



## EDUCATION JUSTICE PROJECT

an initiative of Education at Illinois

### EJP FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER - Issue 1

#### Message from EJP Central

Dear EJP Members,

##### Hello!

We hope you are all safe and well. You continue to be on our minds, especially as we have had to postpone the fall correspondence courses. While we wait for the spring print correspondence courses to start up we will be offering periodic newsletters again with relevant updates on the EJP universe, the University of Illinois campus, and engaging content that we hope will lift your spirits.

##### EJP Programming

Individual EJP programs (e.g., WAMP, CAVE, MDG, LP) have continued to meet virtually as many of them are working toward some form of curriculum improvement, membership growth, shared learning, and so much more. In the coming months, you can expect to hear from many of them through the newsletter as they are working toward their goals and will want your feedback on their efforts. To start, check out the attached WAMP and community library surveys to help us understand how we can better support YOU! Also, as you may recall, October is when we accept applications for new outside EJP members. We're thrilled to share that we had over a dozen applicants! We are still in the midst of interviews, but several individuals have already been accepted into EJP programs. Our new members, including those from spring 2020 and fall 2019 look forward to meeting you in person, whenever it is safe to do so.

#### Mensaje Principal de EJP Central

Estimados(as) participantes de EJP.

##### ¡Saludos!

Esperamos que estén bien y seguros. Siguen estando presentes en cada uno de nuestros pensamientos, especialmente cuando tomamos la penosa decisión de posponer nuestros cursos de correspondencia para este otoño. Mientras esperamos por el comienzo de los cursos de primavera, estaremos entregándoles estos boletines periódicos con actualizaciones de nuestro programa y contenido entretenido para darles ánimo en estos tiempos.

##### Programación de EJP

Programas individuales como WAMP, CAVE, MDG, LP etc, se han seguido reuniendo virtualmente para trabajar mejoras a los currículos, aumentar membrecías, compartir experiencias de aprendizajes y muchísimas cosas más. En los próximos meses, esperamos que puedan escuchar más sobre estos avances por medio de nuestros boletines. Actualmente, estos grupos están trabajando en la revisión de sus objetivos y querrán su retroalimentación (feedback). Para empezar, pueden completar la encuesta de WAMP y la encuesta de servicios bibliotecarios comunitarios para ayudarnos a entender cómo brindarles apoyo. Como se acordarán, octubre es el mes donde aceptamos solicitudes para nuevos miembros de EJP en el exterior y nos da mucha alegría saber que tenemos varias docenas de solicitudes. Aún estamos en el proceso de entrevistas, pero varias personas han sido aceptadas en nuestros programas. Las(os) nuevas(os) integrantes de EJP, incluyendo quienes empezaron en la primavera del 2020 y el otoño de 2019, esperan con ansias poder verles en persona cuando ello sea posible.

## EJP Videos

We're also thrilled to share that EJP received a \$100,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation to produce instructional videos that can be delivered over a prison's institutional channel. Mitchell Oliver (a former EJP coordinator) is working with a team of EJP members to create videos on topics that range from math, to entrepreneurship, from history to mindfulness. We hope that they will be ready to screen before the end of the year.

## Reentry Guide

The newest edition of our 2020 Mapping Your Future Reentry Guide is now available in book form! Mapping Your Future includes sections on COVID-19, preparing for reentry, civic engagement, and much more. Several boxes of the guide have been sent to Danville. EJP students have historically been so supportive in the development of our guides. Thank you!

If you know anyone who would like a guide, tell them to request a copy from: EJP, 1001 S. Wright Street, Champaign, IL 61820. The Reentry Guide Initiative team is happy to mail them to families and service providers. Returning Home 2020, our guide for individuals getting deported to Mexico and Central America, is also available for free upon request.

## EJP Virtual Community Events

Over the summer we had our first-ever virtual EJP Gala where we celebrated EJP students for your accomplishments as learners and raised over \$17,000 dollars that will help support EJP programming. During the fall we have ramped up the number of virtual social events in order to stay connected as an EJP community while remaining socially distanced and safe. For instance, EJP has offered several virtual Lunch + Learns and online films about incarceration, re-entry, and social justice. At these events EJP members often express how much they wish they could safely enter DCC in person, and are always sending warm wishes your way. In Paolo Freire's words, "... we hope that this will prevail: our trust in the people, our faith in [humanity], and in the creation of a world where loving is less difficult."



