

ZENGO AND O'MALLEY'S CRIME FIGHTING ACTIVITY KIT

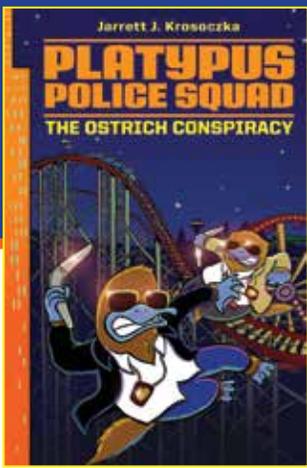
CASE FILE: The Ostrich Conspiracy

Crime never sleeps in Kalamazoo City! This time, it has struck the Kalamazoo City Dome: the city's newest attraction, the largest indoor/outdoor amusement complex in the country, and the setting for worldwide celebrity Chase Mercy's latest blockbuster action film. The mayor has staked his reputation on making sure the grand opening goes just as planned—but the opening night is nothing short of a disaster, and the PPS suspects foul play. But will Detectives Rick Zengo and Corey O'Malley be able to dig up the dirt on the Dome before anyone else is hurt?

DEBRIEFING: Some Questions to Prove You Know the Facts

1. Why are Zengo and O'Malley suspicious that the team who built the Kalamazoo City Dome is from a rival town?
2. Why is O'Malley unenthusiastic about having movie star Chase Mercy filming in town?
3. What role does the wrench play in the sabotage of the Dome?
4. Why does Mayor Saunders want the Platypus Police Squad to stop their investigation of the Dome incident?
5. How does Zengo's desire to shed his rookie image serve as motivation to solve the Dome case?
6. Why do Zengo and O'Malley think it's odd that Audrey Davis has a fridge full of cheese?
7. What clues do Zengo and O'Malley uncover after meeting with Mayor Saunders's "Dream Team"?
8. Why does Pandini want Mayor Saunders out of office? Do you think Pandini played a role in the Dome sabotage?
9. What is Chase Mercy's motive for wanting to ruin Kalamazoo City?
10. Why are Zengo and O'Malley worried about Pandini running for mayor?

