



Crossword Puzzles

Volume 5

Nature & Wildlife

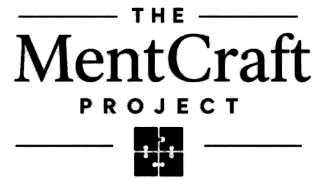


60 Themed Puzzles + 10 Bonus Puzzles

Large Print • Complete Answer Key
Includes a Complete Word Glossary

GREAT FOR ALL AGES

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Nature & Wildlife

Crossword Puzzles

Volume 5

70 Puzzles Including 10 Bonus Puzzles

For David

My son, you have a wonderful mind.

Always remain curious and never assume you know everything.

How to Get the Most Out of This Book

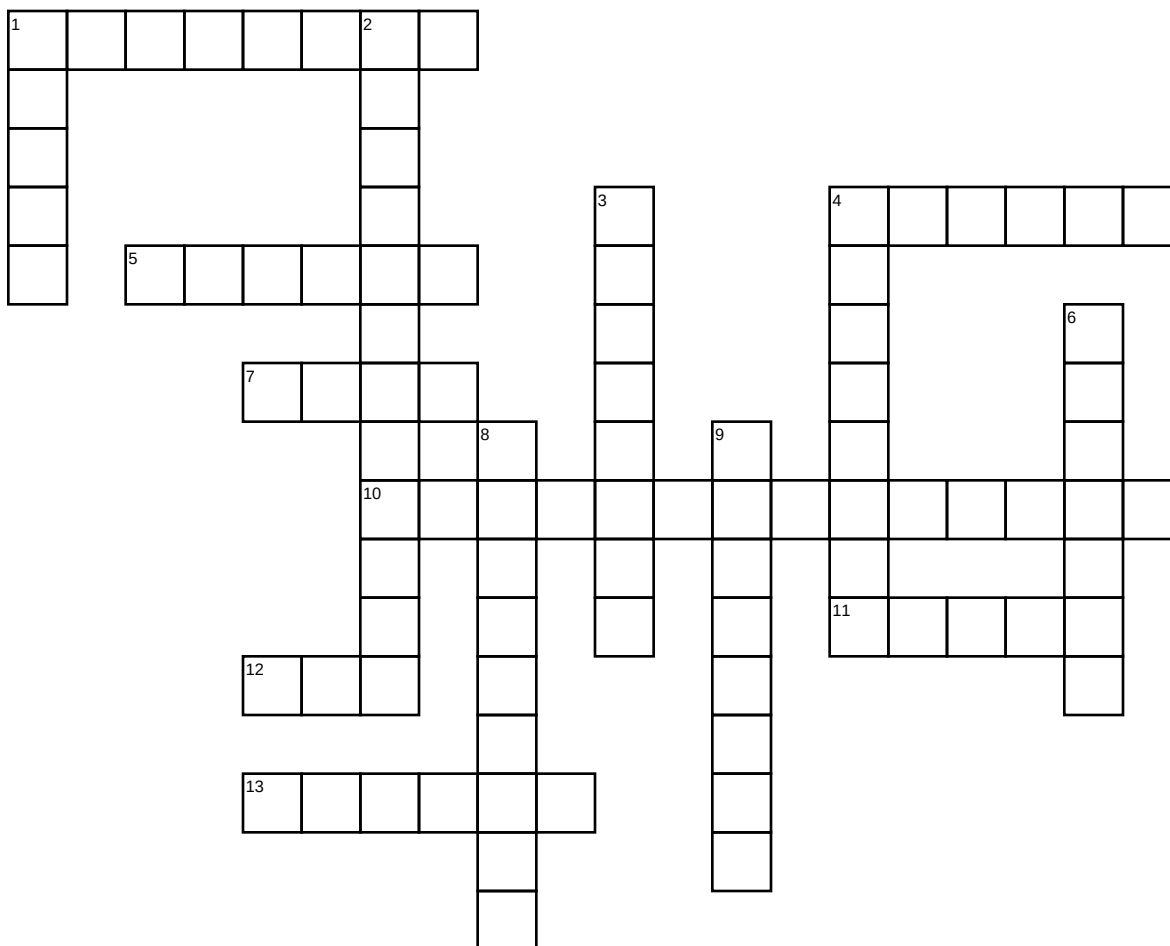
Every MentCraft collection is built on a simple belief: a mind that's regularly challenged stays sharper, more curious, and more capable. Crossword puzzles do this in a distinctive way — you're not simply recalling a word, you're reasoning your way to it sideways, through wordplay and the partial evidence of crossing letters.

