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# Introduction

Mazes date back at least 4,000 years to the time of Greek myths. In Roman times, mazes and labyrinths were found in artwork and in the design of floors in homes and public buildings. At that time, mazes were not considered puzzles. They were considered an artform.

Parents and teachers may underestimate the use of mazes in teaching and reinforcing skills in children. Mazes are not just fun activities; there are educational benefits for developing young minds in negotiating and mastering a maze.

## Mazes strengthen

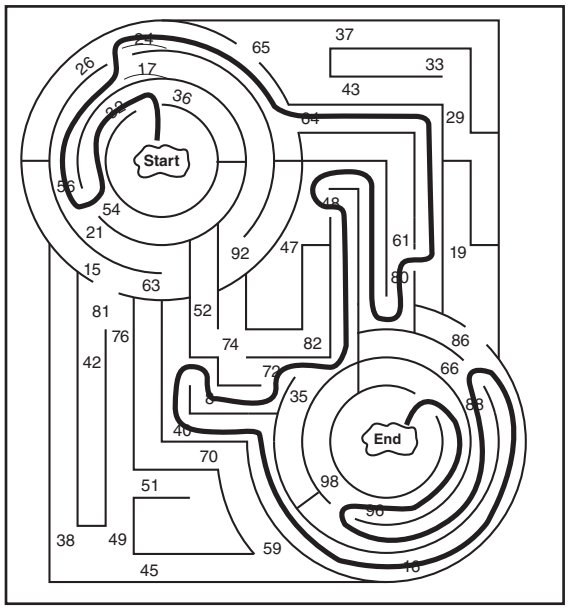
- hand-eye coordination
- fine motor skills (shoulder to wrist to hand)
- spatial sense
- deductive reasoning skills
- problem-solving skills
- logical-thinking skills

Best of all, students are developing all these skills in an entertaining way! Plus, the puzzles in *Amazing Mazes* provide even greater educational value because they ask students to use developmentally appropriate reading or mathematical knowledge. An answer key is provided at the end of the book.

Mazes can be tricky for beginners, so it is important to demonstrate how they are done. Do one or two mazes of each type (reading and math) together before expecting your students to be independent. Suggest that children first trace the potential path with their fingers before using a pencil. This promotes planning skills and reduces erasing.

Use these suggestions to get the most educational benefit from these mazes:

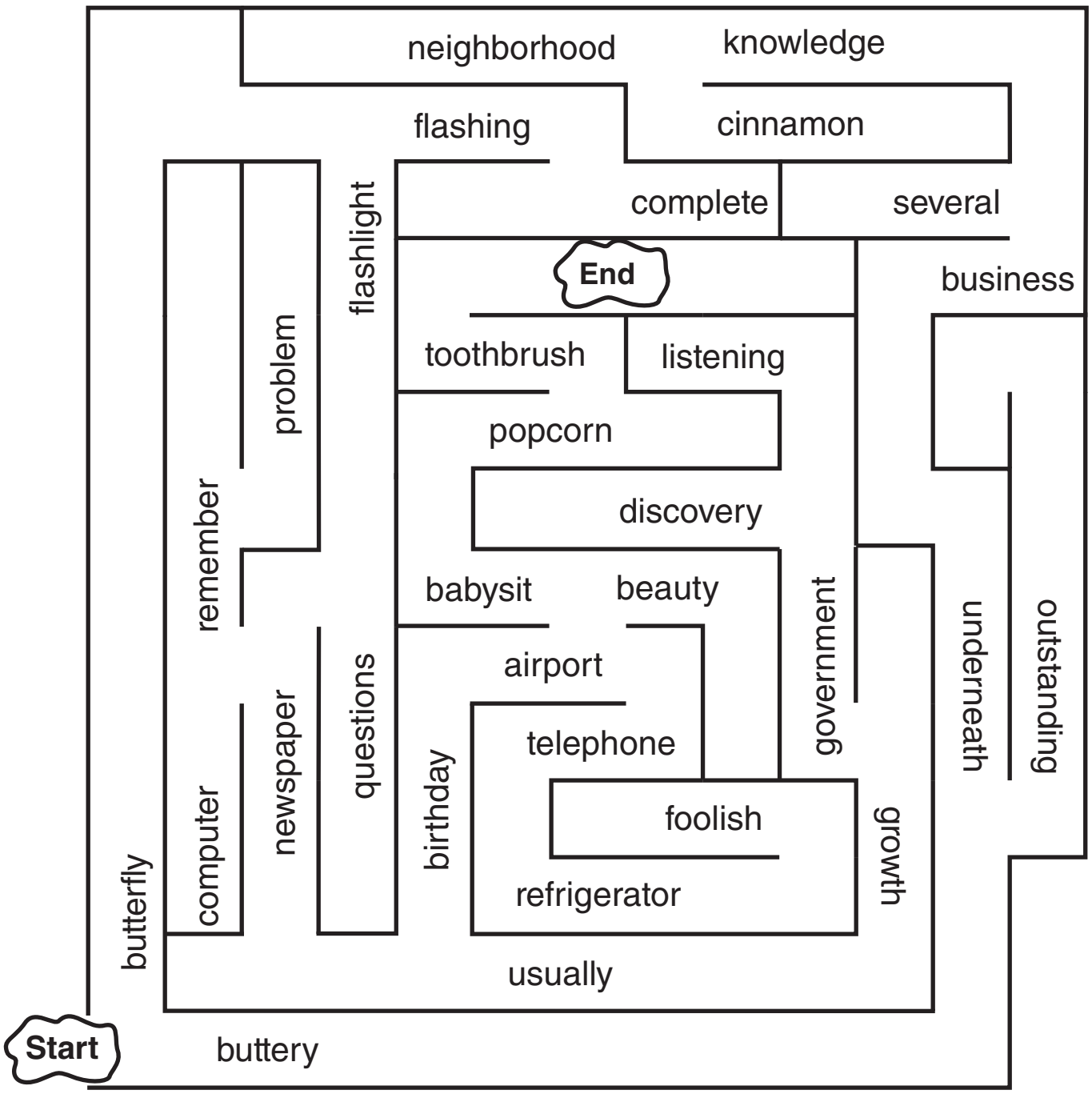
- have students cross out all incorrect responses before finding their way through the maze
- have students highlight all correct responses before finding their way through the maze
- for reading mazes, have students make an alphabetical list on another sheet of paper of all the words that met the criteria set forth in the maze (for example, *words with a long E sound*)
- for mathematical mazes, have students write a related definition at the bottom (for example, define *chronological order or odd number* in your own words)




