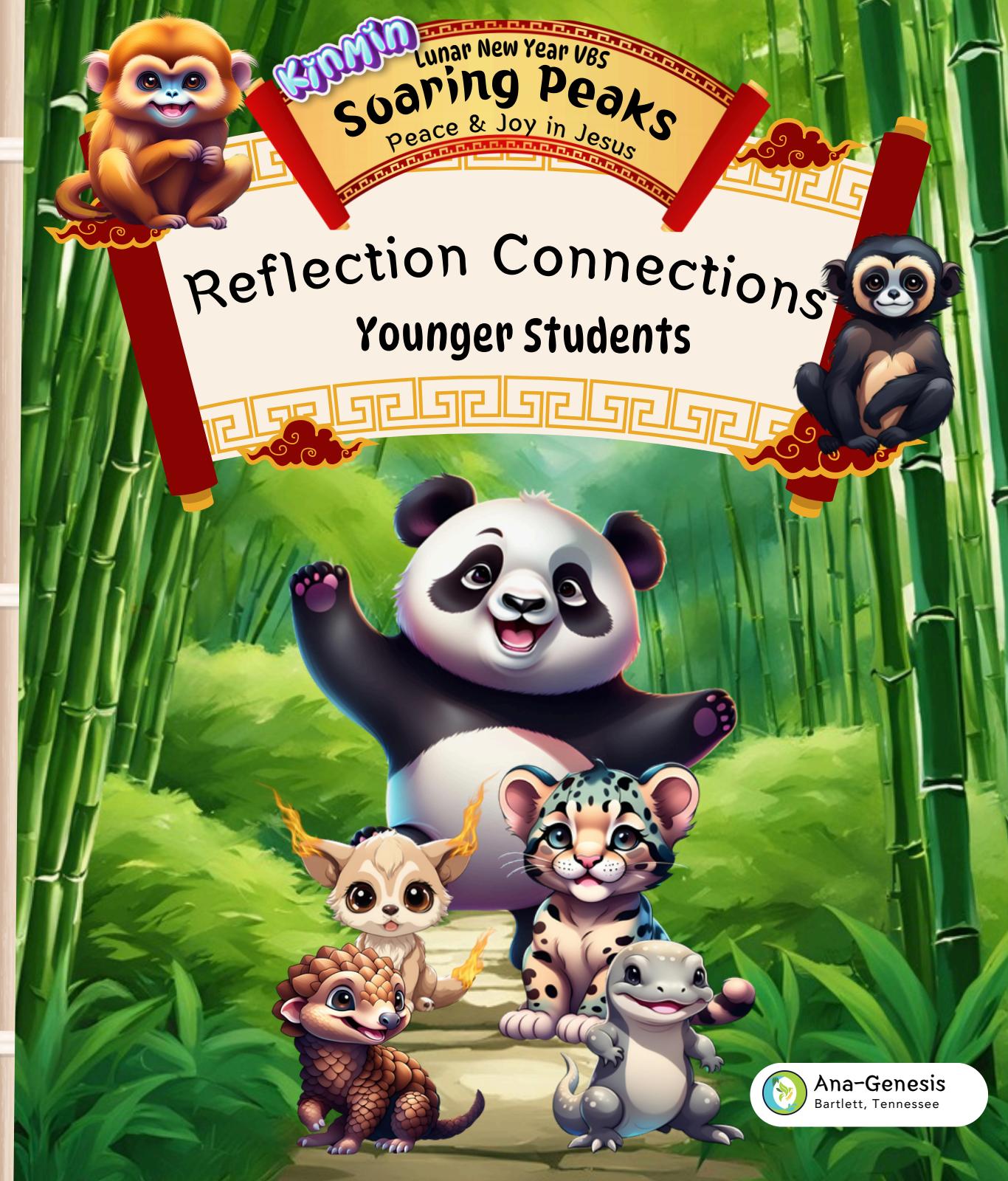




Ana-Genesis
Bartlett, Tennessee



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New Year's Resolutions

New Year's Resolutions are something people commit to doing. Make a list of new things you want to try or ways you want to serve Jesus at church and at home. Share some special prayer requests for the community and your family. Color the page.



In many Asian cultures lamps are released into the sky with wishes. People hope that heaven will hear and answer them. As Christians our true lamp is the Word of God. We pray to God through Jesus the Son knowing for certain that our God hears every prayer and answers us. Read 1 John 5:14-15

You will live in joy and peace.
The mountains and hills will
burst into song, and the trees of
the field will clap their hands!