Each puzzle's header shows its subtheme, its number, and a difficulty rating, so you can track your progress or choose where to start. All solutions are grouped together near the end of the book, in numerical order, ready whenever you need to check your work.

If you're the kind of solver who likes to dig a little deeper, this book includes a complete Glossary at the very end — every word, defined and alphabetized, so an unfamiliar term never has to stay a mystery. And at the bottom of every puzzle page, you'll find a My Notes space: room to jot down a new word you've learned, an alternate answer you considered, or anything worth remembering as you go.

Fill in each answer based on its clue. Answers cross over one another at shared letters, just like a standard crossword. Enjoy the journey!

Puzzle 1: Animal Behavior, Tracks & Signs



ACROSS

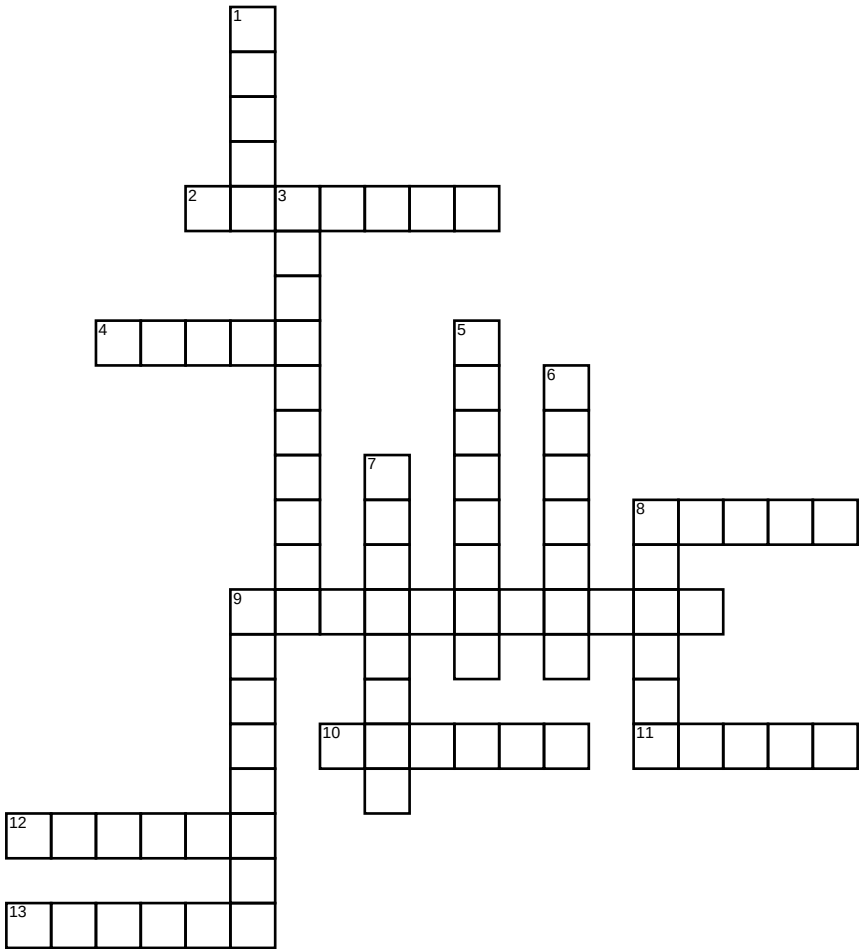
1. Animal that digs underground shelters
4. Move quickly with short steps
5. Group of kittens
7. Wolves' cooperative hunting unit
10. Wildlife domain defense
11. Move smoothly through air or water
12. A wild animal's lair
13. Reproductive coupling

DOWN

1. Leap forward forcefully
2. Navigation via sound echoes
3. Following animal trails
4. Quiet pursuit of prey
6. Rapid vocalization of a monkey
8. Animal waste left behind
9. Settling down for the night

My Notes:

Puzzle 2: Animal Behavior, Tracks & Signs



ACROSS

- 2. Building a home for eggs
- 4. Group of females guarded by males
- 8. An animal's footprint or path
- 9. Defending one's domain
- 10. Search for food in the wild
- 11. Aggressive growl
- 12. An underground animal dwelling
- 13. High-pitched horse cry

DOWN

- 1. Eat grass in a pasture
- 3. Showing deference to others
- 5. To mate
- 6. A large feline's footprint
- 7. Seasonal traveler
- 8. Wildlife footprints
- 9. Path made by many feet

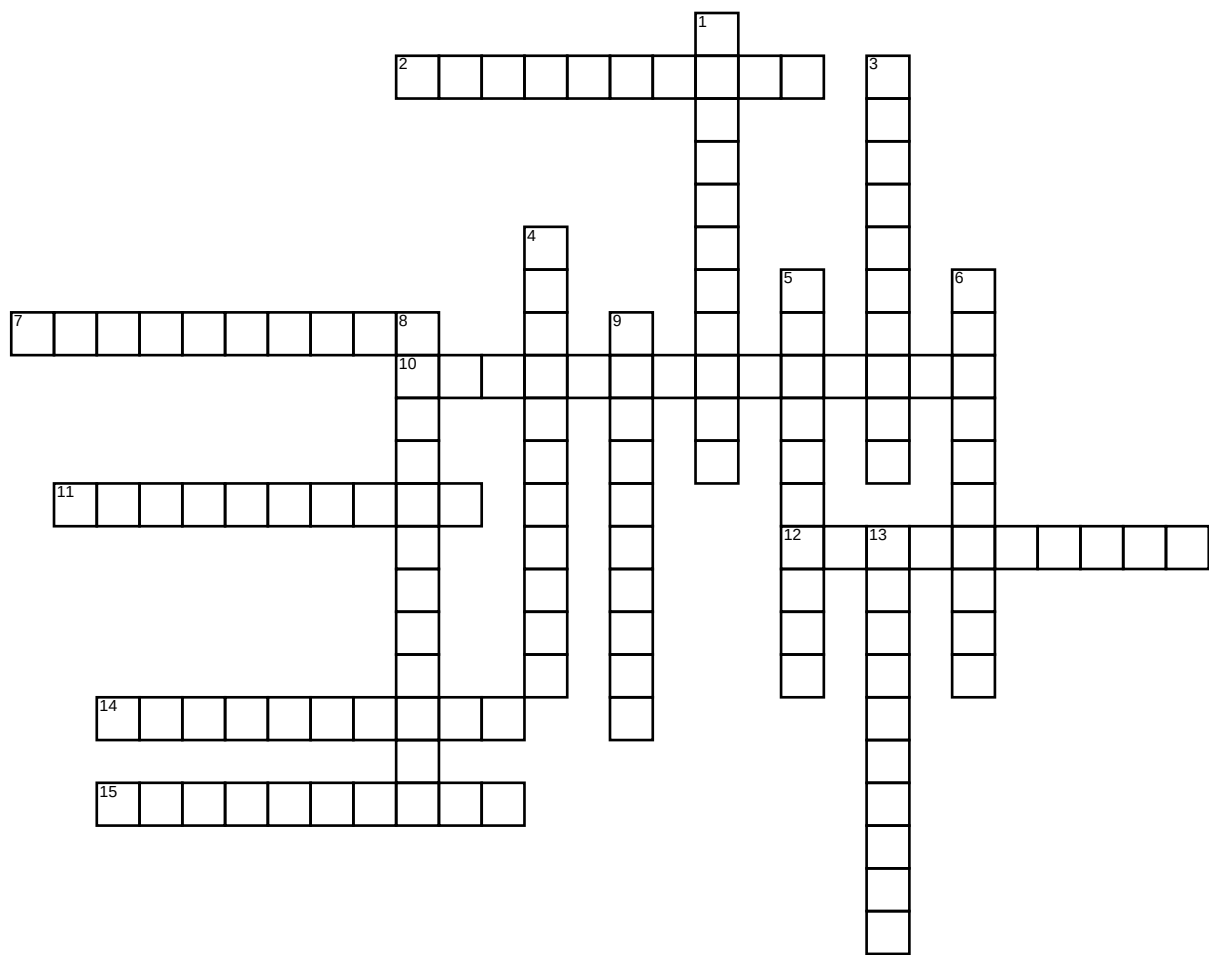
My Notes:

BONUS PUZZLES

Our gift to you for choosing this book!

