

# Get Road Trippin'

In *The Genius Files*, Coke and Pep McDonald visit lots of zany locales as they road-trip across the country with their parents. The quirky attractions listed below didn't make it onto their itinerary, but why not try to hit them with your parents this summer? Use Google Maps, MapQuest, Rand McNally, or whatever navigation website you like best to get directions and then get ready to hit the road!



1

**The town of Olney, Illinois:** Visit the town known for its population of albino squirrels. Here, these rare white squirrels are given the right of way on every street! See photo at left.

2

**Carhenge in Alliance, Nebraska:** This replica of England's famous Stonehenge is built completely out of cars. See photo below.

3

**Thunderbird Drive-In Theater in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida:** One of the biggest and last remaining drive-in movie theaters in the United States, Thunderbird can hold more than 3,000 cars!

4

**Lucy the Elephant in Margate, New Jersey:** At 90 tons and 65 feet, this wooden elephant that looks out over the beach is one of a kind—and America's only lasting example of "zoomorphic architecture."

5

**The Marfa Lights in Marfa, Texas:** Mysterious and inexplicable, these yellowish green lights flash over the Mitchell Flats, leaving everyone wondering, Where do they come from?

6

**Gold Hill, Oregon:** In the House of Mystery, why do brooms stand up on their own? Why do water bottles seem to roll uphill? Why do visitors appear to change size with every step? Stop by the House of Mystery to find out for yourself.



# A Bend in the Road

Decode these American fun facts using one of the below substitution ciphers!



**Caesar Cipher:** Every letter in the alphabet is replaced with one three positions to the right (so A becomes D, B becomes E, C becomes F, and so on).



**Reverse Alphabet Cipher:** Reverse the letters in the alphabet (so A becomes Z, B becomes Y, C becomes X, and so on).

See cipher answer key on last panel.

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

## Fun Fact #1:

GSV GZOOVHG YFROWRMT RM ZNVIRXZ RH XSRXZTL'H DROORH GLDVI.

## Translation:

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## Fun Fact #2:

FKAFXKX EXP X ZFQV KXJBA PXKQX ZIXRP.

## Translation:

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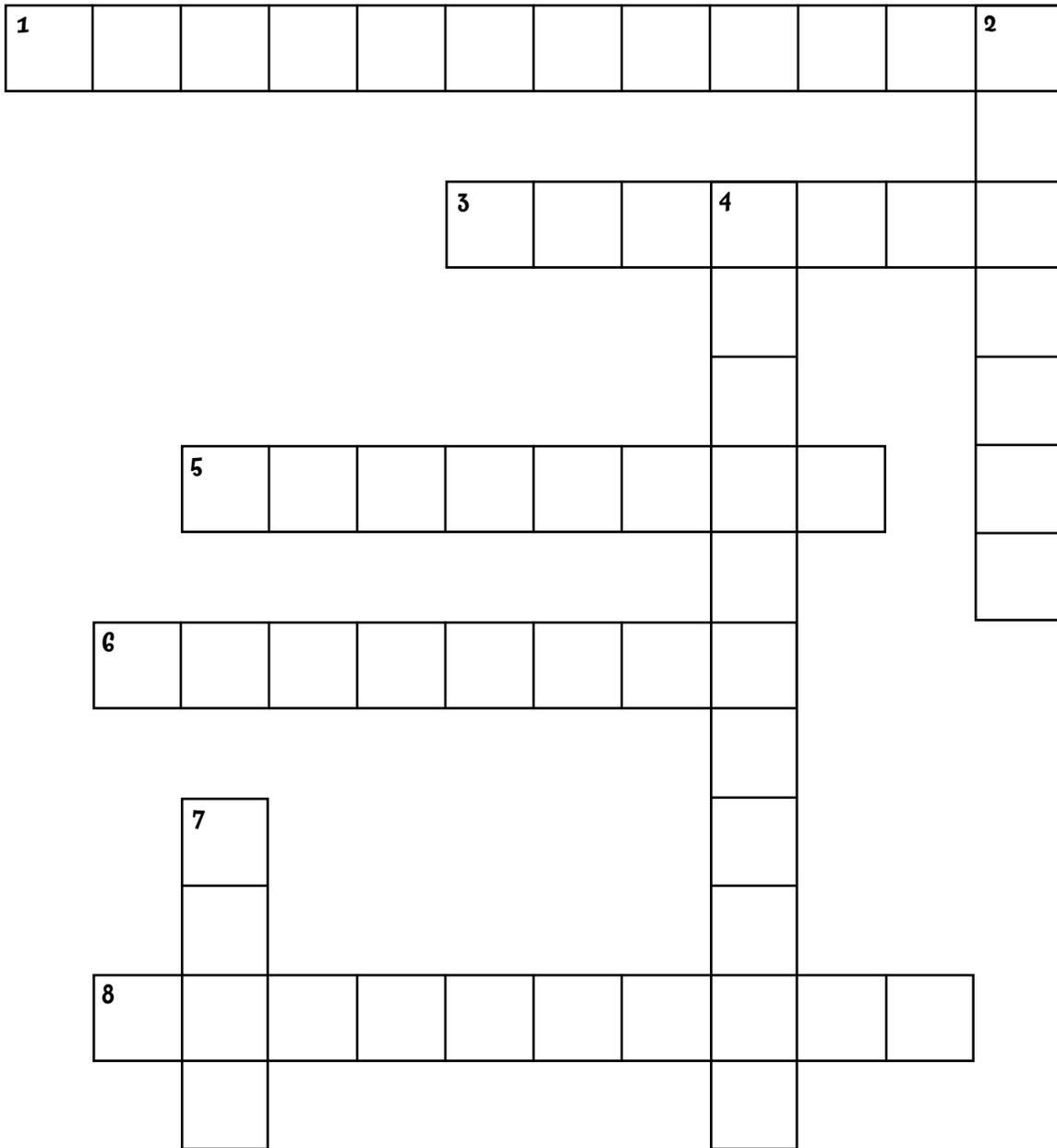
## Fun Fact #3:

UOLIRWZ'H WRHMVB DLIOW RH GDRXV GSV HRAV LU NZMSZGGZM RHOZMW.

## Translation:

-----,

# Caution: Crossing Ahead



The State that is ...

**Across:**

- 1 Below New York and to the right of Ohio
- 3 The southernmost part of the USA
- 5 Below Wyoming and to the left of Kansas
- 6 Right in the middle of Iowa and Arkansas
- 8 Bordering the bottom of both Oregon and Nevada

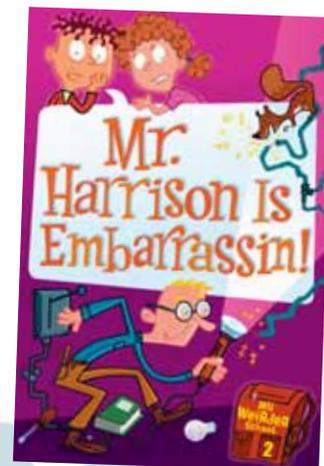
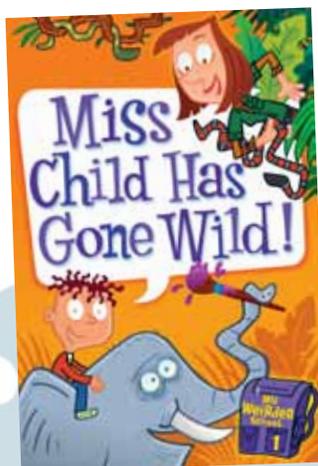
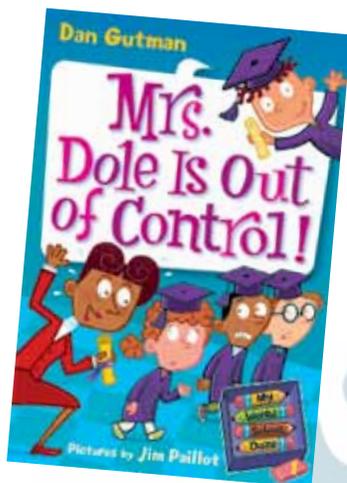
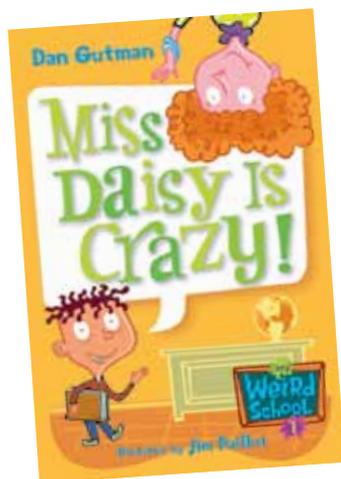
**Down:**

- 2 Right in the middle of Mississippi and Georgia
- 4 The smallest state in the USA
- 7 To the right of Nevada and above Arizona

See crossword puzzle answer key on last panel.

# More from the Genius of Weird

Don't miss Dan Gutman's *My Weird School* and *My Weird School Daze* books. With normal kids and insane teachers, Ella Mentry School has never been so much fun! Or so we thought—*My Weird School* gets even zanier with the upcoming new series, *My Weirder School*. Look out for it in Summer 2011.



## ANSWER KEYS

### A Bend in the Road

- #1 The tallest building in America is Chicago's Willis Tower.
- #2 Indiana has a city named Santa Claus.
- #3 Florida's Disney World is twice the size of Manhattan Island.

### Caution: Crossing Ahead

#### Across:

- 1 Pennsylvania
- 3 Florida
- 5 Colorado
- 6 Missouri
- 8 California

#### Down:

- 2 Alabama
- 4 Rhode Island
- 7 Utah