On behalf of EJP Central,  
Ellen Ritter  
Academic Director

## Video de EJP

Con mucha alegría compartimos que EJP recibió una aportación de \$100,000 de la Fundación Mellon para producir videos instruccionales que podrán ser transmitidos por medio del canal institucional. Mitchell Oliver, pasado coordinador de EJP, continúa trabajando junto a otros miembros de EJP en estos videos. Algunos de los temas de los videos son: matemáticas, emprendimiento, historia y hasta mindfulness. Esperamos que al menos algunos de estos videos estén listos para ser transmitidos antes de finalizar el año.

## Guía de Reinserción.

La nueva edición de la guía de reinserción 2020 Mapping Your Future Reentry Guide está disponible de forma impresa. Esta guía incluye información sobre la pandemia del COVID-19, cómo prepararse para la reinserción, aspectos de participación ciudadana y mucho más. Ya hemos enviado varias cajas con estas guías a Danville. Históricamente, el estudiantado de EJP ha sido muy solidario en el desarrollo de nuestras guías. ¡Muchísimas gracias!

Si saben de cualquier persona que le interese esta guía, díganles que soliciten una copia a la dirección postal: EJP, 1001 S. Wright St, Champaign, IL 61820. El equipo de la guía de reinserción también puede enviarle una copia a familiares y proveedores de servicios. Regreso a Casa 2020, nuestra guía para individuos que serán deportados a México o Centro América también está disponible de manera gratuita si la solicitan.

## Eventos Comunitarios Virtuales de EJP

Durante el verano, tuvimos por primera vez la celebración virtual de nuestra gala donde celebramos los logros de todo el estudiantado de EJP. Este año, pudimos recaudar 17,000 USD que apoyarán toda nuestra programación. Durante este semestre hemos incrementado nuestra programación virtual para salvaguardar la protección y seguridad de nuestra comunidad. Por ejemplo, EJP ha ofrecido varios Almuerzo y Aprende (Lunch + Learn) virtuales y presentaciones de películas en línea sobre encarcelamiento, reinserción, y justicia social. En estos eventos, la membresía de EJP ha expresado lo mucho que les gustaría entrar a DCC y compartir este aprendizaje con ustedes. Como siempre, les enviamos calurosos deseos en estos tiempos. En palabras de Paolo Freire, "[s]i nada queda en estas páginas, esperamos que algo permanezca: nuestra confianza en el pueblo. Nuestra fe en la [humanidad] y en la creación de un mundo en el que sea menos difícil amar".

De parte de EJP Central,  
Ellen Ritter  
Directora Académica

## UIUC Campus Update

President Tim Killeen on Sept 20, 2020



“We began a new academic year that is sure to be unlike any in our long history. But I am proud to report that one very important thing hasn’t changed: The University of Illinois System remains a go-to destination, a place where the best-and-brightest students from across our state and around the world turn to pursue their dreams. Even amid the pressures of a global pandemic and the economic downturn that followed, system-wide enrollment grew this fall, albeit modestly, topping 90,000 for the first time and setting a record for the eighth straight year. Combined, enrollment at our universities in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield increased by more than 1 percent to 90,343 students, based on 10-day enrollment figures, up from 89,270 students a year ago...

The SHIELD saliva-testing and surveillance program that our brilliant researchers at Urbana-Champaign pioneered is unmatched, and a source of immense pride for all of us who are associated with the U of I System and for the people of our state.... The SHIELD program has allowed us to do something many universities couldn’t do this fall: welcome back students physically to our campuses...

For our students, these are especially challenging times. They are juggling their studies, jobs, family and friends in a time of unparalleled uncertainty caused by the multiple stresses of the pandemic, the economic downturn and our national reckoning over social justice...we are kicking off an ongoing effort focused on student mental and emotional health, an effort that took root long before our current challenges but one that is especially timely now.”

### Did you know?

Illinois is the number 1 pumpkin-producing state in the US.