Isaiah 55:12 NLT

Name



Deep in the lush, green forest of China, a panda named Jia munched on her favorite food—bamboo. She munched and crunched from sunrise to sunset. But lately, Jia had been feeling a little down.

"Is this all I ever do?" she sighed one day, staring at a lush stalk of bamboo. "Eat and eat and eat. I don't have any other skills besides eating and climbing trees. I don't feel very special." As Jia plopped down in the shade, her big panda belly full, a friendly voice called out from the nearby stream.

"Why the long face, Jia?" Jia turned to see Lu-Kai, the wise Giant Chinese Salamander, peering at her from the other side of the stream. His gentle eyes sparkled as he climbed onto a rock.

"Oh, Lu-Kai," Jia said, resting her chin on her paw. "All I ever do is eat. Other animals run fast, fly high, or build amazing things. But me? I just munch bamboo all day. What good is that?"

Lu-Kai chuckled. "Oh, Jia, don't you know? What you do is very important!"

Jia tilted her head. "It is?"

"Yes!" Lu-Kai exclaimed. "Let me tell you something wonderful. Do you see all the trees and plants around us?" Jia nodded, her black-and-white ears twitching.

"Well, your droppings—yes, your poop—are full of seeds from the bamboo you eat. When you roll on the forest floor, your fur picks up seeds too! As you walk and climb from place to place the seeds fall off your fur or are deposited by droppings. Those seeds help grow new plants and keep the forest alive and healthy!" Jia's eyes widened. "Really? My poop does all that?"

"Absolutely," Lu-Kai said. "And that's not all. If you didn't munch on bamboo, it would take over the forest."

Your eating helps keep everything in balance. Think of all the animal friends we have - clouded Leopards, Red Pandas, Takins, Golden Snub-nosed Monkeys and Flying Squirrels. They all need the forest as a place to live. Baijin, the Jiangtun Freshwater Finless Porpoise and I, need clean water to swim in - the bamboo stops the soil from washing away and helps keep the rivers and streams clean." Jia's tail swished as she thought about this.

"But how can something so ordinary—like eating, rolling, and pooping—be so important?" she asked.

Lu-Kai smiled kindly. "Let me share something from the Bible," he said. "In John 15:9-11, Jesus reminds us that when we live in His love and do what we're made to do, our joy will be full. You see, Jia, you're doing exactly what God created you to do. And that makes you special!"

Jia felt her heart lift. She thought about the forest, the trees, the animals that called it home, and how she played a part in it all.

You mean... I'm helping the forest grow just by being me?" she asked.

"Exactly," Lu-Kai said. "Never doubt that your role is important, no matter how simple it seems. You bring joy to the forest, Jia, and that's something to celebrate."

Jia smiled, her furry black and white face brimming with happiness. She stood up, ready to munch on bamboo with fresh excitement.

"Thank you, Lu-Kai," she said. "I guess eating, rolling, climbing and pooping really are my best talents!"

Lu-Kai laughed as he slid back into the stream. "And the forest wouldn't have it any other way!" From that day on, Jia munched bamboo happily and rolled in the leaves with a big smile on her furry face, knowing her simple actions made a big difference. And deep in her heart, she carried the JOY of being exactly who God made her to be.

Bamboo Instruments

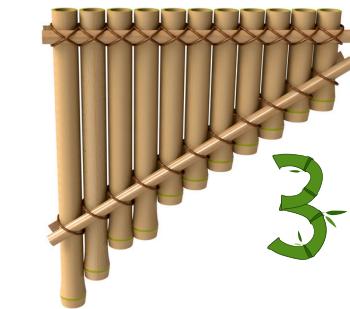
Many instruments in Asia are made from bamboo. It has natural acoustic (sound) qualities that make it ideal for creating music. Guess the names of the instruments below using the list.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