A few extra, slightly trickier puzzles to enjoy.

Puzzle 61: BONUS



ACROSS

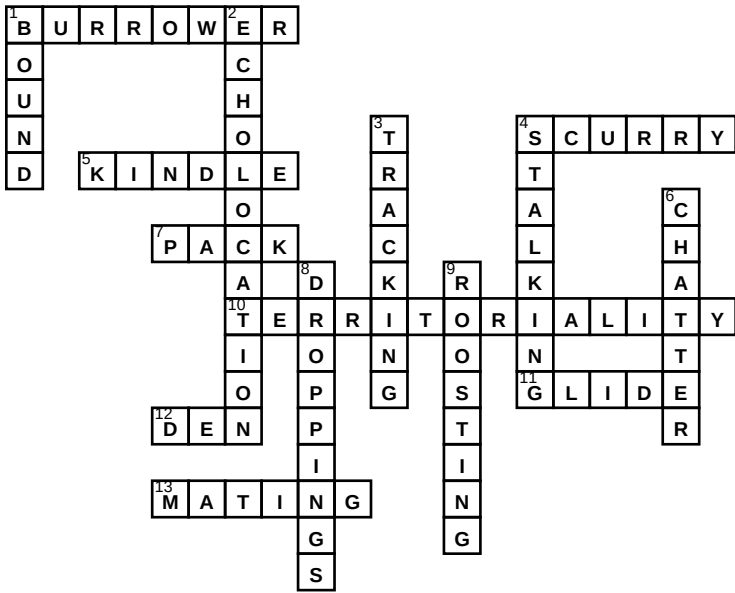
- 2. Large-headed African antelope
- 7. Aquatic hunter with vibrant plumage
- 10. Symbiotic root-sheathing fungus
- 11. Count of a species in an area
- 12. Australian gum tree
- 14. Source of water
- 15. Woody wetlands

DOWN

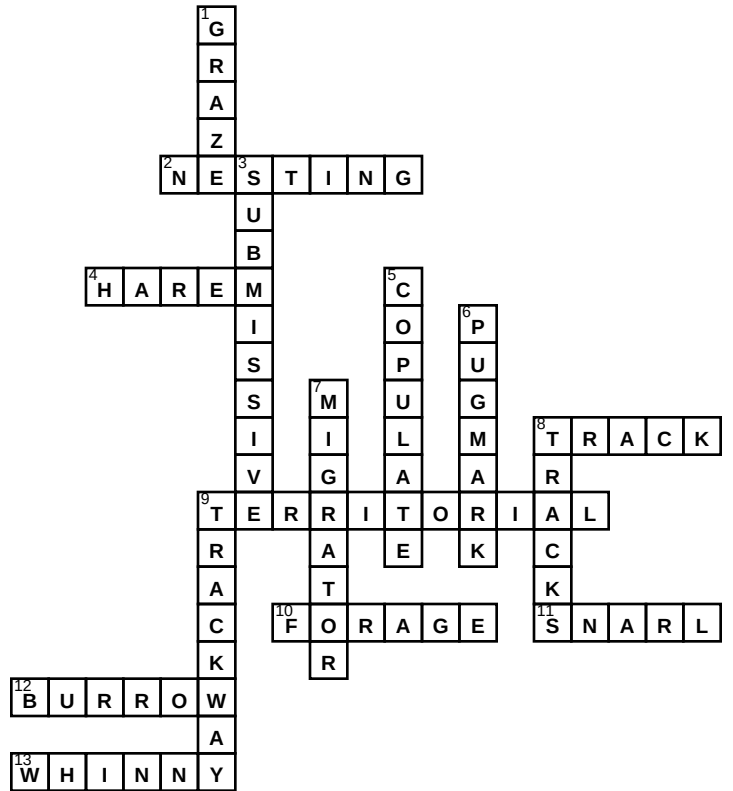
- 1. Feeds on decaying material
- 3. Plant life
- 4. Blended with surrounding habitat
- 5. Non-woody plant type
- 6. Grassland songbird
- 8. Process of producing offspring
- 9. Fungi expert
- 13. Netted-skinned melon