## Mensaje del President del Sistema Universitario del Estado de Illinois, Tim Killeen

20 de septiembre de 2020

“Empezamos un nuevo año académico que promete ser sin igual en toda nuestra historia. No obstante, estoy muy orgulloso de anunciar que una cosa importante no ha cambiado: El Sistema Universitario del Estado (Sistema de U of I) de Illinois se mantiene como el destino académico por excelencia donde el estudiantado más excelente y brillante de nuestro estado y el Mundo recurren para cumplir sus sueños. Aún con las presiones de una pandemia global y la crisis económica que ha causado, la cantidad de estudiantes admitidos aumentó este semestre llegando a 90,000 estudiantes y estableciendo un récord en los pasados ocho años corridos. Combinadas, las universidades de Urbana-Champaign, Chicago y Springfield incrementaron en un 1% sus admisiones con 90,343, según reportado en las cifras de los primeros 10 días de matrícula, en comparación con los 89,270 estudiantes del año pasado.

El sistema SHIELD de pruebas en base de saliva, creado por las mentes brillantes del equipo de investigación de nuestra Universidad, ha sido una innovación de avanzada que enorgullece a todo el Sistema de U of I y las personas de nuestro estado. Este protocolo nos ha permitido hacer lo que muchas Universidades no pudieron hacer este semestre: darle la bienvenida presencial a todo el estudiantado de los respectivos campuses.

Para el estudiantado de nuestra Universidad estos son tiempos especialmente retantes ya que están intentando balancear sus estudios, trabajos, amistades y familiares en momentos de incertidumbre sin precedentes. Momentos causados por los estresores que ha generado esta pandemia y nuestro ajuste de cuentas sobre la justicia social necesaria en el país. Actualmente, estamos dirigiendo nuestros esfuerzos a atender la salud mental y emocional de nuestros estudiantes, un esfuerzo que echó raíces mucho antes de nuestros desafíos actuales pero que es especialmente meritorio en estos tiempos.