Daegum Sheng Hulusi Flute Kuaiban. Wind Chime.
Pan Flute Gamelin

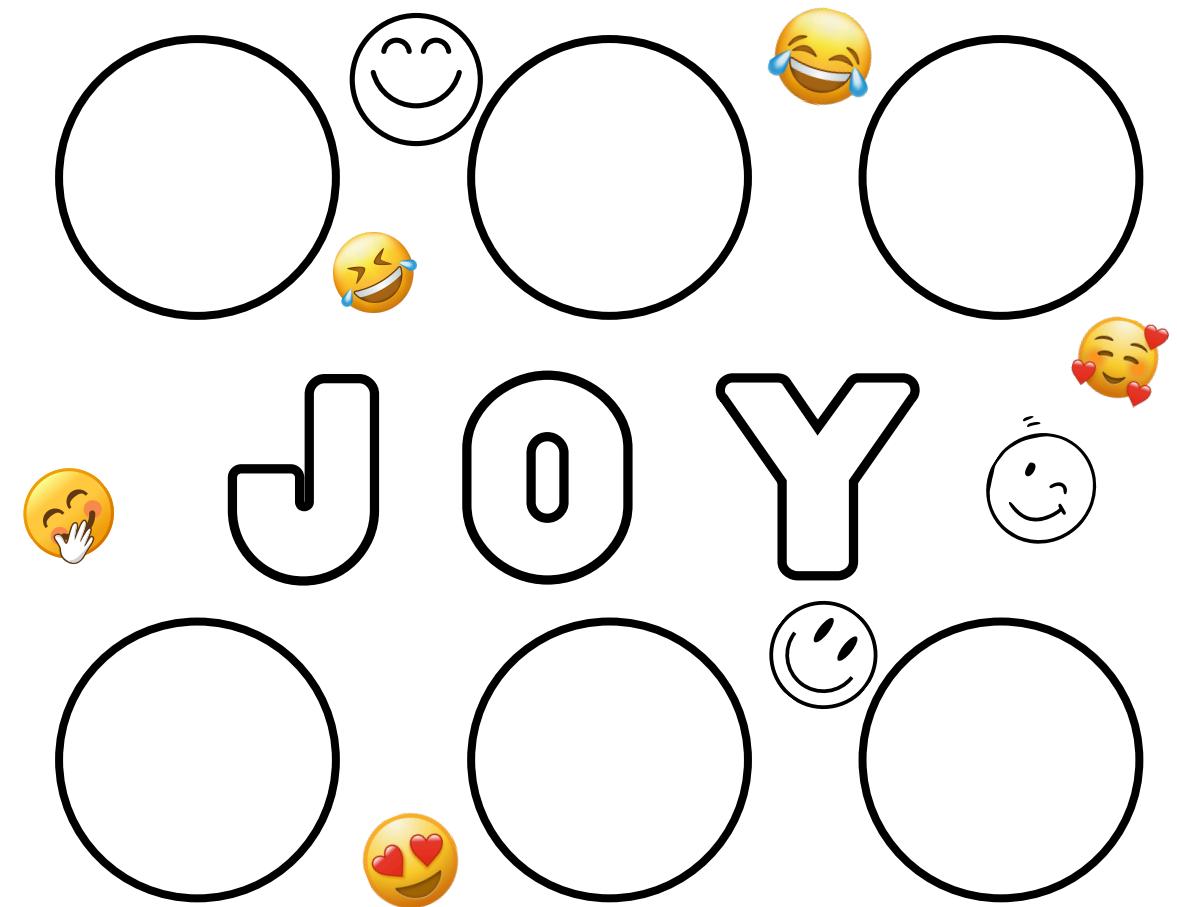
Answers are on the back page.

The Hallelujah Mountains

Zhangjiajie National Park is home to the Hallelujah Avatar Mountains which are actually columns of quartz! The tallest is over 3000 feet (1080 m). The same region is home to some amazing rare and endangered animals. Find the hidden outlines of some of them.



Jia found joy in doing some very simple things! Draw your own emojis in the blank circles to express JOY and color them.



Read Matt.13:3-9. Jesus wants to give us JOY. Circle the names of the animals in the mountain watershed of the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers that are blessed by the activities of Giant Pandas like Jia. Should Jia be joyful about her life and talents? What do you think of her skills?

- 1 Red & White Flying Squirrel
- 2 Capybara
- 3 Red Panda
- 4 Desert Fox
- 5 Takin
- 6 American Bald Eagle
- 7 Beaver
- 8 Golden Snub-nosed Monkey
- 9 Clouded Leopard



Find and circle the words below and share ideas about sounds that you hear when you visit a park, walk in the woods or visit new green spaces. Dogs barking? Birds singing? What do you hear?