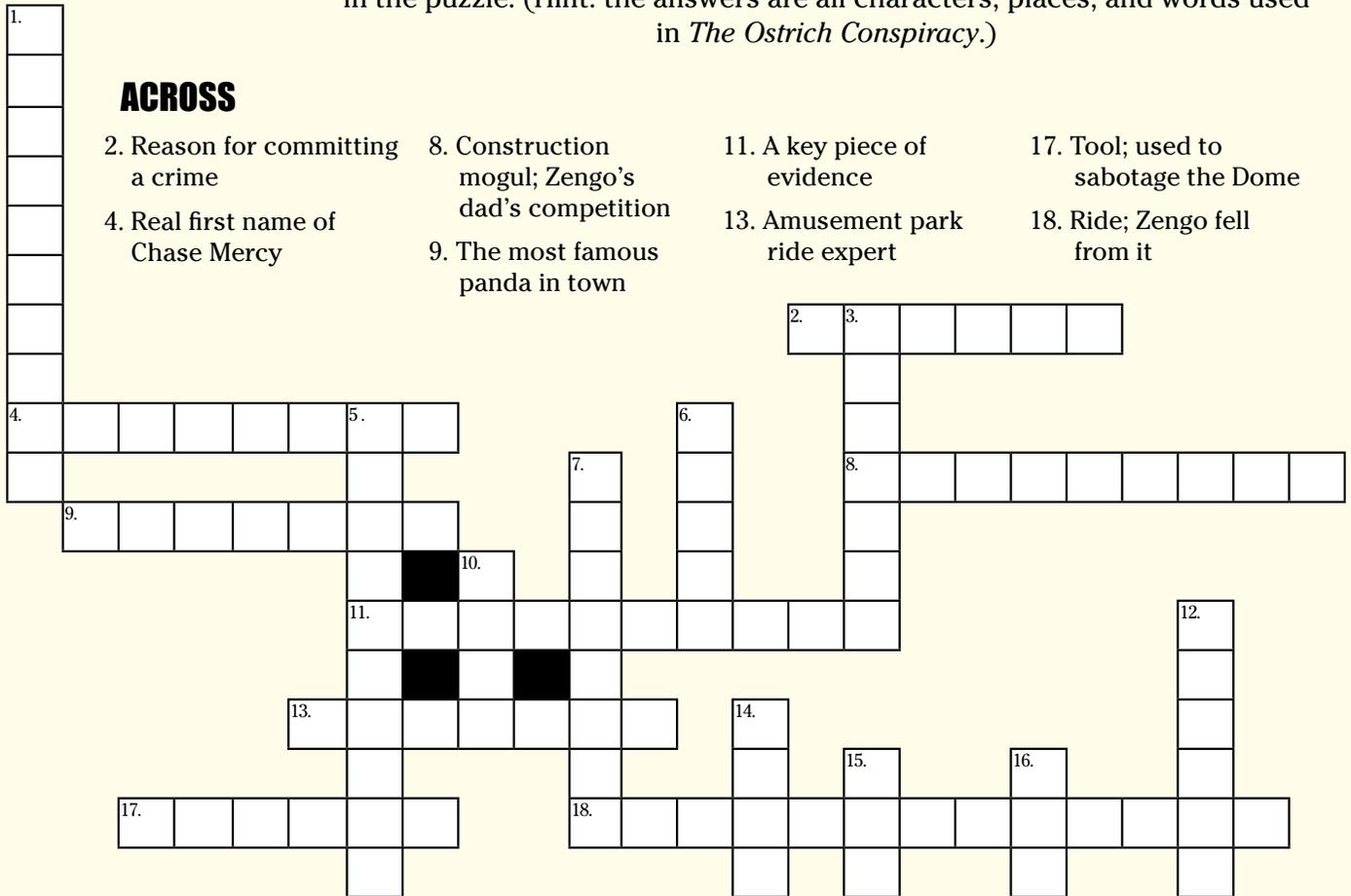




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EVALUATION: A Crossword to Help You Crack the Case

It's time to put your thinking bills on, detectives! Evaluate the evidence and suspects from the Dome case presented in this platypus puzzler by guessing the words suggested by the clues below and writing them in the corresponding box in the puzzle. (Hint: the answers are all characters, places, and words used in *The Ostrich Conspiracy*.)



ACROSS

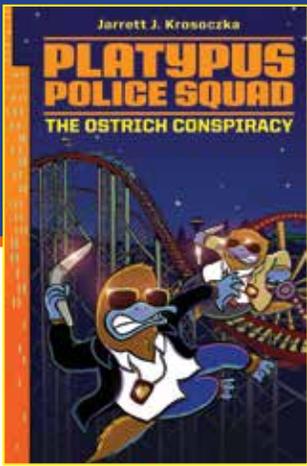
- 2. Reason for committing a crime
- 4. Real first name of Chase Mercy
- 8. Construction mogul; Zengo's dad's competition
- 9. The most famous panda in town
- 11. A key piece of evidence
- 13. Amusement park ride expert
- 17. Tool; used to sabotage the Dome
- 18. Ride; Zengo fell from it

DOWN

- 1. Celebrity heartthrob
- 3. Mayor Saunders is this animal
- 5. A secret plan or agreement
- 6. Runs the town but has ulterior motives
- 7. Person who deliberately destroys something
- 10. Newest attraction in Kalamazoo City
- 12. Used by the PPS to catch criminals
- 14. Rival town
- 15. Name for Mayor Saunders' team
- 16. Tourism guru; has a fridge full of cheese



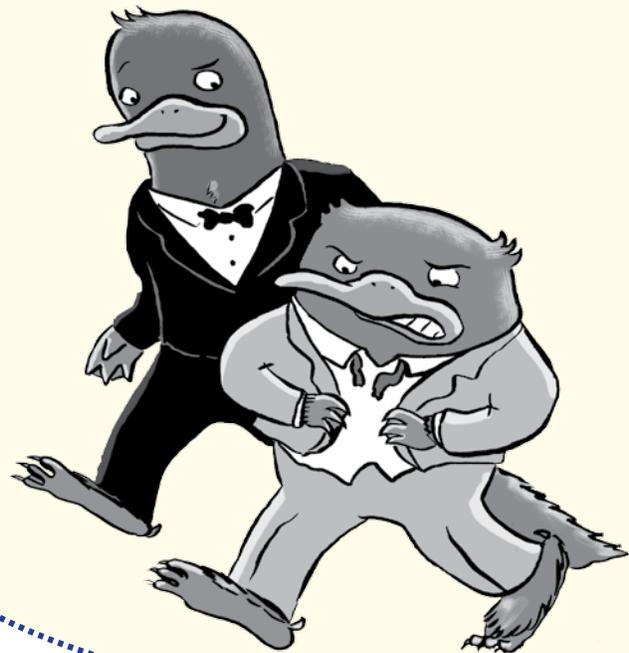
Answers: 2 Across: Chadwick; 8 Across: Robertson; 9 Across: Pandini; 11 Across: Photograph; 13 Across: Treger; 17 Across: Wrench; 18 Across: Roller coaster; 1 Down: Chase Mercy; 3 Down: Ostrich; 5 Down: Conspiracy; 6 Down: Mayor; 7 Down: Saboteur; 10 Down: Dome; 12 Down: Boomerangs; 14 Down: Mahalia; 15 Down: Dream Team; 16 Down: Paris



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CONCLUSION: A Tool to Carry Out the Trade

Every platypus on the squad carries a badge, but it's a boomerang that helps a good detective fight crime in Kalamazoo City. Color and personalize the boomerang below; then cut it out along the dotted line and use tape or glue to affix it to a piece of cardboard or heavy paper. Cut away the excess cardboard or paper, and your boomerang is ready to fly! Practice throwing your official Platypus Police Squad tool of the trade (be sure to go outdoors or into an empty room!) so you'll be ready when trouble strikes.



Safety Note: Young rookies should always ask a grown platypus for help when using scissors.

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