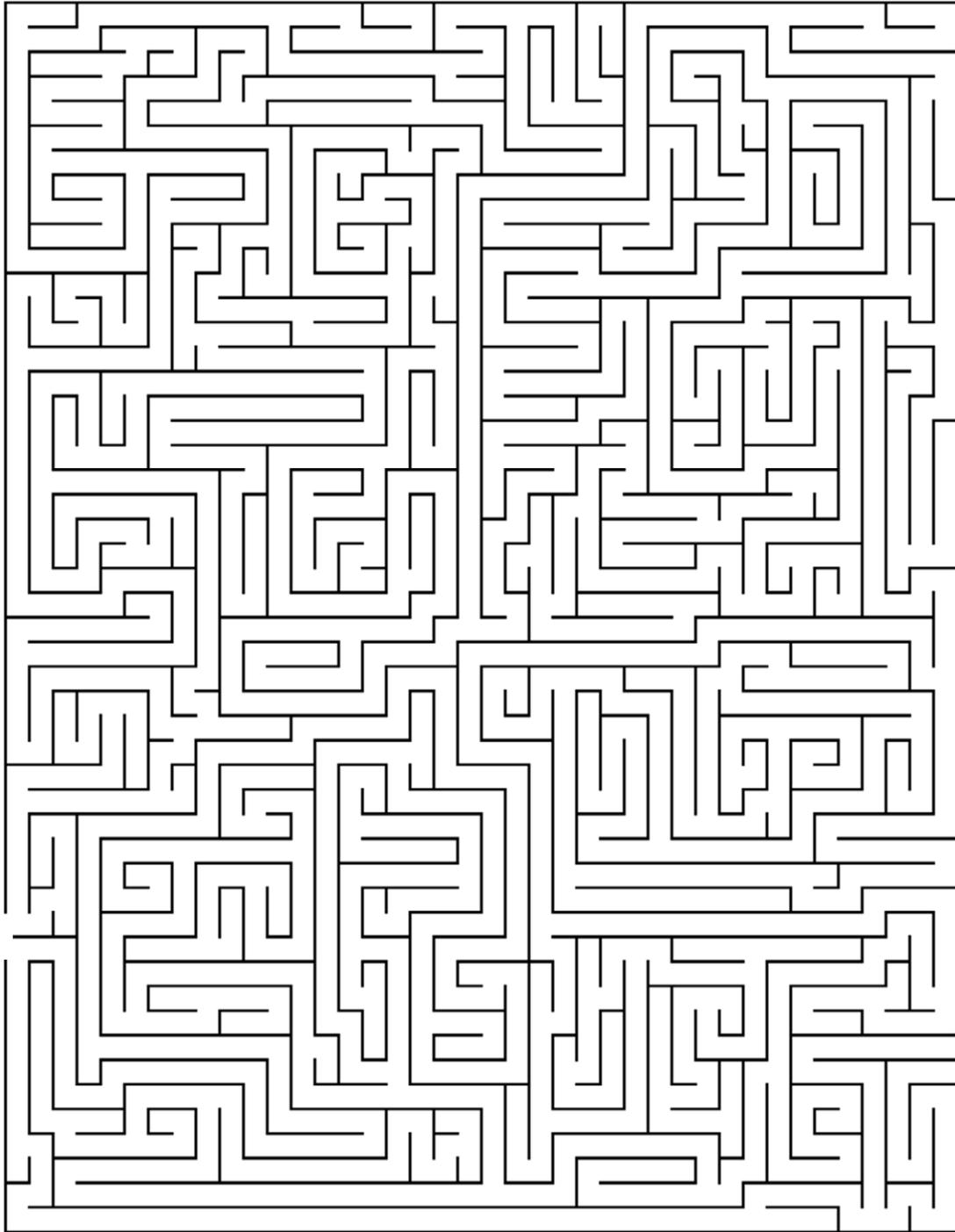


### Did you know?

Q is the only letter that doesn't appear in any US state name.

### The Funnies

There are 10 kinds of people. Those who know binary and those who don't. (Math Joke)



### Did you know?

The top speed of the winning car in the first US race was seven miles per hour in 1895.

### The Funnies

My dog likes to chase people on a bicycle. It's gotten so bad that soon I'll have to take his bike away from him.



## Fall Celebrations across the Globe

Here in the Northern hemisphere we're entering Autumn; the leaves are changing from green to beautiful yellows, reds, oranges, and browns, the air is getting cooler, and the days are getting shorter. People all over the world mark the changing of the seasons with celebrations and Autumn is a time of harvesting crops, preparing for the darker days of Winter, and for many cultures it is also when departed loved ones are remembered. Let's take a quick tour of some Fall traditions!

### **Diwali (India & by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains everywhere)**

Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights and it is one of the most popular and important Hindu festivals. Diwali symbolizes the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance". During the multi-day festival, doors and windows are left open so the goddess Lakshmi can enter the house, clay lamps (diyas) are lit and placed all across the city, people wear new clothing to promote prosperity, and there is feasting, fireworks, and visiting with friends and loved ones.

### **All Hallows Eve/Samhain/Halloween (North America & Europe)**

This ancient holiday originated in Europe thousands of years ago. It was believed that the barrier between the world of the living and the dead was thinner at this time of seasonal change. People would dress up and go door to door threatening mischief if they weren't welcomed and given food. Some pranksters would hollow out and carve turnips and carry them around with candles inside. You can see how these ancient traditions have influenced our modern Halloween festivities or pumpkin carving and trick-or-treating!

### **Día de los Muertos (Mexico) and Día de los Difuntos (Ecuador)**

Day of the dead is celebrated all over Latin America, it is a day when the spirits of the deceased return to their loved ones. Altars (ofrendas) with offerings are set up to welcome the spirits back, they are decorated with marigolds, photos of the loved ones, drinks, sweet bread (pan de muerto,) and candles. Colorful

skulls made of sugar, and paper banners (papel picado) are used as decoration and people may paint their faces with a decorative skull motif and wear colorful costumes. These are happy holidays celebrating, rather than mourning, the dearly departed.

### **Mid-Autumn Festival (China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines and by Asians everywhere)**

Also called the Moon or Mooncake Festival, this celebration dates back more than 3000 years! This festival gives thanks for a bountiful harvest and is observed at the full moon, which gives illumination for the workers harvesting in the fields. Round shaped food, like mooncakes, are said to represent family togetherness and completeness and are a traditional snack for this festival. It is a time of family homecomings and families celebrate by watching the moon rise, eating together, making altars and giving thanks to the moon, and lighting lanterns.

