't go wrong.
- 10.** Mmmm, hot apply-cinnamony warmth in the tum-tum.

Andrew's Corner

The Sycamore Gap Tree



The Sycamore Gap Tree is also known as The Robin Hood Tree. The Sycamore Gap Tree was a sycamore tree standing next to Hadrian's Wall between two hills that created a "gap" in the landscape. Hadrian's Wall was built in 122 CE in Northumberland, England, during the Roman occupation under Emperor Hadrian and partitioned England from the northern tribes of ancient Celtic Scots and Picts. Hadrian's Wall still stands, today, and is a tourist attraction



Tomorrow Never Knows, CC BY 2.0
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running from Wallsend on the river Tyne in the east of Bowness-on-Solway in the west to what is now Northern England. As mentioned earlier, the Sycamore Gap Tree was located in a dramatic dip in the landscape and was a popular photographic subject, described as one of the most photographic trees in the whole of the UK. In fact, the tree won England's Tree of the Year award in 2016. Originally planted by the former owner of the land, John Clayton, the tree had been a scenic icon for nearly 150 years. What makes the tree so special is its uniqueness to the landscape. No other sycamores or any other tree for that

matter grow around this area due to the incredibly rocky and rough terrain that is best suited for plain's grasses that need minimal water and soil to survive at ground level. The tree obtained its alternative name, the Robin Hood Tree, from the "I'm home" scene in the hit 1991 film, Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, starring Morgan Freeman, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, Alan Rickman, Christian Slater, and Kevin Costner.

Unfortunately, over a grievance with the Historical Society, two men, ages 60 and 16, felled the tree on September 28, 2023. The two are currently facing criminal charges of vandalism for robbing the world of this unprecedented beautiful attraction. There is some slight good news. The trunk is said to still be living and well and has been moved to a secured location to be nourished back to health before returned to the iconic location, but it is estimated that such a picturesque view might not be returned to its former glory for another three centuries.

Bio: Andrew Newson is a student at Life College and is 25 years old. He likes comic books, video games, hiking, exploring new places with his mom.... and babies. He is an authority in all things Star Wars, Star Trek and great places to go in the Bay Area. He is currently learning Mandarin and loves to research and learn new things.

SWEDEN

with Nino and Jennifer

Our student projects are gateways to countless schedule opportunities, including full fledged knowledge classes, field trips, art projects, and yes, even snacks. Nino's country report on Sweden is certainly no exception. We wrote up a great big class, virtually visited ice hotels and went dog sledding in armchair travel, visited IKEA in person in all its glory, crafted a Swedish pastry in art with Bruce that looked ALMOST good enough to eat, and had a professional baker come in and make real cinnamon cardamom buns (thank you, Kyle!) to celebrate a country report well-done! While we're sorry you can't smell the cinnamon from here, please enjoy some takeaways from Sweden:

*Sweden is above the Arctic Circle, so you can see the Northern Lights from there, and the midnight sun—in the summertime, the sun stays up until midnight! The weather in Sweden is cold—as cold as -22 degrees fahrenheit in the winter!

*Stockholm, the capital city, is on 14 islands that are connected by 57 bridges.

*What to eat in Sweden: Did you know that Swedes drink more coffee than any other nation in the world? Take a fika—a coffee and cake break with friends! Swedish meatballs with gravy, potatoes, and lingonberry jam are traditionally served for Christmas (as well as the IKEA cafeteria! Yum!) The highest number of McDonald's restaurants in Europe is in Sweden. Speaking of McDonald's, Sweden built the first (and only) McDonald's for bees! To lessen their environmental impact, some Swedish McDonald's have been installing beehives on their roofs.

McHive – the world's smallest McDonald's: <https://youtu.be/lng4n3FI7SQ?si=3ZWw7rmZ6T-nzuf5>

*Where to Stay in Sweden (if you have warm clothing): The world's first ice hotel was built in Sweden in 1980. Every year, a new hotel made entirely of ice is built, and artists and engineers make sure it is unique each year. And even though it's made entirely out of frozen water, the ice hotel has to have fire alarms.