Word List

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

Clapping Trees

Reflection Connection The Hallelujah Mountains



In the heart of the mystical Hallelujah Mountains, where the columns rose into the air in a breathtaking display of God's handiwork, two best friends, Pangoleo the pangolin and Bulah, the hyrax, were climbing their favorite trail. The mountains were known for their beauty, but on that cool wintery morning a blanket of clouded covered the striking landscape just in time for Lunar New Year. Everything looked fresh and renewed. There was a feeling in the air that something special would happen today. As Pangoleo scrambled over the rocks, and Bulah hopped nimbly up the path, strange sound floated through the air. Tap-tap-clack! Tap-tap-clack! "What is that?" Pangoleo asked, his scales shimmering in the sunlight. "I don't know, but it sounds like... music!" Bulah exclaimed, his little ears twitching. The two friends looked at each other, their eyes wide with excitement. They hurried up the mountain, following the sound that seemed to grow louder with each step. When they reached a large clearing, they saw something amazing. At the top of a grassy hill, Yúzé, the white-crested gibbon, was sitting on a rock, clapping rhythmically with bamboo pieces in his hands. His long arms moved gracefully as he made the bamboo pieces click together, creating a beautiful, melodic beat. Beside him stood LiHua, a Golden Snub-nosed Monkey, blowing into bamboo tubes that sounded like a sweet flute. Pangoleo and Bulah were so amazed that they couldn't help but smile. "Wow! You guys are making music!" Pangoleo said, his tail swishing with excitement.

Yúzé grinned and clapped even harder. "It's the music of the mountains! Come join us!" he called. As the rhythm echoed through the mountains, something magical began to happen. The sounds spread far and wide, reaching the ears of their friends below. Daiyu, the clouded leopard, leapt up behind a rock, her silvery fur catching the sunlight. Jia, the giant panda, waddled over with a joyful grin, and Lu-Kai, the Chinese Giant Salamander, crawled up the mountain and stood on his hind legs with a curious look in his eyes. Together, they all joined in the music, clapping their hands, tapping their paws, and stomping their feet to the rhythm of the bamboo. The sound of their worship filled the air like a joyful song, rising high into the skies. As the group played, the mountains seemed to come alive. The hills below began to break forth in birdsong, and the bamboo trees swayed gently in the breeze, making a soft clapping sound as though they were praising too. From the village below, the villagers heard the incredible music. It was like the whole mountain was singing praises to the Lord. Pangoleo looked around at his friends, his heart swelling with happiness. He knew this was a moment to remember—when the mountains, the hills, and even the bamboo joined together to praise the Lord. Just like Isaiah 55:12 says, "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

And so, as the sun set behind the soaring peaks of the Hallelujah Mountains, the friends continued their song, lifting their voices to the heavens, celebrating the New Year and the goodness of their Creator.

Reflection Connection Daiyu's Path to Peace



Young Daiyu, the clouded leopard cub, loved to explore his home in the Hallelujah Mountains of China. His soft, spotted fur blended with the misty rocks as he chased after butterflies, imagining himself as the bravest hunter in the peaks. But one day, the weather took a turn he wasn't prepared for. The sky darkened quickly, and the winds howled as dark clouds gathered overhead. "I should go back to the den," Daiyu thought, but as the rain began to fall in torrents, every path turned into rushing streams. The once-trustworthy paths now swirled with powerful water. "I need to get home!" Daiyu called out, but the water swept him off his feet, pulling him downstream toward the mighty Yangtze River. The roaring water thundered like a great beast, and Daiyu was afraid. "I can't swim against it," he thought, his paws flailing. "I'll be lost forever." His heart raced, and he thought, Just like the storm, I feel helpless... But just as he was about to give up, a flash of golden fur appeared ahead. It was a small Golden Snub-nosed monkey perched on a bamboo branch, watching him with wide eyes. "Grab my hand!" called the monkey. With a final desperate push, Daiyu stretched out and grabbed LiHua's tiny hand. With a swift tug, LiHua pulled him safely onto the muddy bank. "Thank you, LiHua!" Daiyu gasped, feeling the trembling fear in his chest. "You're safe now," LiHua said, smiling. "But we still need to find your way home. The river's flood is too dangerous, and the storm is still raging. We'll have to go through the bamboo forest." Daiyu followed LiHua into the forest, feeling uncertain and anxious. The bamboo stalks swayed and creaked as the wind blew fiercely through them. The storm was still loud in his ears, and for a moment, Daiyu felt like the world was crashing around him.

"I don't know if I can make it," he whispered, his fear rising again.

LiHua stopped and looked at him with gentle eyes. "Daiyu, remember, the storm may feel big and scary, but you don't face it alone. Trust that we can make it through together. Even in the darkest, wildest storms, there is always a way through."

"But the water..." Daiyu began.

"Like the disciples on the boat with Jesus," LiHua said softly, "they feared the storm, but Jesus calmed the winds. In the same way, we can trust that we are never alone, even when the storm feels overwhelming." Daiyu thought about that, remembering the stories he had heard of Jesus calming the storm. He took a deep breath and nodded. "Okay. I trust you." With newfound courage, Daiyu followed LiHua as she skillfully leaped from bamboo to bamboo, scouting ahead. "Stay close," LiHua said, "and remember, the storm will not last forever."