### **Sukkot (Israel & by Jews everywhere)**

Sukkot (meaning booth or hut) is a time to give thanks for the harvest as well as commemorating the 40 years the ancient Israelites spent wandering the desert after their slavery in Egypt ended. This week-long festival is celebrated by eating meals together and, for the brave, sleeping in simple handmade huts called sukkah, these huts represent the temporary shelters the people lived in during their 40 years in the desert. Four species of plants are gathered (arba minim) and used to rejoice before the Lord. Departed ancestors are also invited to share the meals.



## Did you know?

- Flamingo turn pink from eating shrimp.
- Kleenex tissues were originally intended as a filter for gas masks in World War I.

## 5-4-3-2-1 Grounding Exercise

Grounding is a technique that helps us lower our stress by reorienting to the here and now, and bringing us back into the present moment.

1. Describe five things you see that are familiar to you in the room.
2. Name four things that you can feel (Feet on the floor or the cool air on your face).
3. Name three things you can hear right now (people around you, or the noises outside your room).
4. Name two things you can smell right now (focus on smells you like).
5. Name one good thing about yourself.

Go ahead and pause a moment to take care of yourself. Repeat as many times as desired at any time during the day.

## The Funnies

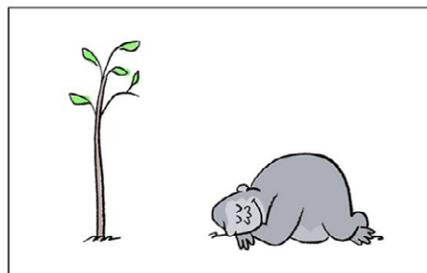
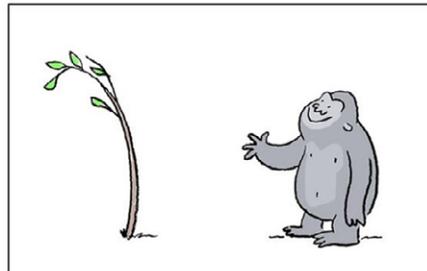
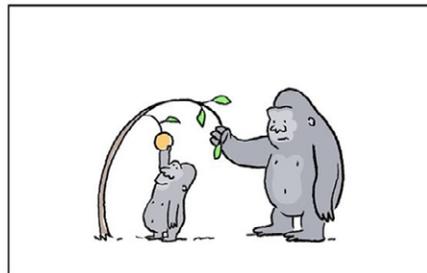
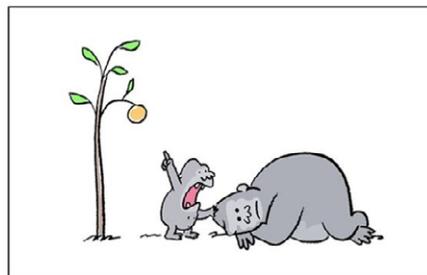
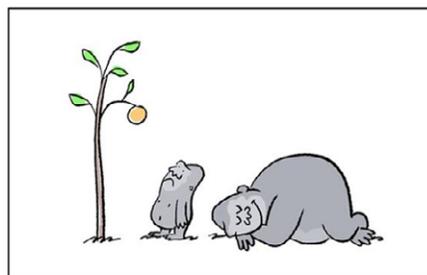
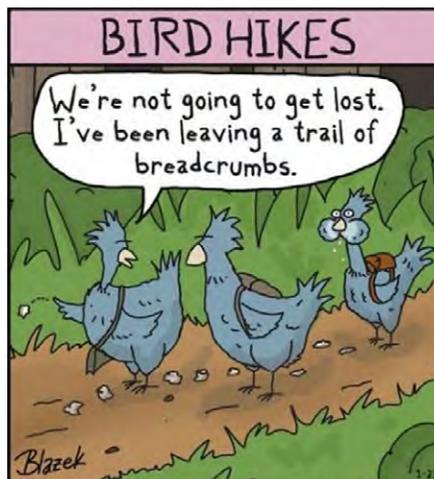
- My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down.
- How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh? Ten-tickles!

## Science Corner



How would you survive in space with no spacesuit?

You might not live, but a Japanese experiment has proven that bacteria can survive in the harsh conditions of space for years on end. They placed bacteria pellets in panels outside of the International Space Station, and the bacteria managed to survive for up to three years before being retrieved. This discovery has led NASA to ensure, as a priority, that bacteria from earth space ships do not contaminate other worlds.



