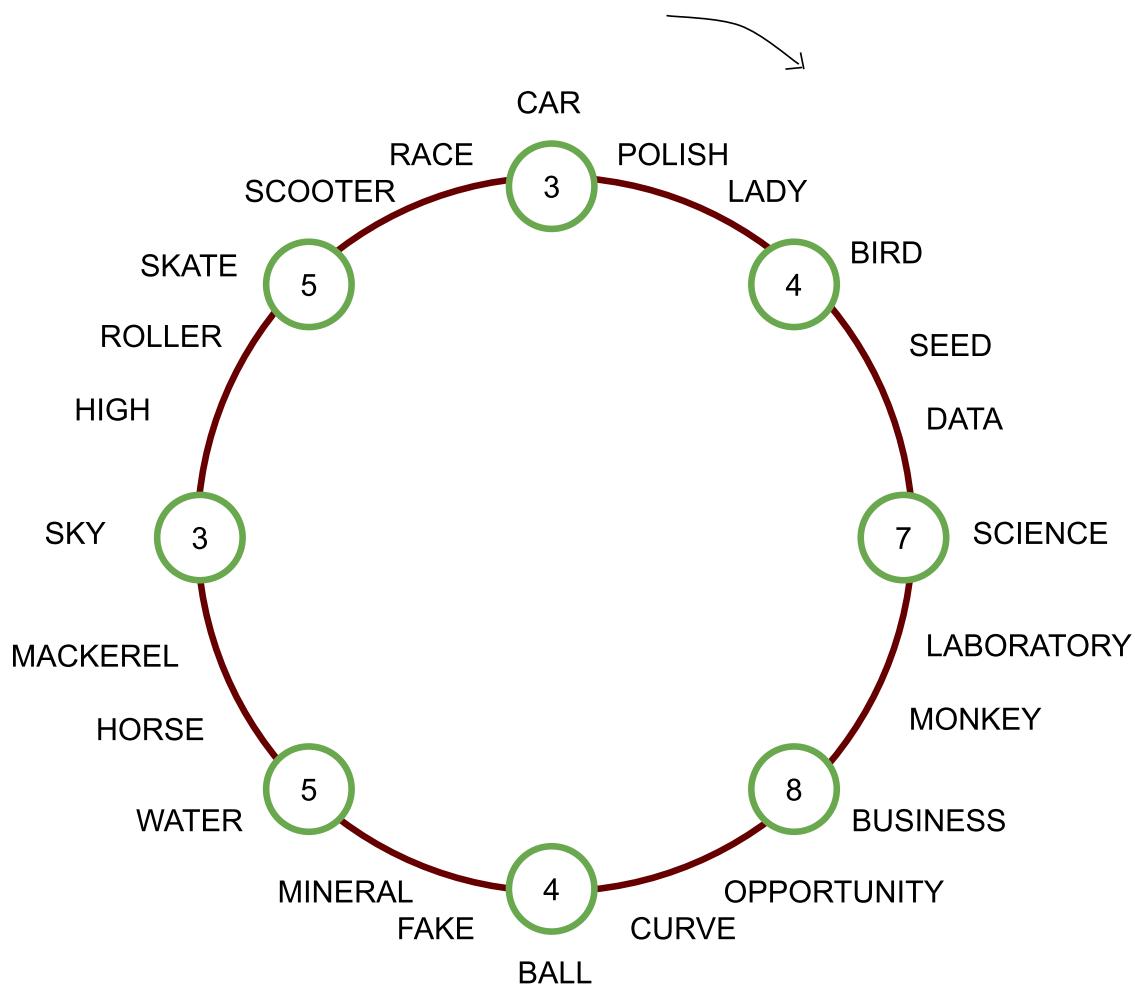


Mossy Trails (solution)

by Celestine Lau

Round 2 depicted a post-apocalyptic version of Singapore in the Inside Out, and the meta-puzzle displays a set of green circles connected by brown paths with the flavor text mentioning “green corridors”. In Singapore, the green corridors are connected in an island-wide network known as the Park Connector Network (PCN). This puzzle is a play on this concept.

Each of the 8 meta-answers contains 2 words, and as suggested by the presentation of the diagram, should be connected together to form a circular chain. This can be achieved by adding some extra words, e.g. SCOOTER RACE and POLISH LADY can be connected via the word “CAR”, forming “RACE CAR” and “CAR POLISH”. The extra words fit the lengths given in the circles when taken in that order. In addition, the extra word is a type of “park” that can be found in Singapore. Hence, each meta answer becomes a “park connector” in the network.



To extract the answer, the given clockwise arrow suggests starting from CAR, and the distance markers should be used as an index into a feeder answer. Sequences of circles should be treated as going past that number of parks/feeders and then extracting from the next one with a distance marker.

Instruction	Feeder Answer	Extracted Letter
4km from Start (CAR park)	POLISH LADY	I
○, 7km	SEED DATA	T
○○○○, 4km	HORSE MACKEREL	S
○○○○○, 6km	LABORATORY MONKEY	A
○○○, 6km	HORSE MACKEREL	M
○○○, 2km	POLISH LADY	O
○○○○, 7km	FAKE MINERAL	N
○○○, 5km	SCOOTER RACE	T
○○, 6km	SEED DATA	A
○○, 7km	OPPORTUNITY CURVE	U
○, 3km	FAKE MINERAL	K
○○, 2km	HIGH ROLLER	I
○○○○, 13km	LABORATORY MONKEY	N
○, 10km	OPPORTUNITY CURVE	T
○○○, 1km	HIGH ROLLER	H
○, 6km	SCOOTER RACE	E

This gives IT'S A MONTAUK IN THE, but the phrase is incomplete. To complete it, the "+ ○" suggests to add a circle, which as represented in this puzzle is a PARK, giving the final answer **IT'S A MONTAUK IN THE PARK.**

Constructor's Notes:

I really appreciate the actual Park Connector Network, mainly because it provides a safe space for cycling away from the road, and is also a generally nice area to take a walk in. It is possible that this puzzle was conceived on such a walk. The answer itself is a play on "a walk in the park", which is kinda what solvers had to do to obtain the answer.

There aren't that many words that are "parks" and can reasonably easily connect with other words in a chain. For example I had to use "ball park", which is a term not often used in Singapore, but according to the [definition](#), can refer to any stadium in which ball games are played, of which there are plenty in Singapore. Fortunately the rest of the "parks" used do exist in Singapore, and some of which are pretty iconic.

The "km" indicators turned out to be somewhat misleading during the hunt, and perhaps they should have been plain numbers to steer solvers away from trying to map these parks to actual real world locations (although many of the parks are non-unique, especially CAR and BALL).