As the storm began to subside, the bamboo forest glistened with rain. The path ahead grew clearer, and soon, they reached the top of a hill. From the distance, Daiyu heard his family's comforting growls and purrs.

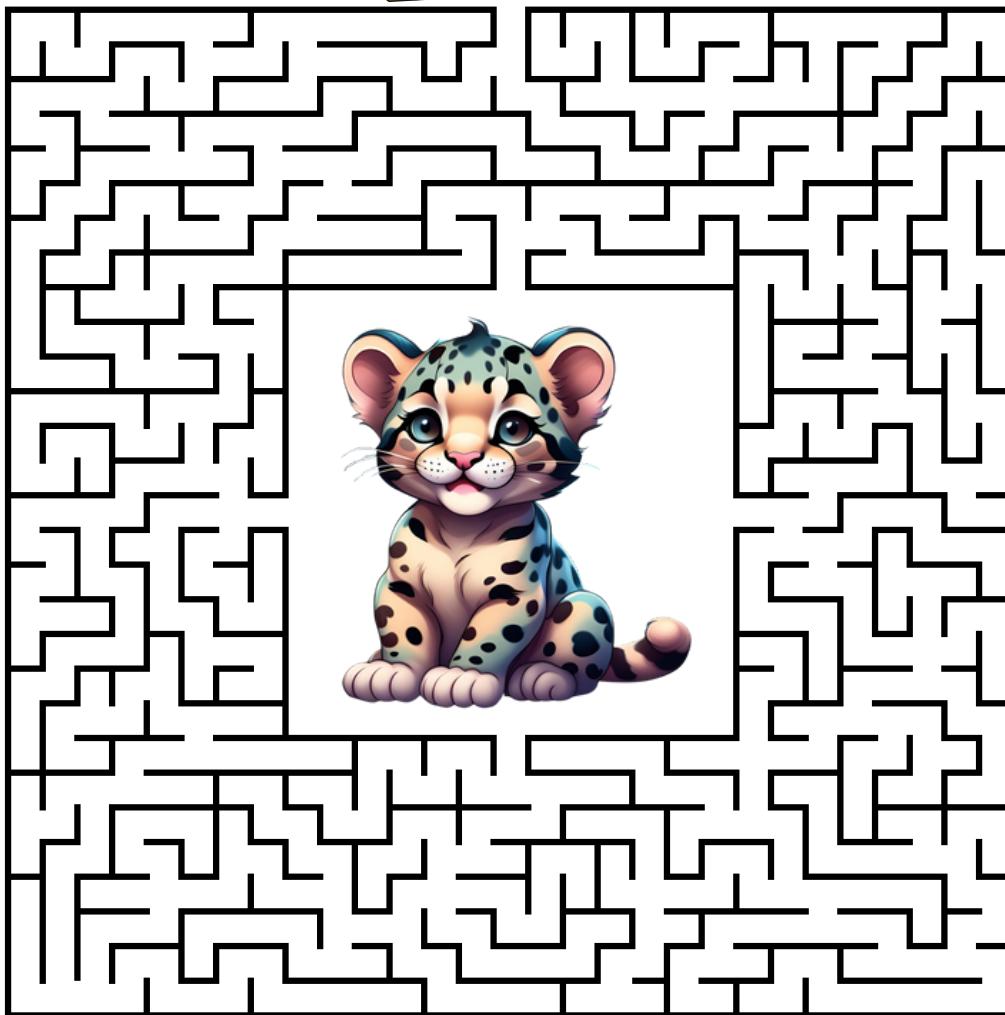
"Daiyu!" his mother cried out, rushing toward him. His siblings bounded over, purring and nuzzling him, thrilled to see him safe. Daiyu turned to thank LiHua, but the little monkey was already climbing a bamboo stalk. "You're home now," LiHua said with a wink, "and you've learned that no storm lasts forever. Even when things feel too big or scary, trust you'll be okay."

"Thank you, LiHua," Daiyu said softly. "I'll remember that, even in the biggest storms, I don't face them alone. God is always with us." And so, with his family around him, Daiyu walked safely home, no longer afraid of the storm that had once seemed so overwhelming.



Peace in a Storm

Help Daiyu find his Path to his den



Peace in a Storm

Unscramble the words below from the story about Daiyu's Path to Peace.

ECEAP

FEAR

ILSTL

SNOW

ERODPAL

YNOMEK

VSEWA

TBOA

OTMSR

GITNH

DCEASR

HAFTI
