

Small Talk

The Kids' Club Newsletter

2402 W. Grant Street
Phoenix, Arizona

ARIZONA HERITAGE CREDIT UNION

Fourth Quarter Issue
January 2010

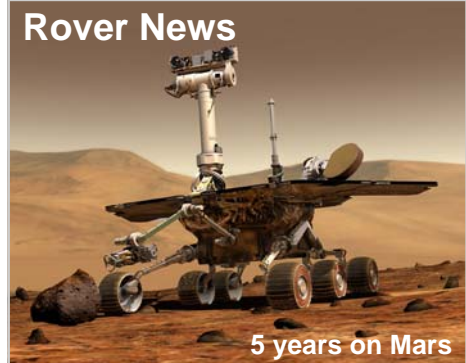
We're savin' safe in 2010

Kids Did you ever wonder how your money is kept **safe** in the credit union? Some kids did, so they called the credit union to find out about how their savings are protected.

They found out that our money is insured by **NCUA**. The National Credit Union Administration is a government agency that insures credit union accounts up to at least \$250,000.00!

So when you save at AZ Heritage Credit Union, you know that your money is in a very **SAFE PLACE**.

When you come to the credit union or go to our Website, look for the **NCUA** logo—that tells you that your money is insured.



Rover News
Spirit and Opportunity arrived on Mars in January of 2004. The rovers have provided us with an astonishing amount of knowledge. We now know a lot about the history and geology of the Red Planet.

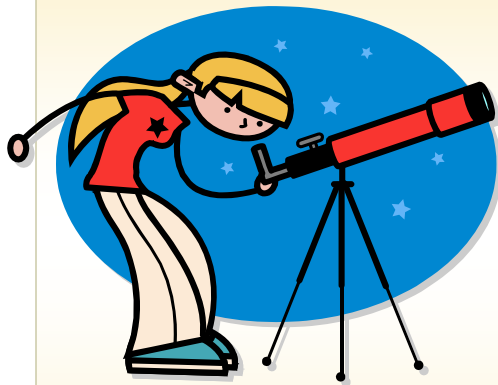
Spirit, the first rover to arrive, has been stuck in a sand trap since April. Its left three wheels are almost entirely buried; its right-front wheel does not work and right-rear is having problems. It is likely trapped and will not 'rove' again. This is a problem because of the Martian winter; *Spirit* will not be able to drive to a location with a good tilt towards the sun and it could 'freeze' if it cannot produce power for the heaters that keep its equipment warm.

Though *Spirit* remains stationary, it is still doing a lot of work sensing ground movement and doing other important monitoring jobs.

Opportunity is still roving and hard at work exploring the Martian terrain.

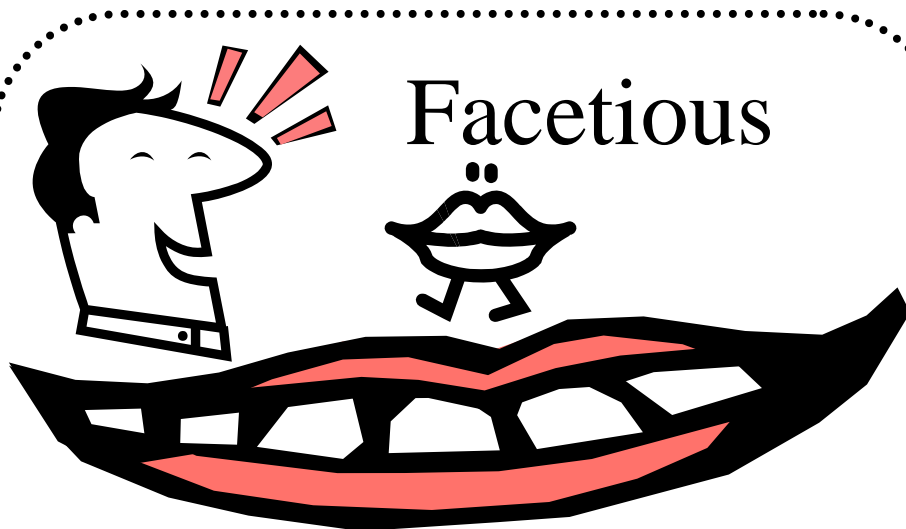
How the Rovers were named

Spirit and Opportunity—two cherished qualities guiding humans to explore



An essay contest was held in 2003 by NASA, the Lego Company and the Planetary Society to name the twin robot explorers headed to Mars. Nearly 10,000 entries were received. 9-year old Russian-American **Sofi Collis** of Scottsdale, Arizona wrote the winning essay. NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe said "Now ... we have names for the rovers that are extremely worthy of the bold mission they are about to undertake ..."
Sofi read her essay.

"I used to live in an orphanage. It was dark and cold and lonely. At night, I looked up at the sparkly sky and felt better. I dreamed I could fly there. In America, I can make all my dreams come true. Thank you for the 'Spirit' and the 'Opportunity.'"



Facetious

Facetious—fah see shus—is a word that is unusual, special, and funny. Its meaning is: playfully jocular; humorous and flippant, good humored joking.

Test your skills as a word detective: What is it about 'facetious' that makes it an especially special word?

The BALL makes it into the National Toy Hall of Fame

One of the most popular and oldest toys has been inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame. Probably no other toy is as easy to play with.