My Notes:

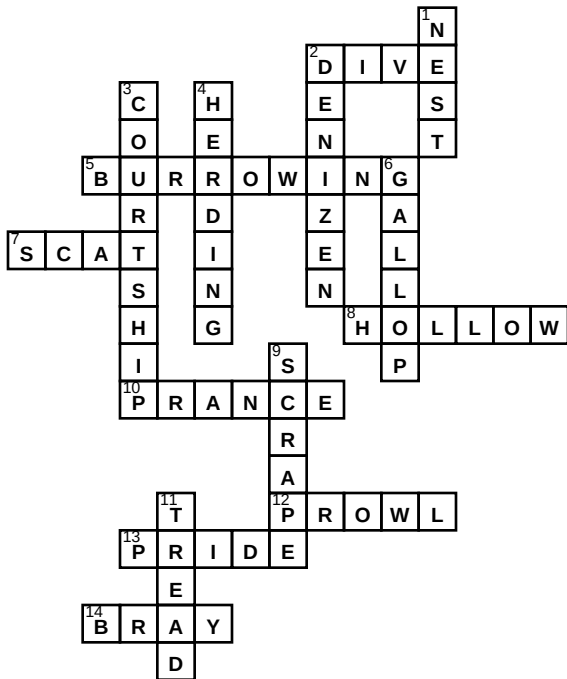
Solution #1



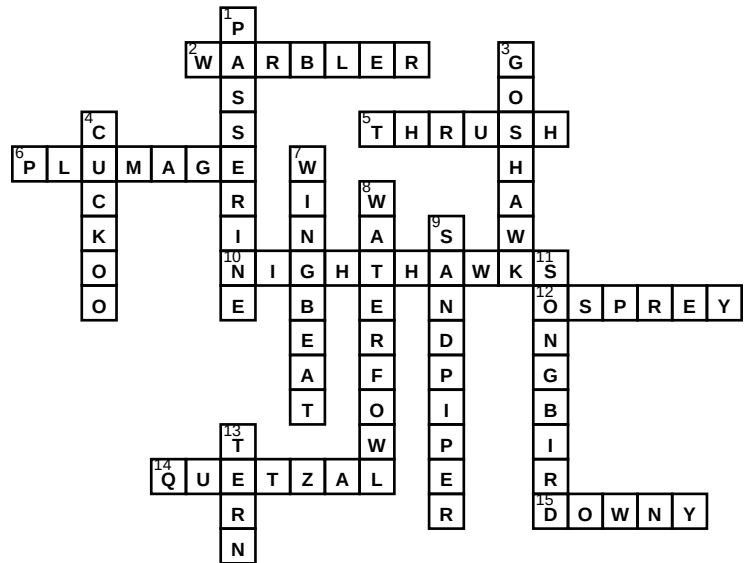
Solution #2



Solution #3



Solution #4



Glossary

AARDVARK: A nocturnal, burrowing mammal with a long snout and pig-like tail.

ABDOMEN: The posterior part of the body of an insect or arachnid.

ABYSSAL: Relating to the deepest region of the ocean.

ACCLIMATION: The process of adjusting gradually to changed environmental conditions.

ACCLIMATE: To become accustomed to a different climate or environment.

ADAPT: To adjust to new conditions or circumstances.

ADAPTABILITY: The quality of being able to adjust to new conditions.

ADAPTATION: A trait or behavior that helps an organism survive in its environment.

ADAPTED: Suited through traits or behavior to particular environmental conditions.

ADDERS: Small venomous snakes found in Europe and Asia.

AGARIC: A mushroom characterized by a cap and gills on the underside.

AGARICOID: Relating to or resembling a mushroom with gills.

AGATE: A variety of chalcedony characterized by its distinct bands.

AGAVE: A succulent plant with thick, fleshy leaves.

AGGREGATE: A fruit formed from a single flower with many ovaries.

ALBATROSS: A large seabird with a long, narrow wingspan, known for gliding over oceans.

ALBEDO: The proportion of incoming light reflected by a surface.