*Pirate class crossover alert! There was once a pirate king of Sweden. Erik the XIII was forced out of Sweden and fled to the island of Gotland, where he crowned himself the Pirate King of the Baltic Sea. He exacted revenge on merchants for 10 years.



IKEA

*Nino and Devlin both have family from Sweden!

*Famous people from Sweden (besides Nino and Devlin of course) include the Muppets Swedish Chef, ABBA, Pippi Longstocking, Greta Thunberg, Greta Garbo, Dolph Lundgren, Alexander Skarsgard, and Alfred Nobel.

*Is your refrigerator running? Inventions in Sweden include dynamite, car seatbelts, pacemakers, ultrasounds, safety matches, the computer mouse, and refrigerators.

*Swedish based companies include IKEA, H&M, Spotify, and Volvo. It is illegal to name your child IKEA in Sweden. (How much of a problem could this have been to make it all the way into official law, do you think?)

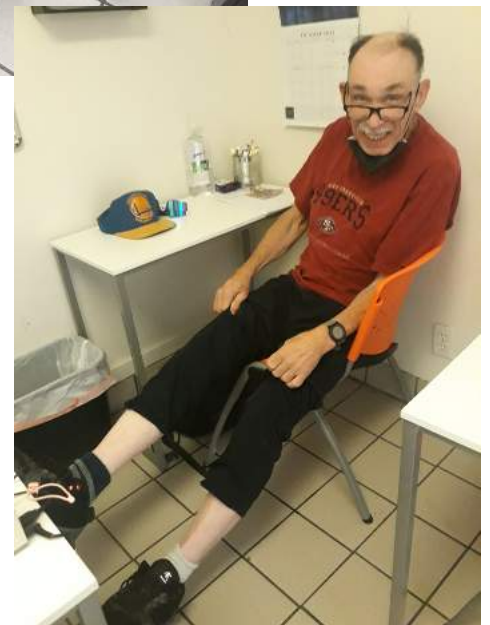
*Game On! Minecraft was developed by a Swedish programmer as a hobby. Candy Crush, which has been downloaded half a BILLION times, was developed by a Swedish company called King.

Swedish Vocabulary:

- Ja - Yes
- Nej - No
- Bra - good
- God - Good
- Hej - Hello
- Morgan - Morning
- Natt - Night
- Snalla - Please
- Hej da - Goodbye
- Snalla du - Please
- Taget - Train
- Bussen - Bus
- Sparvagn - Tram
- Tagstationen - Train station
- Mitt hotell - My hotel
- Polisstation - Police station
- Toalett - Restrooms
- Herrar - Men
- Damer - Women
- Oppen - Open
- Stängd - Closed
- Skål - Cheers



SNAILES AND SOCKS!












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organization.

Thanksgiving syllables

Thanksgiving Worksheet

Circle the number of syllables for each word.

 table <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> </div>	 feast <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> </div>	 potato <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> </div>
 corn <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> </div>	 cranberry <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> </div>	 harvest <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> </div>
 turkey <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> </div>	 pie <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> </div>	 leaf <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> </div>

THE HARVEST MOON

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

1807 – 1882

It is the Harvest Moon! On gilded vanes
And roofs of villages, on woodland crests
And their aerial neighborhoods of nests
Deserted, on the curtained window-panes
Of rooms where children sleep, on country lanes
And harvest-fields, its mystic splendor rests!
Gone are the birds that were our summer guests,
With the last sheaves return the laboring wains!
All things are symbols: the external shows
Of Nature have their image in the mind,
As flowers and fruits and falling of the leaves;
The song-birds leave us at the summer's close,
Only the empty nests are left behind,
And pipings of the quail among the sheaves.

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Happy
Thanksgiving