The best quality of these mazes is the enjoyment experienced by the user as he or she solves them. Your students will have fun while actively engaged in reinforcing knowledge. Plus, completing the mazes successfully will give children a sense of accomplishment and self-confidence.

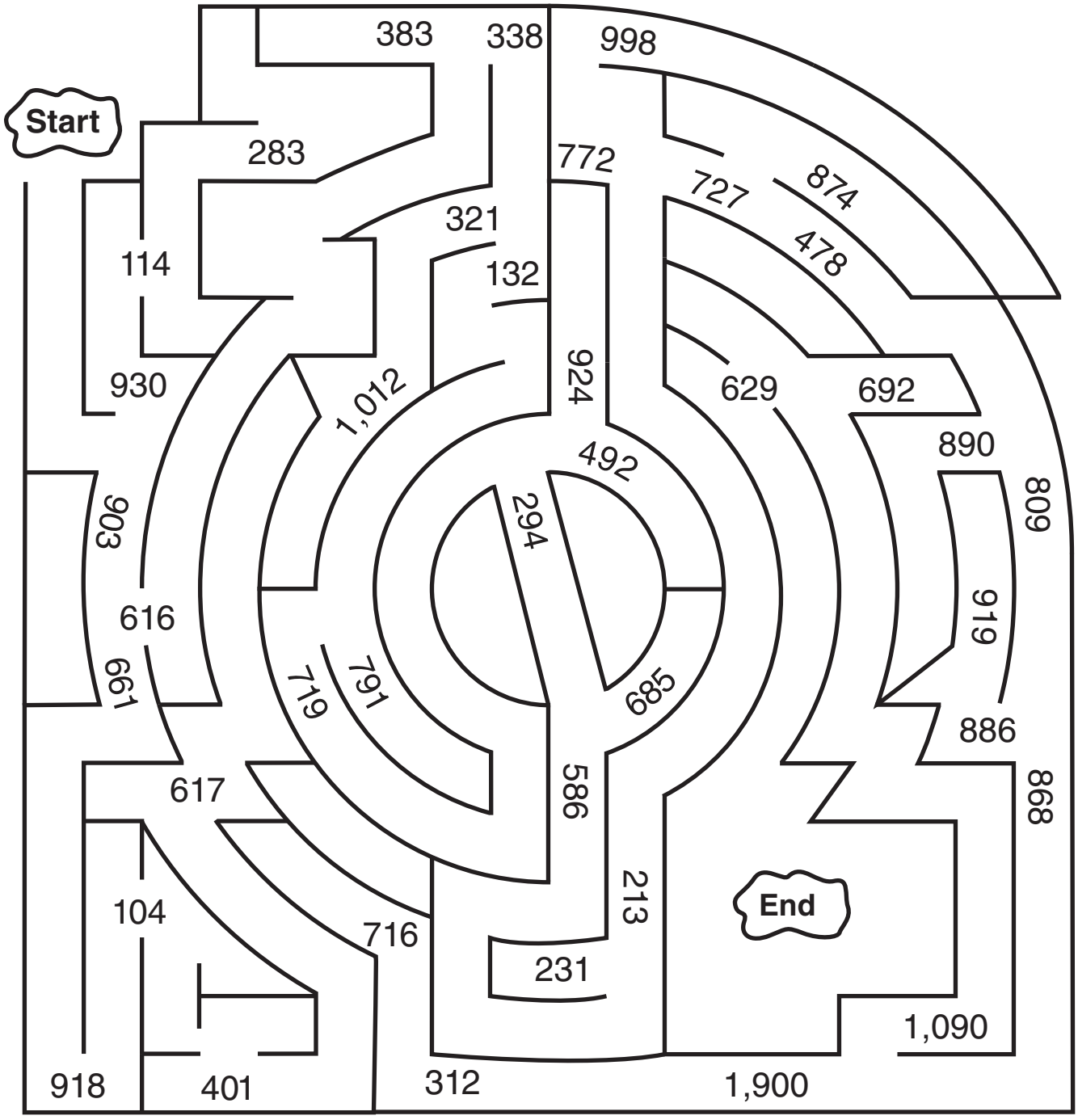
# Compound Words

**Directions:** A compound word is two words joined together to make a new word. Each word in the compound could stand alone. Read each word. Follow the path of the words that are compounds, such as *sunshine.*