ALDER: A deciduous tree or shrub that often grows in wet soils.

ALLIGATORS: Large semiaquatic reptiles with broad snouts and armored bodies.

AMAZONITE: A green-to-blue variety of microcline feldspar.

AMETHYST: A purple variety of quartz, often used as a gemstone.

AMPHIPOD: A small, shrimp-like crustacean that lives in both fresh and salt water.

ANDESITE: A volcanic rock of intermediate composition between basalt and rhyolite.

ANEMOCHORY: The dispersal of seeds by wind.

ANEMONE: A marine animal related to jellyfish and corals, often living symbiotically with clownfish.

ANT: A small social insect known for its ability to carry objects many times its own weight.

ANTENNAE: Segmented appendages used by insects for sensing touch and smell.

ANTLION: A predatory insect larva that digs pits to trap prey.

APATITE: A phosphate mineral that is a primary source of phosphorus.

APHID: A small, soft-bodied insect that sucks sap from plants.

APOMIXIS: The production of seeds without fertilization.

APOSEMATISM: Warning coloration used to advertise toxicity or defense.

AQUATIC: Relating to water; living in or adapted for life in water.

ARBOREAL: Living in or occurring in trees.

ARBORETUM: A botanical garden devoted to trees.

ARCHIPELAGO: A group or chain of islands.

ARID: Having a dry climate; lacking moisture.

ARIDIFICATION: The process of a region becoming increasingly dry or arid.

ARMADILLO: Any of several small mammals native to the Americas covered in bony plates.

ASCOMYCETE: A member of the phylum Ascomycota, which includes sac fungi like morels and truffles.

ASTERS: Wildflowers with daisy-like flowers, often found in meadows.

ASTHENOSPHERE: The ductile part of Earth's mantle where convection currents occur.

ATMOSPHERE: The layer of gases surrounding a planet, held in place by gravity.

ATMOSPHERIC: Relating to the envelope of gases surrounding the earth.

ATOLL: A ring-shaped coral reef, island, or series of islets surrounding a lagoon.

AURORA: A natural light display predominantly seen in high-latitude regions near the Arctic and Antarctic.

AUTOCHORY: The dispersal of seeds by means other than animals or wind, such as explosion.

AUTUMN: The season of the year between summer and winter, marked by falling leaves.

AVALANCHE: A sudden, destructive slide of snow down a mountain slope.

AVIAN: Relating to or characteristic of birds.

AVIFAUNA: The bird life of a particular region.

AVOCADO: An edible pear-shaped fruit having greenish yellow pulp with a large single seed.

AZURITE: A deep blue copper carbonate mineral often associated with malachite.

BADGER: A burrowing nocturnal mammal with a stout body and strong claws.

BADLANDS: A region of heavily eroded sedimentary rock and mudstone.

BAMBOO: A fast-growing woody grass with hollow stems.

BAOBAB: A tree in the genus *Adansonia*, characterized by a thick trunk.

BARK: The outer covering of a tree trunk or branch.

BARNACLE: A small marine crustacean that attaches itself to submerged surfaces.

BAROMETRIC: Relating to atmospheric pressure.

BARREN: Too poor to produce much or any vegetation.

The MentCraft Project starts from a simple idea: a mind that's exercised regularly stays sharper, more curious, and more capable — but not every mind sharpens the same way. Some people think best in words, others in numbers, others in shapes and spatial patterns, others in sequences of logical steps. That's why MentCraft builds puzzle collections across many different formats, each one training a different kind of mental muscle.

Crossword puzzles train the mind in a very particular way: you're not just recalling a word, you're reasoning your way to it sideways — through wordplay, association, and partial evidence from intersecting letters. Every solved clue reinforces vocabulary you already half-knew, while the crossing pattern quietly builds the discipline of holding several possibilities in mind until only one fits.

Dive into a world where solving puzzles can spark curiosity and broaden your knowledge of nature's wonders. From deciphering bird tracks to uncovering the mysteries of underground life in caves, each clue leads you through diverse ecosystems. You'll explore habitats, from deserts to forests, and discover how plants and animals adapt and survive. Whether it's unraveling the secrets of migration or understanding weather patterns, every term and concept connects you to a deeper appreciation of our natural world.