How many ways can you think of to play with a ball? Here are just a few:

- Bounce it
- Kick it
- Catch it
- Throw it
- Hit it

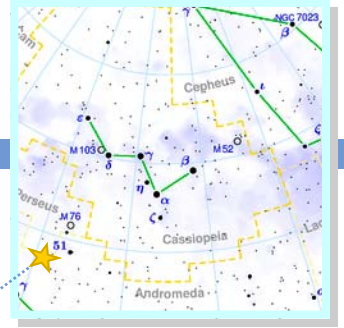


Answer: facetious contains all the vowels of the alphabet in the order they appear in the alphabet!



Curious Kyle wants to know ...

Who or What is Cassiopeia?



Cassiopeia is a constellation in the northern skies. It is also the name of a mythological queen; and there is a very interesting story related to the position and motion of this constellation.

The Myth

Cassiopeia was the wife of Cepheus, king of Ethiopia. While very beautiful, she was also arrogant and vain. She made the mistake of boasting that she was more lovely than the daughters of Nereus, the sea god, insulting Poseidon, ruling god of the sea. He sent a sea monster to ravage the land and coast. To save the country, the

king and queen were ordered to offer their daughter Andromeda to the monster as punishment for the queen's insult. Chained to a rock at the sea's edge Andromeda awaited her fate. Luckily, the hero Perseus arrived to slay the monster, save and later marry the lovely Andromeda.

Poseidon felt that Cassiopeia should not escape punishment entirely; he placed her in the heavens, seated on her throne, with her head pointing at the pole star Polaris. In this position she circles the north pole, spending half of every night upside-down!

The Constellation

Since it is near the pole star, the constellation Cassiopeia can be seen the entire year from the northern hemisphere. It is easy to recognize due to its distinctive 'W' shape formed by five bright stars. Depending on its orientation in the sky, it appears as a 'W', an 'M', or a chair/throne. Go out tonight, face north and find Cassiopeia. Think of her story; what position is she sitting in tonight?



Tycho's Star

Another Story from Constellation Cassiopeia

A "new" star burst forth in the constellation Cassiopeia sometime between November 2 and 6 in 1572. At first it was as bright as Jupiter, but the star soon grew as brilliant as Venus.

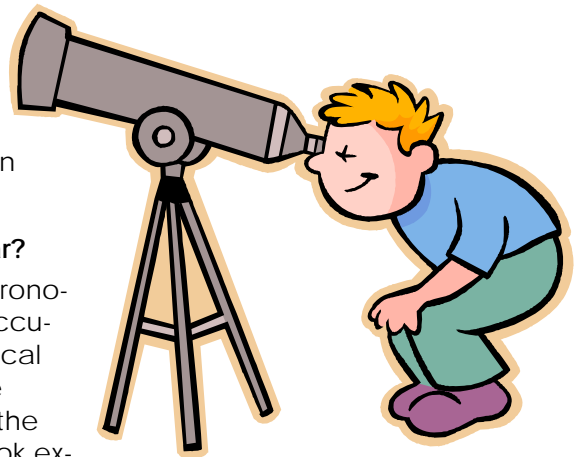
For about two weeks the star could be seen in daylight! Then at the end of November it began changing colors from bright white, to yellow, orange and finally red before fading away from visibility. People were able to observe it with the naked eye for almost 16 months.

Today we know that the "new" star was a supernova—a giant star that

creates a cataclysmic explosion when its fuel is exhausted.

Why is it known as Tycho's Star?

Tycho Brahe was a Danish astronomer credited with the most accurate and complete astronomical observations of his time. While Tycho was not the first to see the "star" he was the one who took extensive measurements of the star and published a book of his observations and those of other leading scientists of the day. The book, titled "De Stella Nova"—meaning New Star—gave us our modern term "nova" for an exploding star.



Though we cannot see Tycho's long since faded star, a radio observatory in England located the remains of the exploded star which is emitting radio waves. Using Tycho's data they were able to find and positively identify it!

Word Play

Kids—people who create crossword puzzles love playing with words. Here are a series of clues that play with words known as homophones. A homophone is a word having the same sound as another word but differing from it in spelling, origin, and meaning like *sum* and *some*.

Here are four words that are spelled differently but sound the same when spoken. Write the correct word under its picture.

Carrot

A plant with a long tapering root eaten as a vegetable.

Caret

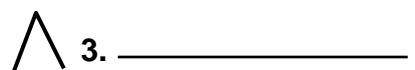
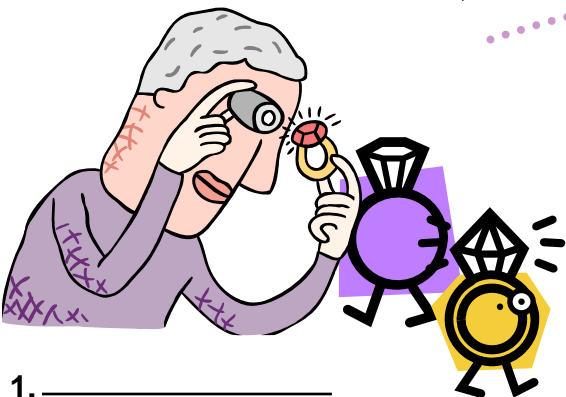
A proof-reading symbol indicating an insertion point in text.

Carat

A unit of weight of precious stones approximately 200 milligrams.

Karat

A measurement of the purity of gold (and sometimes spelled carat!)



Answers: 1. Carat 2. Carat 3. Carat 4. Carrot