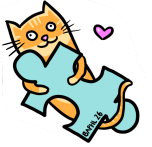




META: *ch* Me If You Can



You have all of the ingredients to cook up a perfect theory, but the process is like herding... well, you know. You have no choice but to keep tidy: **once you use up an ingredient, you can safely discard it.**

Quickly, before your curiosity kills you—how can we explain how our supreme leader rose to the top so easily?

1. Separate all of your ingredients into two parts. You will have to do this in two different ways. Make sure that your pairs include, as one of the two parts: a preposition, a physics constant, something charged, and a column. Leave those listed parts lying around for now.
2. Replace the currency with the first letter of each word in the name of the country it corresponds to.
3. Take an animal and replace it with the version of it in the sky—we only need the first half of it.
4. Aw, your other animal, one much less well-known, has grown up into an adult! Chop off its tail and replace the remaining part with its opposite.
5. Take the part that is the start of a common vacation destination and replace it with the full name (with enumeration 6 7). Find the hidden makeover word, replace it with its counterpart, and then make it plural.
6. Take the Greek ingredient and go two steps back in the alphabet. Only retain the ends to get a type of filter.

The ingredients you changed now have sizes 2, 2, 3, and 5.

Wait, what happened to all those ingredients you left lying around after step 1? Could it have something to do with those **scratches** you've been seeing on your puzzles? **Someone seems to be in a playful mood today, getting all up in your business.** Anyway, back to the recipe:

1. Oh hey, there's a whole bunch of **new ingredients** now. Take the listing of items and replace its first letter with the last. Mix it up to get a new language—we just need the country it corresponds to.
2. Another animal seems to have grown up! We only need the beginning of it—a conjunction.
3. One of these new ingredients is not like the others (two words, with enumeration 5 3). Replace it with something hidden in it that you did after being served (or what you did when you "served") and chop off the head to get a drink in a different language.
4. Throw away a prince in one of your ingredients to get some trees.
5. Replace the last of your new ingredients with the part of a battery that shares the same charge (when the battery is being charged). The end of it sounds like (and begins with the same letter as) one of the previous ingredients. Throw away this previous ingredient and only keep the end of the recent ingredient. Place it aside for now—it won't help you in the next pairing step.

The ingredients you changed now should have sizes 2, 3, 3, and 5.

Good job on following the steps so far! You should have 6 relevant ingredients now (because the product of the previous step 5 is good by itself). Figure out how to pair them and mix them up to form new ingredients!

1. The ingredient you placed aside in step 5 of the previous section is an example of a broader class of literary works. Replace this class with its opposite (with enumeration 5). Keep only the first three letters, and then take its opposite. You just created the first final ingredient!
2. You should have something you could use to “charge” your car. Let’s just take its second letter.
3. We have a brief history book about humanity, but books are boring—let’s just keep the middle name of the author. Actually, just the first letter of it is good enough!
4. Take a preposition you have, and just keep the petty ending of it. If you had added the product of the previous step and mixed it up, you would get what someone may need to do when they see the state of our city (with enumeration 4 2). Just keep the second word of it for the third final ingredient.
5. Add the products of steps 2 and 3 to represent an organization, and again, only keep the second word of it (but singular!). You just made the fourth final ingredient!

All that remains is to put everything into place and let the theory come together—**perhaps with some outside help.**