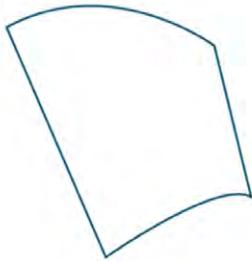
# Back to the Drawing Board

## How to Draw a Hand

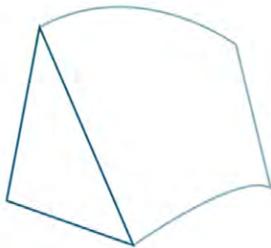
Drawing hands can be difficult when you don't know what to look for. But when you know how to look for specific shapes, they are a lot easier to draw. Drawing hands, or anything else for that matter is as easy as drawing some simple shapes

### Shapes that Make up the Hand

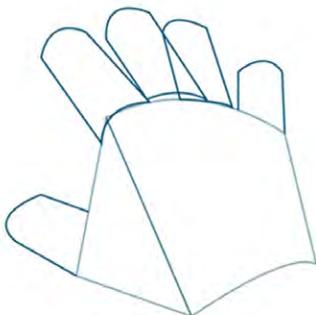
1. Begin by drawing a shape that represents the backside of the hand. Most likely, this shape will be rectangular, but it may curve slightly as we see below. (Remember, keep your drawing fairly loose in the beginning stages. We can always refine the shape as we go along.)



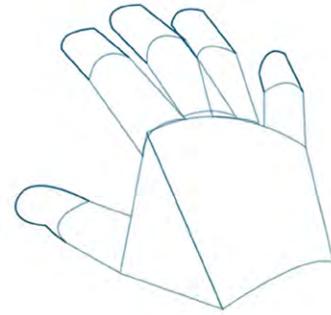
2. Next, draw a triangle on the side of this shape. This shape will act as the connection between the thumb and the backside of the hand. On the lower portion, we'll eventually add a thumb.



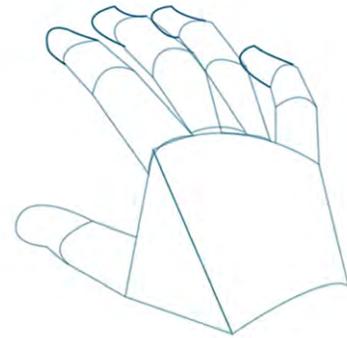
3. Next, a few smaller cylinders can be drawn extending outward from the rectangular shape that was drawn for the backside of the hand. These shapes will become the lower portions of each of the fingers.



4. A second set of cylinders are drawn to extend the fingers out further.



5. The fingers can be finished off with yet another set of cylinders. Take note of how each cylinder becomes a segment of the finger.



6. Outlines and shadows can be added to finish the drawing of the hand. Remember to consider the light source when you are adding the shading. It should be consistent for all of the parts of the hand and each of the fingers.



### Did you know?

- Blue whales eat half a million calories in one mouthful.
- Antarctica is covered in a sheet of ice that is 7,000 feet thick.

## Word Scramble

How do you play?

- Create as many words as possible using the letters provided. (Can you find 10? 20?)
- Words must contain at least 4 letters.
- Words must include the underlined letter.
- Letters can be used more than once.
- There is at least one word that uses all the letters. (Want to know the solution? Check out the bottom of the newsletter!)



Word Scramble Solutions: Coauthor, Actor, Actuator, Aorta, Arch, Arco, Arhat, Attar, Attract, Attractor, Aura, Aurora, Author, Autoerat, Carat, Carrot, Cart, Cataract, Catarrh, Char, Chart, Church, Churro, Coactor, Cohort, Court, Crog, Crouch, Curacao, Curator, Curt, Hart, Hoar, Hoarah, Hora, Horror, Hour, Hurrah, Hurt, Occur, Orator, Orea, Outro, Rataat, Roach, Roar, Roccoo, Roof, Rotator, Roto, Rotor, Rout, Taro, Tart, Tartar, Throat, Torah, Toro, Tort, Tour, Tract, Tractor, Trof, Troth, Trout, Truth, Tutor

**Fall 2020 Newsletter Team:** Hugh Bishop, Aurora Cruz Torres, Ellen Ritter, Nadja Robot, Karla Sanabria-Veaz, and Julia Spielmann

