

## Quests

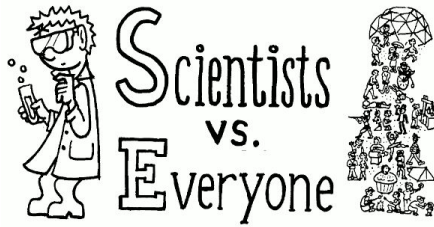
*You're in hot pursuit of a break-away Sparkle Pony who's fled the confines of the Black Rock Desert. You're tasked with capturing this wily creature and bringing it back to the Playa, its natural habitat. Thus far, you've managed to chase it across the United States - through amber waves of grain, o'er purple mountain majesties, across the fruited plain - from the Golden Gate, to the Brooklyn Bridge. But now this sneaky, yet highly predictable, character has made it all the way to Europe! (Sparkle Ponies have wings, didn't you know?)*

*In an attempt to cover their tracks, they have traveled from city to city, disguising themselves along the way. You have connections on the Continent, however; your fellow Euro Burners have been keeping a close eye out for sightings of any abnormally glittered equines, and have managed to report back with a few clues as to the locations of previous suspected Sparkle Pony sightings. Below are the correspondences from your contacts in the order in which the Sparkle Pony was sighted. One thing is for sure: this Sparkle Pony is a predictable one. Led by what must be a purely intuitive sense of connection to the spirit of the Playa, this Sparkle Pony seems to be traveling along a path between cities which forms the shape of none other than The Man itself!*

*Your mission is to decode the names of the various locations of suspected Sparkle Pony sightings from the clues sent to you by your fellow Burners. (It might be helpful to use your favorite online global mapping website to "connect the dots" between the locations using the shortest "driving" routes to replicate the Man-shaped path between the cities.)*

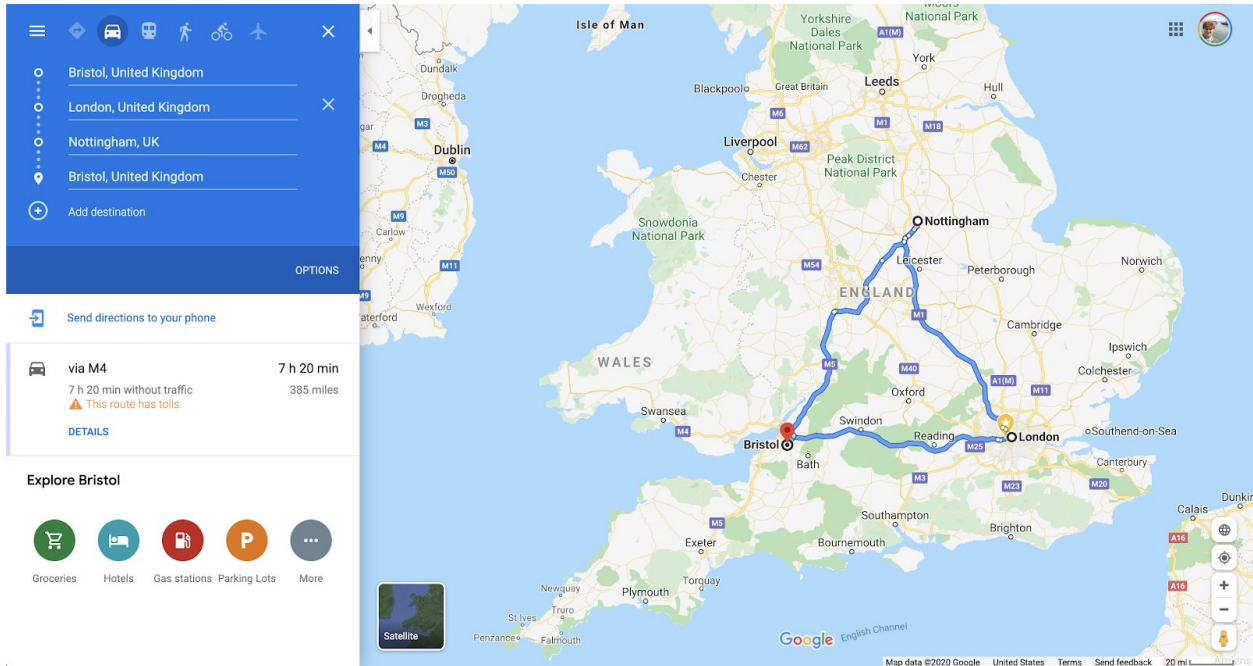
*To solve this quest successfully, you must enter **a single keyword** which is comprised of the first letter of each of the names of the locations that you have deciphered, arranged in order geographically from north to south, i.e., decreasing latitudes. (All lowercase characters, no spaces).*