# Smallest Numbers

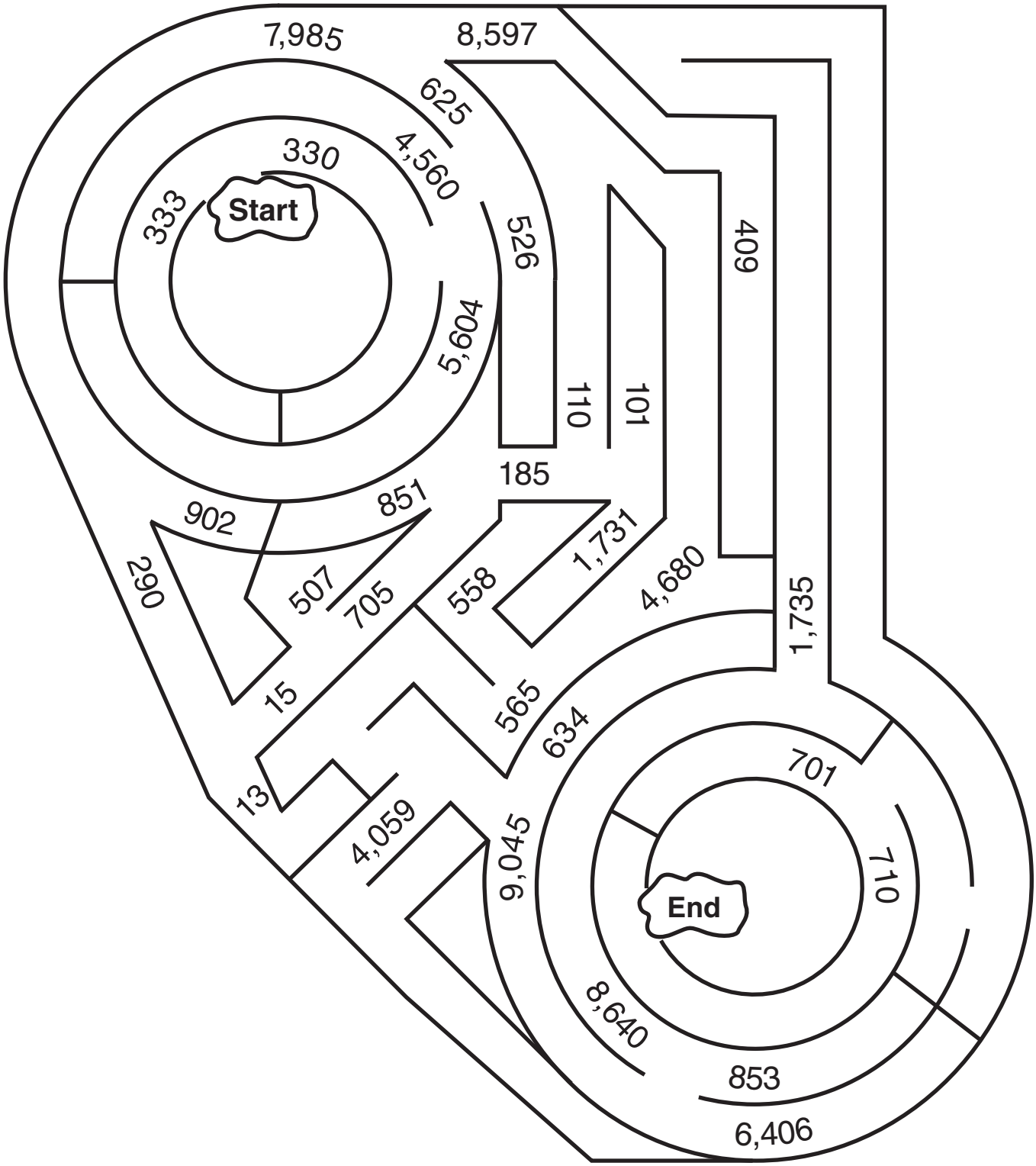
**Directions:** As you come to each choice, pick the path with the smallest number.



# Numbers Divisible by 5

**Directions:** Numbers with a 0 or a 5 in the ones digit are divisible by 5. Follow the path of numbers that are divisible by 5.



# Time: Morning

**Directions:** Midnight starts the morning. Midnight is 12:00 **A.M.** As you come to each choice, follow the path of time that is earliest in the day.