**For example:** London, Bristol and Nottingham, England can be interconnected using driving directions which form a triangle. In this instance, the single keyword would be: **nlb**



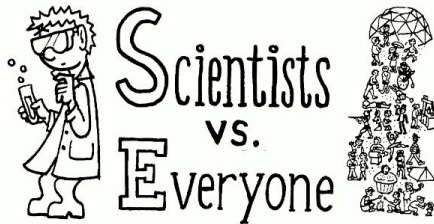
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(Example, continued)



**Clues** (determine the **name of each town or city** referenced in the following correspondences):

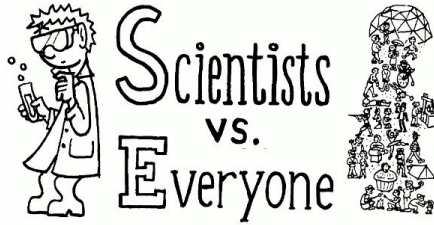
- Founded by crusader knights during the 13th century, this Teutonic city was an important center for trade as a member of the Hanseatic League during the middle ages; Dukes and Kings were crowned for hundreds of years in its incredible 14th-century cathedral, which following World War Two, was completely destroyed along with nearly all the city; today, this city is geographically separated from the rest of its homeland.
- This city, renowned for the beautiful orange tiled roofs of its renaissance Old Town, has been an important center for trade since the Middle Ages; it is home to the oldest cathedral in its country, which contains the tombs of the country's first rulers; and oh yeah, headbutting goats are the official symbol of this city!
- Founded in the 8th century by both Vikings and Slavs, this strategically important port city was one a part of the Duchy of Saxony, the Holy Roman Empire, Denmark, the Swedish Empire, the Kingdom of Prussia and the German Empire; this city was home to



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the seat of the dukes of the House of Griffin between the 13th and the mid-17th century; it is one of the largest cities in the geographical region which is the namesake of a breed of cute, puffy little toy dogs.

- During the summers in the mid-18th century, Frederick the Great, King of Prussia would have enjoyed his evening strolls in the grand park on the grounds of his Rococo palace in this city, which was later home to one of the most pivotal conferences of the 20th century.
- This city has been of significant cultural, political and economical importance in the region for hundreds of years, and retains many architectural landmarks which have largely survived the great upheaval of the 20th century; this city is home to one of the oldest universities in Europe in continuing existence and is known for its world-famous bridge, linking its extensive old town to the once-seat of a Duke who is the patron saint of his country and is immortalized by the likes of a beloved christmas carol.
- One of the world's oldest military academies is located in this city, which shares part of its name with its larger and *older* sister city, the capital city of its country, roughly 60km to its north.
- The capital and largest city in its country, this city is amongst the sunniest cities in Europe, experiencing over 2500 hours of sun each year, and its surrounding area has been continuously inhabited since the Iron Age; this city was a part of the Roman, Byzantine and later Ottoman Empires, and independence of its modern day state from the Ottoman Empire was declared in 1912 in this city.
- This ancient city has been established for roughly five thousand years, and was an influential settlement for numerous civilizations, from the Phoenicians to the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines and the Spanish; this is the capital city of the island from which a kingdom originated in the 14th century which eventually emerged amongst various competing kingdoms in its region to become the dominant kingdom responsible for uniting a peninsula and forming a modern day state; remnants the Nuragic civilization (from the 18th century BCE until the 3rd century AD) can still be found today in the



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region surrounding this city, which is today known for its impressive Art Nouveau architecture.

- This city has been an important political, cultural and musical hub for hundreds of years; located near the base the mountains, this well- preserved city is renowned for its Baroque architecture and is home to one of the largest medieval castles in Europe perched high up on a hill overlooking the city center; this city is also the birthplace of one of the most celebrated and influential composers of the 18th century.
- Founded as a Danish village in the 8th century, this city was a member of the Hanseatic League from the late 13th century until it was expelled in the early 16th century for harbouring pirates!; this city remains one of the most important maritime and shipbuilding cities in its modern day country; mutiny of sailors in protest of its country's involvement in World War One ignited revolution which led to the abdication of a king, collapse of a monarchy, and the rise of a turbulent republic and totalitarian state which have shaped the modern world.

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